

Eskbank nursery 2018 yearly over view

We thank you for continuing to support Pinocchio's at Eskbank; it has been a pleasure to share your child's adventure through learning.

At Pinocchio's we believe in working in partnership with our parents to support and develop your child while taking on board any suggestions for improvements and praise. This year we are happy to say we have continued to provide/have achieved the following:

- Pinocchio's had another very successful year at Scottish NMT awards, and we had three staff members shortlisted to the top 5, Katrina for Operational Manager and Training and Development, Becky from our Heriot Watt branch for Practitioner of the Year and Emma for Room Supervisor of the year. Emma won the Room Supervisor category.
- Successful partnerships with Midlothian Council have ensured consistent support and guidance from our teacher Susan Martin, and our 0-3 improvement officer, which ensures that the children have daily access to a broad and varied range of learning experiences.
- Along with support from John and Karen our nursery gardeners, the children and staff have produced another year of a wonderful selection of fruit and vegetables, from huge carrots, leeks, Brussels sprouts, beetroot strawberries and tomatoes.
- Our very experienced and knowledgeable chef Nicky provides delicious and nutritious home-cooked meals. She consults with staff and children, ensuring she caters for all children's needs. She has also used the nursery crops in her meals, and supported the children to make lovely beetroot muffins.
- To ensure all staff are up to date with current guidelines and legislation, the nursery manager has introduced monthly in-house training sessions, to ensure practitioners provide correct learning experiences and better outcomes for children.
- Our annual staff training day was hugely successful and provided staff with training on: Child Initiated play, Loose Parts Play, Personal plans and the nursery Aims and Ethos. Staff gained valuable knowledge and this has been fully embedded into the daily routines of the children.
- All staff are supported and encouraged to participate in training, and have updated their knowledge on Food Hygiene, Child Protection and First Aid
- The nursery has successfully met the Investors in People standards for the last 17 years, and for the second year running achieved Investors in Young People.
- The nursery has been fully involved in fundraising for the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity, with a total of £60,000 raised so far.
- The nursery held a bake sale, and wore something pink to work for Breast Cancer awareness raising £272.58.
- The nursery recently held a fundraising day in aid of Children in Need, by wearing something yellow.
- Our recent informal parents evening and Christmas Fair was a huge success, we raised a massive £335.15 for Edinburgh's Children's Charity.
- The nursery offers extra curricular activities such as Mini Kickers, Bambino beats and Dance a Book, which enables effective partnerships with other professionals and gives the children opportunities to take part in activities to promote their health and wellbeing.
- Our nursery continues to provide events to celebrate achievements, and to encourage parental involvement such as graduation, sports day, summer and Christmas outings and Christmas party.
- Parental involvement has been further developed with our regular parent feedback questionnaires; these have been a great insight to continually improve the provision.
- Our nursery has successfully developed and implemented Loose Parts play both indoors and out, which is in line with our Eco Schools program.
- The younger garden has been developed to ensure better outcomes for children. It has a wide range of sensory experiences such as areas for children to explore different textures such as sand, bark, mud, compost, wood. A new water and music wall have been introduced.
- All displays throughout the nursery are more natural and consist of children's own work, allowing the children's own work to be the focus.
- Our breakfast and Afterschool club is very successful and now has a waiting list for most sessions. We have a walking bus to and from Kings Park Primary School. The 'schoolie' room has been fully equipped with

resources which are age appropriate for children aged 5 years to 12 years. They children participate in lots of arts and craft activities, science experiments and lots of outdoor play.

- The introduction of the breakfast and afterschool club has enabled us to form an excellent partnership with Kings Park Primary, Woodburn Primary and St. David's Primary schools.
- We have had a very successful holiday club for our school children; they have been on lots of adventures to local places of interest from the museums in Edinburgh, visits to Ratho climbing centre and lots of den building and fun in the paddling pools.
- The children have been participating in lots of Forest School learning. They have been fully involved in risky play from den building both in the nursery garden and local woodlands to using our own fire pit and toasting marshmallows, making popcorn to cooking hot dogs for snack.
- We work in collaboration with our Lasswade school children and have formed an Afterschool adventure club, visiting places of interest and weekly Forest School sessions after school.
- The children have been fully involved in assessing risk both indoors and are involved in writing our risk assessments.
- The Early Learners have been celebrating their achievements from home by taking home the Pinocchio's trophy.
- The Early Learners have also enjoyed having adventures with Dougal the dog. It has been wonderful to see the adventures that he has been getting up to with the children and their families.
- We have successfully engaged in our intergenerational project with Archview Lodge Care Home, and have had many lovely visits to see the residents. The staff and children have enjoyed participating in arts and crafts, singing and a Halloween party with the residents. This has been extremely beneficial to both the children and the residents and we are looking forward to this continuing and developing. The care home is giving us a plot in their garden was the children and staff can put their excellent growing and gardening skills into practice. The staff are looking forward to further developing the fantastic relationships with the residents and staff at Archview Care Home. We have invited the residents to our Nativity play also.
- To further enhance our Intergenerational project we have had a few Grandparents come to visit us at the nursery, they have enjoyed visiting the children, playing outside and baking.
- The nursery minibus has been very busy this year, going on weekly recycling centre visits. Monthly visits to TKMAXX to recycle clothing. Lots of exciting trips such as to the new Forth Road Bridge, Fairy garden the beach. We have many more outings for the year ahead.
- Our nursery champions have been busy delivering yoga, baking, music and movement sessions and Kirsty supporting the Eco Schools committee.
- Our Self-regulation training from last year has been fully embedded and the children are confident about expressing their feelings and emotions. They are able to resolve conflict by themselves with a little support from an adult if required
- The nursery garden has had some refurbishment and we have a new children's sized tennis court. The children have been receiving weekly tennis lessons from Michael, who is a qualified tennis coach. We also use the tennis court for football, yoga and bowling. The tennis court was also excellent for our very busy sports and Graduation day.
- The garden now has a road to allow the children to use the bikes, scooters and push their Tonka trucks around.
- Our new wooden Teepee has been a huge success with the children, they enjoy spending time in it reading stories, taking part in role play scenarios and also having their naps throughout the day.