

Lasswade nursery 2018 yearly over view

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:

- We very recently had an extremely positive HMIE inspection. The full report will be published in January. Comments included: The manager is keen to improve the setting and has established a team of practitioners who are committed to meeting children's needs. The manager values practitioners and has encouraged them to become 'champions', building upon practitioners' interests and strengths. This is creating a positive ethos within the setting, where practitioners feel valued and are confident to make suggestions and share opinions. Practitioners know children well as individuals and support them to follow their own interests. Planning methods take account of Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes in relation to planned themes and topics.
- We have recently combined our Early Learning Room and Afterschool Club room which has increased learning opportunities for all children. We have taken time to ensure the areas within the room provide appropriate experiences. This has been very successful and our Afterschool children enjoy taking on a caring role during their time here.
- We continue to work collaboratively with our sister nursery Eskbank to provide Forest School sessions on a weekly basis.
- Practitioners continually reflect on and develop their practice as part of the settings commitment to improvement.
- Our After School Club accommodates parents in the local area for Lasswade Primary and Burnbrae Primary.
- We get great use of the nursery mini van regularly and children often go to Vogrie Park to explore the woodland. We also take trips to Playbase where children are able to select resources they would like to use in the nursery.
- Practitioners have opportunities to take forward improvements, lead and help implement changes are provided. Stacey is currently completing The Peep Training Programme, which will be used within the setting to increase parent involvement in their child's learning.
- Hollie is nearing the end of her Starcatchers Training which when put into practice will enhance children's creativity experiences and opportunities across the setting.
- Practitioners understand the importance of self-evaluation for continuous improvement and take lead in environmental reviews to ensure areas have the very best learning opportunities.
- Practitioners work collaboratively with other professionals to enhance environments, children's learning and progression. This supports children with additional support needs, transitions and their time spent at Pinocchio's.
- We have been accredited Investors in People for the 16th year running and also Investors in Young People for the first year.
- We continue to keep close relationships with our Local Care Home and visit here regularly. This provides our children with time spent with our older friends and is extremely beneficial for all. Our children have great fun spending time here and often take our older friends cards and gifts.
- The nursery has also embedded Nature Nurture within the Early Learning Room. Children take part in this on a weekly basis with the Early Learning team in the nearby woodland area. We are looking to extend this into the Baby Room with the Baby Room Supervisor.
- All branches in have reached a rolling grand total to date of £60,779.01 for Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity through fundraising and open days/Christmas fairs. Thank you for everyone's fantastic support!
- Lasswade took part in the very successful Edinburgh Kilt Walk in September and raised over £1,400 for the above charity. We have close connections with this charity and receive visits to the nursery to discuss where our fundraising is spent.
- Our nursery gardens have been enhanced to provide the very best learning opportunities for our children. Janet Donaldson, our Principal Teacher for Outdoor Learning has supported us with this.
- We are taking a closer look at tracking and monitoring children's development and Next Steps on observations.
- Practitioners are given opportunities to access regular training as well as refresher courses, and to learn new techniques that can be put into place and be passed onto their teams.

- All playrooms have access to their own iPads. More iPads have been purchased, so that all playrooms will have 2 iPads, and each nursery will also have a laptop which can be used within the playrooms to support the renewing of the Learning Journals. Our Early Learning room have the use of a computer that is based within the room to support their learning in technologies, literacy and numeracy.
- We are supported by our cleaner, Nicky, who works 10 hours per week out with nursery hours to keep the nursery clean and hygienic. This ensures that our teams are able to focus fully on the children.
- The newsletter will now include more information about your child's learning, the curriculum and surveys.
- Our fees are inclusive of meals and nappies, in addition to which we offer formula milk and continue to offer organic cow's milk.
- Our extra curricular classes are going well and our children enjoy being taking part in these. These include Bambino Beats, Dance a book, Mini Kickers and Step it Up Dance.
- Nursery Champions will continue into 2019 with each practitioner focussing on an area to improve the learning experiences for the children.
- We continue to support local colleges and schools by providing Work Placements and Work Experience programmes.