

# Sheephouse Nursery Day Care of Children

2-6 Sheephousehill  
Fauldhouse  
EH47 9DY

Telephone: 01501 770 235

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
13 August 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Sheephouse Nursery Ltd

**Service provider number:**  
SP2011011602

**Service no:**  
CS2011297290

## About the service

Sheephouse Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 54 children aged up to entry to secondary school year one at any one time. The following conditions apply:

- no more than 12 are aged under two years
- no more than 12 are attending primary school.

Adult: child ratios will be a minimum of:

- Under two years - 1:3
- Two years to under Three years - 1:5
- Three years and over - 1:8 if the children attend more than four hours per day, or
- 1:10 if the children attend for less than four hours per day
- If all children are over eight years old and over 1:10.

The service is delivered from a converted house in Fauldhouse, West Lothian. It has a central location with easy access to public transport and street parking.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which started on Tuesday 12 August 2025 between the hours of 10:00 and 16:40. We returned to complete the inspection on Wednesday 13 August 2025 between the hours of 10:00 and 15:30. One inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out this inspection.

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

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed children using the service and received feedback from 27 parents;
- spoke with staff and management;
- observed practice and daily routines;
- reviewed documents relating to children's care and the management of the service.

As part of this inspection we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning.

This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment;
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors;
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met;
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

## Key messages

- Children were kept safe through consistently used safety measures and vigilant staff.
- Children were nurtured by warm and compassionate staff who knew their needs and preferences well.
- Nutritious and sociable mealtimes offered children opportunities to be independent and try a healthy selection of food.
- Children's development was progressing as they were empowered to learn through a stimulating environment and responsive interactions with staff.
- The whole team continually reflected on the service and were instrumental in driving improvements forward to benefit children.

## 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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were nurtured through daily experiences by kind, warm and compassionate staff. For example, they were listened to and respected to make decisions in their own care, such as when to sleep or have their nappy changed. Their non-verbal cues were noticed and responded to quickly, which was reassuring for children. They sought staff out for help, fun and comfort. This meant that the flow of the day was relaxed and led by children. A parent said, "My child never comes home lacking sleep or playtime as they get lots of enrichment and rest whilst at Sheephouse".

Mealtimes were a central focus to the day, with a high level of commitment to providing nutritious food. There were opportunities for children to be involved in preparing food and serving their own meal. Staff were present to promote safety and support where necessary. Further measures to enhance the quality of the mealtime experience would benefit children. For example, reducing waiting times and the movement of children around the lunch room could offer a calmer space for children to move at their own pace.

Personal planning was detailed and informative, keeping staff up to date and able to monitor children's needs and progress. Individual strategies were in place for children and were used consistently to enable them to flourish. Children's needs and preferences had a high level of monitoring which kept children at the centre of planning. In addition, health needs and medication were managed effectively to keep children healthy and well. For example, staff were familiar with individual needs and the measures in place to keep children safe. Parents were satisfied with their involvement in planning for their own children, with one saying, "Staff are very understanding and knowledgeable when it comes to supporting my child and their needs, they come up with helpful solutions to assist with their care, as well as taking on suggestions from us".

### Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were having fun playing with friends in a stimulating environment. They were engaged and motivated by skilled staff and the resources around them. The planning of activities centred around all children's interests and their developmental stages. This meant they provided a very good combination of being able to practice new skills and being challenged to extend those skills. As a result, children were empowered to follow their ideas, experiment and explore. A parent said, "My child feels confident to make their own judgement and I thank the staff for building their confidence!".

Engaging with the outdoors was a daily experience for children, providing fresh air, physical activity and a variety of opportunities. Strong connections to the local community had been made and continued to be developed. For example, visits to a local care home and time to play in the forest. A parent said, "My child has loved going to the forest and developing different skills there. They also love being out in the barn doing their woodwork skills".

Children benefited from staff who were present and invested in play. They added value when appropriate through asking questions, providing more resources or offering suggestions. Interactions with staff also enhanced children's literacy and numeracy development. For example, vocabulary was modelled, children were encouraged to recall information and general conversation gave opportunities for children to express their thoughts. Overall, children were progressing in their development.

## How good is our setting?

**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children were welcomed into a homely, comfortable environment, where they were recognised and celebrated. Their artwork and photographs were attractively displayed and space for their belongings was available. The setting was visibly clean and organised, well ventilated with fresh air and had natural light. There were a variety of areas to play, rest and be active. A parent said, "There are cosy, comfortable areas available for my child to lie down and sleep". These details let children know that they were loved, valued and that they belonged.

The setting was safe, secure and well-maintained. The spread of infection was reduced through consistent practice such as effective handwashing, while maintenance was monitored to ensure a consistent high quality. A range of measures were in place to enhance children's safety, such as regular head counts and effective staff deployment. Staff were assessing risk continuously and sensitively managed this to reduce the impact on children's experiences. An example of this was the turning of garden mats to keep them cool in the sunshine. Children were also enabled to consider risk in play and explore ways to reduce risk, helping them to problem solve and make decisions.

The indoor environments were developmentally appropriate spaces, while the outdoor areas were spacious and varied in opportunities. Children's developmental stages and interests were reflected in the resources and equipment available. This made them appealing for children and sparked their desire to play and explore. Moving forward, play spaces should be consistently reset throughout the day, to ensure they remain stimulating and well-resourced for children.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvements are led well

The service vision, values and aims had been reviewed by all involved and so reflected the needs and aspirations of the families and staff. In addition, they reflected the practice and quality of service children received. For example, the nurturing of mutual respect in a home from home environment.

Children benefitted from a culture of continuous improvement that was shared across the team. This meant that improvements were progressed at a steady pace, and sustained. The development of leadership roles shared responsibility and used the strengths across the team, which recognised and valued staff. A range of quality assurance processes were in place to identify strengths and areas to develop. Parents and children were contributing with ideas and suggestions, which were used to improve. A parent said, "I appreciate the opportunities for parental involvement in nursery events. It fosters a sense of community and allows us to engage with the staff and other families". Overall, the improvement plan accurately reflected where the service was and where it could improve.

The management team had grown and was in a transition phase, working to secure roles and responsibilities. Moving forward, this expanding capacity is an opportunity to be innovative in how children are supported in their care, play and learning.

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality Indicator 4.3: Staff deployment

Management were committed to providing a high quality service and understood the role staffing played in this. As a result, staff were supported, empowered and enabled through regular training and high expectations. The level of staff retention demonstrated staff commitment to and satisfaction with their workplace. This positive ethos served to benefit children each day as staff were settled and happy.

The level of staffing was effective to meet the needs of children across key points of the day, such as mealtimes and staff breaks. In addition, the mix of experience and skills in different spaces was considered to ensure children's experiences were consistently positive. Staff were able to deploy themselves around the spaces to support the movement and choices of children. A parent said, "Gail and all the staff are a super team of individuals all bringing different strengths to Sheephouse Nursery and that is what makes it a super nursery".

Staff communicated closely with each other to offer information and support. This also allowed gaps to be recognised and filled to ensure effective supervision of children. Staff were flexible when routines had to change, which modelled resilience and adaptability for children.

A few parents suggested staff name badges to refresh their knowledge of all staff. This would further enhance relationships and connections between home and the service.

## 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).

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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