

St. John's R.C. Primary School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Hamilton Terrace
Edinburgh
EH15 1NB

Telephone: 0131 669 1363

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 December 2016

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Care service number:
CS2003017055

About the service

The service was registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time from three years to primary school age.

We compiled the report following an unannounced inspection, which took place between 1.00pm and 3.45pm on 28 November and 2 December 2016. The inspection was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector.

As requested by us, the service sent us an annual return and a self assessment . We issued 20 questionnaires to parents of children who used the service. Fourteen questionnaires were returned.

The families who used the nursery were involved in assessing the quality of the provision in a variety of ways. The staff were skilled and enthusiastic and used their knowledge of early years learning and development to ensure the children were ready for school. Staff supported the children's needs within a stimulating and safe environment.

The leadership of the nursery helped promote a positive impact which contributed to meeting the children's needs. All staff were involved in the quality assurance processes and were working towards developing the service further.

What people told us

Comments from the Care Inspectorate questionnaires included:

"The nursery staff are brilliant and always happy and helpful with any questions or concerns I have had."

"A warm friendly ethos and children feel cared for and happy."

"Very happy with the service provided, very well organised, staff kept me informed of my child's progress using the parent journal, always very welcome and my child happy, always enjoying going to nursery. They are an excellent team."

"I don't feel that the children miss out on any aspect of their learning due to the excellent staff team."

"Staff have been exceptionally nurturing. This has been critical in supporting our children to settle into the nursery and then the school environment."

"Staff are always approachable and take the time to discuss the children's day with us."

"My impression is that the staff have a desire to run a high quality service but lack time outside of classroom time to always achieve this. The atmosphere is warm and caring towards the children. Giving more time for parental input and ideas could only be a good thing."

"Parents able to ask for information when required e.g. how is my child's sociality? This info is not really given otherwise."

"No information gathered about my child e.g. interests, areas for development, when started nursery."

"Learning journals on line. Very general and very poor in terms of my own child's progress/interests/next steps etc."

"Communication is mainly done by notice board. This can be difficult for working parents who rely on childcare for drop offs and pick ups. More notice of special events would be appreciated."

We spoke with children during the inspection and all said they enjoyed nursery. Their comments included:

"We've got sticky, sparkly playdough."

"I had cheese and an oat biscuit and water for snack."

"I didn't. I had milk and a cracker biscuit."

"We're making a show. I'm in charge."

"Would you like me to read you a story?"

"I love everything at nursery. I've got stars on my jumper, I stuck them on with sellotape, all by my own."

Self assessment

Each year all care services must complete a self assessment form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate. The service completed a self assessment prior to us writing our report. It highlighted what it did well and described how this resulted in very good outcomes for the children. They identified areas for improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

The nursery was led by an enthusiastic team who worked well together to achieve very good outcomes for the children. They were well trained and fully committed to the children and the families who used the service. They involved parents and consulted with them to ensure that the service they provided met their needs. Parents confirmed this when we spoke to them during the inspection.

Throughout the inspection we saw that staff had developed free flow play in line with Building the Ambition. Staff interacting respectfully with the children ensuring that they had opportunities to have fun as they learned during play. Children were given a good balance between free play and adult led activities. The children chose what they wanted to play with and whether to play inside or out. Following their own interests they were eager to learn and evidence of their learning was displayed on the walls and on display tables throughout the nursery. The children had some good opportunities for outdoor play. This included play in the garden, the playground and walks within the community including the local parks.

The staff contributed to children's e-learning journals. They completed observations of learning and encouraged the children to use the iPads to share in their learning. Staff completed evaluations and children's next steps were recorded in paper format. Planning of activities and topics was responsive to the needs and interests of the children and we saw that they contributed to the mind maps displayed on the walls.

During the inspection we looked at the improvement plan for the service. We agreed that the areas for development identified would further improve the quality of experience for the children.

Staff had already done much to improve the outdoor area for the children and this work continued to be a priority for further improvement.

The service was committed to self evaluation. They were using How Good Is Our Early Learning And Childcare (Education Scotland). This contributed to improving the experiences and outcomes for the children.

What the service could do better

During the inspection it became clear that some parents were not accessing the elearning journals. Steps should be taken to determine why this is and to overcome any barriers to them sharing in their children's achievements.

Opportunities for children's independence and sociability had been greatly improved during snack since the last inspection. As a progression from this, staff could try introducing the children to washing and drying their own dishes.

We saw that the service was alerting Public Health of notifiable outbreaks of infection but that they were not informing the Care Inspectorate. As soon as they became aware of this they agreed to adhere to the necessary procedures.

Accident and incident forms were not being completed with full details of what had happened and they did not contain the child and staff member's full name. Again, management and staff agreed to improve procedures following discussion during the inspection. Auditing of these forms will ensure ongoing improvements in record keeping.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
10 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
21 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
14 Sep 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Aug 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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