

Pinocchio's Children's Nursery - Gilmerton Day Care of Children

6 Ferniehill Road
Edinburgh
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Telephone: 01316 643 276

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 December 2025

Service provided by:
Pinocchio's Children's Nursery Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2003002984

Service no:
CS2008174605

About the service

Pinocchio's Children's Nursery Gilmerton is registered to care for a maximum of 48 children aged between birth and entry to primary school.

The nursery is based in the Gilmerton area of Edinburgh. The building provides separate playrooms for the different ages and stages of the children attending. There are two designated outdoor play areas, one of which is used for the younger children and one which is set up to be more suitable for the older children's stage of development.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced follow-up inspection which took place on 09 December 2025 between 9:15 and 13:15 hours. This inspection focused on the requirement and areas for improvement identified during the previous inspection on 18 August 2025 and evaluated how the service had addressed these to achieve better outcomes for children. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- spoke with staff and the senior leadership team
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Following the last inspection, we issued one requirement. Since then, there have been positive changes to the environment, and we acknowledge that management and staff are working together to enhance outcomes for children and families.
- We are confident that the service has the capacity to improve and will continue to implement measures that drive improvement across all areas of the service.
- Children were very well supported and cared for by friendly, kind, caring and attentive staff who were attuned to their needs.
- Improvement to spaces indoors were enhancing children's play opportunities, which supported their curiosity, creativity and imaginative play. The service should continue to develop outdoor spaces to further promote children's independence and play experiences.
- Quality assurance approaches had been developed and were beginning to support continuous improvement within the service.

Planning and assessment processes were developing well. Continued focus on recording and following up of children's next steps will further enhance learning.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

During this follow up inspection, we increased the evaluation for Quality Indicator Children thrive and develop in quality spaces to adequate because the service had made progress by building on key strengths.

Quality indicator: Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

This was an unannounced follow-up inspection carried out on 09 December 2025. One requirement was made at the inspection on 18 August 2025. The service had made positive improvements to the cleanliness of the environment. Areas were organised, clean, tidy and regularly maintained to support children's engagement and wellbeing. Staff demonstrated a strong commitment to maintaining a safe, welcoming environment. This meant improvements supported positive outcomes for children and families (see 'what the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection').

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 24 October 2025, the provider must ensure sufficient standards of infection prevention and control practices.

To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure:

- a) environments used by children are welcoming, clean and tidy to meet good practice guidance;
- b) facilities for storage of resources and equipment are improved and support good infection prevention and control practice and guidance;
- c) staff are aware of and carry out appropriate cleaning to maintain infection prevention and control standards; and
- d) effective auditing of cleaning schedules are carried out to ensure that standards are maintained and potential gaps addressed.

This is to comply with Regulations 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) and 10(2)(d) (Fitness of premises) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.' (HSCS 5.22).

This requirement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken on previous requirement

- a) The overall environment had improved significantly and was cleaner, tidier and more welcoming. The entrance was appealing, with plants in the pots and noticeboards that had been updated and attractively laid out. Corridors, toilet/changing areas and playrooms remain organised and clutter-free. Outdoor spaces were checked regularly and kept clean. These changes created a warm, welcoming and inviting environment for children.
- b) Facilities for storage of resources and equipment had improved and supported good infection prevention and control practice. The toilet/changing area for older children was clean, tidy and the fans had been cleaned. Younger children had changing areas that were clean and toilet cubicles had been tidied and there were now two changing areas available. Nappies and creams were stored appropriately in labelled boxes.
- c) Staff followed agreed cleaning procedures and completed records throughout the day. Hygiene practices were reinforced and discussed as part of team meetings to ensure a consistent approach. This should remain as a standing item to ensure continued good practice.
- d) Compliance checks were carried out daily, and further monthly audits were in place to ensure that standards were maintained and potential gaps addressed. Staff were reminded to ensure that cleaning was completed thoroughly and accurately recorded. Robust quality assurance systems should ensure standards remained consistently high.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To support the health and wellbeing of children, the manager should ensure that medication practices are managed in accordance with best practice guidance. This should include but is not limited to:

- a) ensuring the paperwork around the signs, symptoms and dosage of medication is stored alongside the medication; and
- b) implementing an effective system for management to audit and review the management of medicine.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCC) which state that:

'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me.' (HSCS 1.19).

This area for improvement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken since then

Medication across both rooms met good practice guidance. Information on the on-line app was combined with the supplementary care plan form, which contained additional details. This information was also used to update recorded data, ensuring it followed the three-month review cycle.

The senior leadership team should ensure relevant paperwork is consistently available for staff to maintain a uniform approach to administering medication. The service should continue with robust quality assurance processes to ensure standards remained high.

