Inspection report

Midlothian Sure Start Positive Steps
Day Care of Children

Mount Esk Nursery
Bonnyrigg    EH19 2LS

Inspected by: Linda Smith
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 30 September 2005
Service Number  Service name
CS2003050864  Midlothian Sure Start Positive Steps

Service address
Mount Esk Nursery
Bonnyrigg    EH19 2LS

Provider Number  Provider Name
SP2003003175  Midlothian Sure Start

Inspected By  Inspection Type
Linda Smith  Unannounced
Care Commission Officer

Inspection Completed  Period since last inspection
30 September 2005  9 months

Local Office Address
Stuart House
Eskmill
Musselburgh
EH21 7PB
Lo call 0845 600 8335
Introduction
Midlothian Sure Start Positive Steps has been registered with the Care Commission since 1st April 2002.

The service is registered to care for a maximum of 40 children between the ages of birth and three years.

Aims and Objectives: as stated by Midlothian Sure Start Positive Steps

“To promote social inclusion through a positive start in young people’s lives (focussing on) the promotion of personal growth and development of the very youngest children 90-30 before they have the opportunity of pre-school education.”

“To provide community based, family focussed resources, including high quality childcare and direct support to parents which, through a variety of mechanisms, will strengthen parents ability to maximise their children's potential.”

“To enable parents to increase their confidence, skills and understanding so that, as more fulfilled adults, they are better able to meet the needs of their children.”

Basis of Report
The unannounced inspection was carried out on the 30th September 2005. The report is based on observation, inspection of the premises, discussion and inspection of records and associated materials.

The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Years Childcare and Education up to the age of 16:

Standard 2: A safe Environment
Standard 4: Engaging with Children
Standard 5: Quality of Experience
Standard 6: Support and Development
Standard 14: Well Managed Service
In conjunction with the sections of The Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services)(Scotland) Regulations 2002.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
No requirements were made at the last inspection.

Comments on Self-Evaluation
The self evaluation was comprehensively completed and reflected findings on the day of the visit.

View of Service Users
All children appeared happy and content in the care of the staff. All children were purposefully occupied throughout the inspection.
View of Carers
Ten parent response forms were returned to the Care Commission and these were supportive of the service.
Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 2: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Safe Environment

Strengths

The playroom used by Positive Steps are bright and welcoming with many examples of children's art work displayed.

Potential hazards have been identified and made safe.

A secure entry/exit system was in place.

Play equipment was in good order and a cleaning rota was in place.

An infection control policy was in place.

Toilet areas were clean with an ample supply of paper towels and liquid soap.

The centre had use of the adjacent nursery school outdoor play area when not in use by the nursery. The outside area adjacent to the playroom used by the centre did not have direct access.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development however the service itself in their self evaluation booklet identified the following areas:
"Ongoing review and development. Annual risk assessment held."
"Door to outside play area is to be installed shortly."

National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children

Strengths

Good interaction was observed between staff and children.

Praise and encouragement were used consistently by staff.

Children's individual needs were being met in a sensitive, happy and caring manner.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the stages of children's development and learning.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development however the service itself
in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:
"Key worker system and child profiles are being updated shortly."

**National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience**

**Strengths**

A good range of activities and equipment was available.

New equipment was purchased as required.

Children were able to influence activities and to make choices.

There was photographic evidence to support the wide range of activities and experiences that the children were offered.

Activities were varied to further enhance children's experiences.

Summer outings had taken place to many places of interest including the Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the beach, swimming and soft play. A trip to Almond Valley Farm is planned for the near future.

**Areas for Development**

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development however the service itself in their self evaluation booklet identified the following areas:
"This is an ongoing activity. Staff all to receive training in Solihull and PEEP."
"Story sacks for very young children and a lending library are to be developed (currently piloting in Positive Steps)."

**National Care Standard Number 6: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development**

**Strengths**

Staff had a good understanding of the individual needs of all of the children who attend the centre.

Training is offered to staff on various aspects of care to support them in their daily work.

Effective links had been established between the centre and the Social Work Department, adjacent nursery school and wrap around care, Health Visitors, local Integration teams and Midlothian Council.

**Areas for Development**

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the service itself in their self evaluation booklet identified the following areas:
National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service

Strengths

Staff meetings take place fortnightly. Staff meet informally daily to discuss issues that arise.

Staff supervision and appraisals take place regularly.

Staff demonstrated professional competence, a good understanding of childcare issues and skills suitable for caring for children.

Parents were given written information about the service at enrolment.

All records, policies and procedures appropriate to the service were in place.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development however the service itself in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:

"The organisation is working on a staff handbook and is planning to introduce a regular staff bulletin."
Enforcement
No enforcement action has been taken against this service by the care Commission since the last inspection.

Other Information
Midlothian Sure Start staff are aware of the Scottish Social Services Codes of Practice and appropriate training is ongoing.

Requirements
None at this inspection.

Recommendations
None at this inspection.

Linda Smith
Care Commission Officer