

30 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Victoria Quay Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager/head of setting and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- There are positive, caring relationships between practitioners and children.
- Children are able to make choices about where they want to play and who they want to play with. They are very independent during mealtimes and move confidently around the play spaces.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager/head of setting and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Establish settled leadership as a priority. The nursery group should secure permanent leadership for the nursery as quickly as possible.
- Improve the range of play spaces both indoors and outdoors to ensure that children have better learning experiences.
- Improve the quality of learning and teaching. Practitioners should provide more stimulating and challenging activities to ensure that children are more engaged, motivated and progressing more securely. Staff should improve their interactions with children to include more open-ended questions and explanations.
- Improve approaches to planning and assessment. These need to include more child-centred planning and an assessment framework that will help staff gather reliable evidence about children's progress. Practitioners should use information about progress more effectively to plan children's learning.
- Improve the content and use of personal plans to ensure that children's health, welfare and safety needs are met.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Victoria Quay Nursery

Quality indicators for the early learning and childcare stages	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	weak
1.1 Nurturing care and support	adequate
1.3 Play and learning	weak
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	weak
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	weak
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	adequate
4.3 Staff deployment	adequate

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, the following requirements have been made.

1. In order to identify, plan for and meet children's health, welfare and safety needs, the provider must ensure children's personal plans are up to date and used to inform care.

By 28 June 2024, the provider must have specifically but not exclusively:

- worked alongside parents to update children's personal plans
- recorded enough information in children's plans and used it to guide staff in providing consistent care
- ensured that all staff understand the purpose of personal plans and are familiar with the guidance 'Guide for Providers on Personal Planning, Early Learning and Childcare' (Care Inspectorate 2021).

This is to comply with Regulation 5(2)(b)(c) (Personal Plans) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

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

2. To ensure the best possible health, welfare and safety outcomes for children, the provider must quality assure key aspects of children's care and support to aid improvement.

By 31 July 2024, the provider must have a robust procedure in place to monitor at a minimum:

- Children's personal plans including medication
- Health and safety
- Staff and child interactions
- Children's play experiences.

This is to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, (SSI 2011/210) Regulations 3 and 4.

This is also to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & 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).

3. To meet children's health, welfare and safety needs at all times, the provider must ensure there are enough staff available throughout the day.

By 7 June 2024, the provider must:

- Support effective deployment of staff skill, knowledge and experience in each room
- Review break times to ensure children are supported through transition points in the day such as lunchtime
- Review break times to enable staff to be refreshed and energised for children throughout the day
- Empower staff to always maintain professional conduct within their team.

This is in order to comply with section 7(1)(a) of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

This to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My needs are met by the right number of people.' (HSCS 3.15).

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been made.

1. To ensure children have a consistently safe and positive mealtime experience, the provider should improve the supervision of children and involve them more in the process.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state, 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

2. To ensure children are consistently supported in their learning, the provider should engage staff in training and self-evaluation. This would enhance the learning environments, planning and interactions.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state, 'I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me' (HSCS 1.27).

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#).

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the setting needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The City of Edinburgh Council regarding the setting's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the setting within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The City of Edinburgh Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the setting, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the setting has made.

As a result of the Care Inspectorate's findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting

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HM Inspector

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