This area for improvement is met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To enable and support all children to reach their full potential, the service should ensure play spaces offer a range of resources and materials. These areas should be structured to provide developmentally appropriate and appealing places that challenge and stimulate children's development and learning and reflect their current interests and curiosities. This should include, but is not limited to, increasing the range of sensory play experiences, loose parts, open ended and natural materials available to foster imagination and creativity.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

This area for improvement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken since then

Staff had actively engaged with the evaluations of play spaces which had taken place across both nursery playrooms.

Older children had access to a welcoming learning environment. They appeared happy and confident, using all three rooms and outdoor areas. The atmosphere was calmer, with children busy and engaged in play. Younger children were cared for in a room that was warm, inviting and areas the layout had been well thought out. Jigsaws, books and outdoor spaces were well utilised. The home area encouraged imaginative play and sand and water play were accessible.

Outdoor spaces were well used by both rooms. Younger children were supported and dressed appropriately for the weather, enjoying their dedicated area with staff facilitating free flow between the indoor and outdoor environments. Older children were actively engaged and made good use of resources. Planning for outdoor experiences had been identified as the next stage of improvement.

Resources had been increased and staff completed loose parts play training. Once embedded, this would enhance experiences further. Staff should continue to review resources to ensure they met the needs of the all children in the service. Further opportunities for music, drama, and dance should be explored to enrich learning.

There had been significant improvement in the learning environment. Continued monitoring and adaptation were advised to maintain high-quality learning experiences.

This area for improvement is met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure that children's individual wellbeing is supported, the manager should develop an effective, personal planning approach. Each child should have a personal plan that is consistent with their individual needs and include clear detailed support strategies if required. Staff should ensure that these plans inform their daily practice, are followed accurately and evaluated to assess the impact on children's progress or wellbeing.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

This area for improvement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken since then

Personal plans, contained useful information in pastoral notes and some strategies were in place and monitored. However, gaps remained in evidencing the rationale behind certain assessments. Staff knew the children well, but this knowledge needed to be recorded consistently with supporting evidence.

Some children had bubbles from Up, Up and Away and support for embedding this approach was provided,. Further development was planned to enhance staff skills in understanding dysregulation. The service should strengthen personal plans to make them evidence-based and evaluated. The service should continue with robust quality assurance processes to ensure standards remained high.

This area for improvement is met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To help children to reach their potential, the service should ensure that an effective cycle of high-quality observations, planning for play and identified next steps supports and meets children's individual learning and development needs.

This would ensure they provide opportunities which support the learning, development and progression of all children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me' (HSCS 1.27)

This area for improvement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken since then

Planning for play and learning now had a positive impact on children's experiences. They were more engaged in their play and moved freely between indoor and outdoor spaces, which had previously been limited. Inclusive planning reflected the needs of all children and staff were aware of the need to challenge older children and support two-year-olds. The service had identified that staff needed support to plan for the garden and outdoor area.

Local Authority trackers were used consistently, and floor books demonstrated a good range of learning experiences.

Staff had improved the planning system for younger children to include intentional and responsive planning. Staff took responsibility for specific areas and used observations to plan activities, which were evaluated and recorded within floor books. Further work was needed to link planning to developmental progress to ensure appropriate challenge.

Children's learning was shared with parents through the on-line app. The service should continue to develop a cohesive approach for identifying next steps and monitoring progress of children across both rooms. This would support staff to show clear progress for children.

This area for improvement is met.

Previous area for improvement 5

To ensure the quality of children's experiences are improved, the provider should implement robust quality assurance processes, including self-evaluation, covering key areas of practice. This should include, but not be limited to, monitoring children's personal plans, children's play and learning experiences, monitoring of staff practice, and evaluating and improving the nursery as a whole.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state:

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes'. (HSCS 4.19)

This area for improvement was made on 18 August 2025.

Action taken since then

Quality assurance and self-evaluation processes introduced at the previous inspection had been strengthened. When areas for improvement were identified, there was clear evidence of follow-up to ensure changes were implemented improving outcomes for children.

Team meetings were held regularly, combining practice-led information with staff development. Development sessions were tailored to specific staff groups, evaluation of training and its impact on practice was audited.

Staff were becoming familiar with the sector's Quality Improvement Framework and used challenge questions to develop knowledge and improve outcomes for children.

Additional auditing was undertaken by the senior leadership team covering environment, staff practice,

medication and personal plans. Gaps were discussed and follow-up checks were completed.

One-to-one meetings had taken place with all staff, with some responsibilities delegated to room leads. Leadership training was attended by the manager to strengthen skills in self-evaluation and quality assurance and this knowledge was beginning to be cascaded to staff.

The service had made significant progress, and the senior leadership team and staff were strongly committed to improvement. To sustain this momentum, it is important to maintain the pace of change while embedding new practices into everyday work.

Staff capacity varied across the team, which will require careful management to ensure progress continued consistently. The manager had implemented effective systems to monitor and uphold high standards, which had already made a positive impact on outcomes for children.

This area for improvement is met.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children experience high quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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