

# St. Leonards Nursery School Day Care of Children

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Edinburgh  
EH8 9SY

Telephone: 0131 667 4674

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

20 February 2019

**Service provided by:**

City of Edinburgh Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003002576

**Service no:**

CS2003017056

## About the service

St. Leonard's Nursery School is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged between three years and primary school entry. It has two playrooms, cloakroom, toilet area and fully enclosed garden.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

## What people told us

We saw that the majority of children were settled and confident when being left in the staff's care. They were confident and chatted to us throughout the inspection.

Some comments are noted below:

"We really like playing in the house and with the road works. I saw loads of road works when I was coming to pre-school today".

"I like ham sandwiches and mango for lunch, but I really love tuna"

"I like nursery - we had chocolate play dough but we we're not allowed to eat it".

"I always go swimming on a Sunday".

We sent out 15 Care Standard Questionnaires (CSQ's) to parents prior to the inspection. Twelve completed questionnaires were returned to us.

Comments have been noted below.

"We feel our child is thriving in this environment. They are happy, outside a lot and take part in lots of different activities. There is lots happening to stimulate children without being overwhelming. My child's drawing are impressive and suddenly blossomed and they are now able to write their name. Lots of positive relationships and encouragement from staff. A fabulous nursery".

"St. Leonards is a wonderful environment - my child has thrived since starting there last year. There is a calmness to the place, yet there are many activities on offer. The garden and other resources are fantastic and a real bonus to have these spaces so close to the city centre. I'm delighted my child is able to attend such a great nursery, supported by kind, caring and friendly staff".

"We are very happy with the care, service and facilities offered at St. Leonards. The standard of care across all staff is very high and they have really good retention rates for all their carers. In particular, the team helped my child with cope with medical needs and have accommodated this into everyday routines".

"This is an excellent nursery. The staff are very professional, well organised, caring and excellent at their jobs! The space and resources are very good too".

"St. Leonards is a lovely nursery. The staff are great and make it feel as if you are leaving your child with family. There is so much for the children to do, and the outdoor space is fantastic. Mornings are a particular favourite because the lights are dim and there's soothing music playing. Can't sing enough praises for St. Leonards and everyone who works there".

"St. Leonards nursery is a lovely, relaxed and stimulating environment. My child has settled well there, they have become more confident and focused, and I have learnt to trust his decisions. The staff are wonderful"

"We have had an extremely positive experience of St. Leonards since 2016 and feel both our children have thrived there. The staff are outstanding and create an excellent child-lead nursery environment. With more taking up longer hours available might there be more scope for outings and exploring local resources and engaging with the community (appreciate this has staffing implications)".

"The nursery were supportive of my child's needs and have made adaptations to allow them to be more independent. I also appreciate that they have included a week to celebrate differences. Only wish would be a second language provision (French/Spanish/Arabic/Mandarin) in the nursery".

"Well qualified, positive and engaging staff who take the time to talk to parents and are always very approachable. Positive and encouraging atmosphere, staff calm and positive when dealing with discipline. Went through a "chaotic" period with the onset of increased hours - much more settled now with the use of the 2 separate classrooms now. Would like to see more projects/initiative and use of community facilities - wonderful libraries, museums and galleries nearby which are rarely used. Lots of parents who would be willing to help with outings".

"St. Leonards is such a welcoming nursery that I can't praise enough. The staff are approachable and always make children and parents feel welcome. The outdoor space is wonderful and well used. My children have both blossomed at the nursery and I am very grateful to be part of the St. Leonard's community".

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	5 - Very Good

## What the service does well

The enthusiastic and skilled staff team were focused on creating a fun, happy and nurturing environment for all the children. Staff had a genuine regard and respect for the children in their care and the relationships between staff and children were friendly and kind. Staff were seen to have a warm and welcoming relationships with the parents. This helped families feel included and encouraged them to want to become involved in nursery life.

Skilled and respectful interactions were evident and children received appropriate responses to their play ideas. Children had long periods of uninterrupted play which allowed them to deepen their thinking and learning. Staff enthusiasm and skills contributed to the children's feelings of being included and promoted a sense of fun and enjoyment.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted in various ways. Children could move freely between the playrooms and outdoor area, meaning children could choose where they wanted to spend time. This allowed children the time to participate in physical, social and imaginary play. For example we saw the children using bikes, playing in the wooden house, playing group games and using the large climbing frame. These daily opportunities helped children investigate the natural environment and have the freedom to explore and be creative. Other resources allowed children to participate in more imaginative play with the development of "loose parts" and staff were aware of challenging children to include risk within their play.

Children were involved in their play and learning through regular discussion and this was documented in floor books. Staff were able to monitor and track children's learning through their learning stories.

Healthy eating was promoted through providing healthy snacks and discussions around healthy food. Snack time provided children with opportunities for independence and socialising. Children helped themselves to their food, drinks and sat chatting to their friends and staff. Some children stayed for lunch and the service were constantly reviewing this to ensure that outcomes remained positive for the children attending. We signposted the service to the document 'Food Matters' that was available on the Care Inspectorate HUB at <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/836652/food-matters-nurturing-happyhealthy-children.pdf>.

Staff enjoyed their work and providing good outcome for the children. They worked well together and all said that they felt valued and supported by the head teacher. This open ethos meant that children were kept safe and protected because staff were confident in approaching the head teacher if any issues or concerns arose.

The service had an improvement plan which had been discussed with staff. This was regularly discussed, evaluated and updated to ensure that the nursery met the highlighted priorities. The head teacher regularly monitored all aspects of the service and staff interactions. This provided her with an overview of the experiences provided for the children. We were confident that the service will continue to provide very good outcomes for children.

Staff showed a commitment to continuous professional development. They regularly attended training and read good practice guidelines to keep their professional knowledge relevant and up to date. Weekly team meetings allowed staff to share ideas, concerns and plan experiences for the children. Staff were supportive of children and their individual stage of learning and development.

## What the service could do better

Planning for children's progression was in place. However, children's individual needs would be further enhanced if staff reviewed the evaluations and children's next steps to ensure they meet the learning outcome identified.

Children would benefit from their personal plans being reviewed to make sure they receive the right support. If children require additional support, strategies should be discussed and reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We are confident that the service will develop these plans to ensure outcomes remain positive for the children.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

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

### Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

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

### Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
19 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment
		Not assessed Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
18 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
26 Feb 2009		Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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