

Care service inspection report

Leith Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

St. Andrews Place

Edinburgh

EH6 7EG

Telephone: 0131 554 4844

Inspected by: Frankie Lumsden

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 24 February 2012



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Contents

	Page No
Summary	3
1 About the service we inspected	5
2 How we inspected this service	6
3 The inspection	9
4 Other information	17
5 Summary of grades	18
6 Inspection and grading history	18

Service provided by:

City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002576

Care service number:

CS2003015838

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Summary

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change after this inspection following other regulatory activity. For example, if we have to take enforcement action to make the service improve, or if we investigate and agree with a complaint someone makes about the service.

We gave the service these grades

Quality of Care and Support	4	Good
Quality of Environment		N/A
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership		N/A

What the service does well

Staff develop positive and friendly relationships with children.

There are very good strategies in place to support children's emotional development.

What the service could do better

Areas of the playroom should be developed to increase the range of core play activities that support key aspects of development.

Children should be given increased opportunities to be involved in planning their learning.

What the service has done since the last inspection

The last inspection was carried out by HMle in March 2010 and the nursery class was included in recommendations made for the school. These included engaging children more in their learning and continuing to develop the curriculum taking account of the Curriculum for Excellence. We saw that some progress had been made and development was ongoing.

Conclusion

The nursery provides a welcoming environment where staff develop positive and caring relationships with children.

Who did this inspection

Frankie Lumsden

1 About the service we inspected

Before 1 April 2011 this service was registered with the Care Commission. On this date the new scrutiny body, Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS), took over the work of the Care Commission, including the registration of care services. This means that from 1 April 2011 this service continued its registration under the new body, SCSWIS, known as the Care Inspectorate.

The nursery is operated by the City of Edinburgh Council and is registered for 20 children aged three years to primary school age. The service operates Monday to Friday during school term time only.

The nursery premises is located within the Primary School. There is an outdoor play area accessed through the playroom.

Based on the findings of this inspection this service has been awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support - Grade 4 - Good

Quality of Environment - N/A

Quality of Staffing - Grade 4 - Good

Quality of Management and Leadership - N/A

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. You can find the most up-to-date grades for this service by visiting our website www.scswis.com or by calling us on 0845 600 9527 or visiting one of our offices.

2 How we inspected this service

The level of inspection we carried out

In this service we carried out a low intensity inspection. We carry out these inspections when we are satisfied that services are working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

What we did during the inspection

This report was written after an unannounced inspection visit on 24 February 2012.

There were 18 children present during this inspection visit. The teacher was attending a meeting and a supply teacher was covering the morning session. We were able to speak with the teacher before completing the inspection visit.

During the inspection we looked at evidence from a number of sources;

- we spoke with some of the children and watched them in their play and interactions with one another.
- We looked at the accommodation and play resources watching how children participated in their learning experiences.
- We spoke with the Teacher and Head Teacher in relation to the quality statements we were inspecting against.
- We observed how staff interacted with and cared for the children.
- We looked at documents relevant to the quality statements of this inspection.
- We referred to the self evaluation submitted by the nursery.

Grading the service against quality themes and statements

We inspect and grade elements of care that we call 'quality themes'. For example, one of the quality themes we might look at is 'Quality of care and support'. Under each quality theme are 'quality statements' which describe what a service should be doing well for that theme. We grade how the service performs against the quality themes and statements.

Details of what we found are in Section 3: The inspection

Inspection Focus Areas (IFAs)

In any year we may decide on specific aspects of care to focus on during our inspections. These are extra checks we make on top of all the normal ones we make during inspection. We do this to gather information about the quality of these aspects

of care on a national basis. Where we have examined an inspection focus area we will clearly identify it under the relevant quality statement.

Fire safety issues

We do not regulate fire safety. Local fire and rescue services are responsible for checking services. However, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, we will alert the relevant fire and rescue services so they may consider what action to take. You can find out more about care services' responsibilities for fire safety at www.firelawscotland.org

The annual return

Every year all care services must complete an 'annual return' form to make sure the information we hold is up to date. We also use annual returns to decide how we will inspect the service.

Annual Return Received: Yes - Electronic

Comments on Self Assessment

Every 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 nursery submitted a brief self assessment which identified strengths of the service and areas for further development. This document was used to inform the inspection process.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

The children we spoke to told us that they enjoyed their time at nursery.

Taking carers' views into account

Six parents returned questionnaires to us. Of these four 'agreed' and two 'strongly agreed' that overall they were happy with the service provided. Two parents made comments:

"I have been impressed by the passion and dedication of staff. I feel confident that I am leaving my child in good hands".

A parent commented very positively on the support their child received with English as their second language:

"staff were very helpful to me and to him in this situation."

3 The inspection

We looked at how the service performs against the following quality themes and statements. Here are the details of what we found.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Grade awarded for this theme: 4 – Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service strengths

There were a range of approaches to involving families and children in assessing the quality of care and support provided.

An open door policy encouraged parents to approach staff on an informal basis if they wished to share information or have an informal discussion about their child's progress. Parents told us in our questionnaires that they agreed the nursery involved them and their child in developing the service.

Parents were offered more formal opportunities to discuss their child's progress through consultation meetings. The teacher told us that parents were encouraged to share their views of the nursery at these meetings and were given time to discuss their opinions and suggestions for developments they would like to see.

At the end of the year parents are asked to reflect on their experience of the nursery and make suggestion for improvement. This year they will be offered an opportunity to complete a '2 stars and a wish' questionnaire.

Parents have an opportunity to represent the nursery on the school Parent Council. There is a complaints procedure available to parents if they wish to raise concerns that have not been satisfactorily addressed through informal procedures.

The teacher told us that children's views and ideas influenced what was provided for them. For example, they were consulted about their play options and asked what table top games they would like out and what resources they wished to play with in the outdoor area. Observation of children's activities informed staff about their interests so that they could plan experiences to reflect these. Mind maps also contributed to this process by encouraging children to discuss their interests and think about how these might be developed. Circle time

provided further opportunities for children to share their views and ideas.

Areas for improvement

The nursery's self assessment told us that they intended to develop questionnaires for parents. We feel this will enhance opportunities for parents to feedback their views of the service provided. See recommendation 1.

The teacher told us that they intended to develop 'talking and thinking floorbooks' to offer children further ways of contributing to discussion about their views, ideas and interests. We felt this development would increase opportunities for children to reflect on their learning and encourage them to think about what they would like to do next to develop their ideas and interests. See recommendation 2.

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 2

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the nursery continues with its plans to develop questionnaires for parents. These should reflect the four Quality Themes of this inspection process. Standard 13: Improving the Service - National Care Standards early education and childcare.
2. We recommend that ideas for consulting children continue to be developed so that they have increased opportunities to influence the service provided for them. Standard 5 Quality of Experience, Standard 13: Improving the Service - National Care Standards early education and childcare.

Statement 3

We ensure that service user's health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service strengths

We found that the nursery promoted healthy lifestyles through a range of approaches.

We saw children enjoying healthy food choices at snack time. They were included in the planning and preparation of snack and encouraged to share. The teacher told us that children were to be involved in a project to promote healthy eating in March. The nursery was part of a project which gave parents opportunities to access a fruit and vegetable stall.

The school had been awarded Health Promoting School Stage 1 and the self evaluation told us that health promoting professionals visited and worked closely with the nursery. Children were encouraged to follow healthy routines such as brushing their teeth and washing their hands before eating and after toileting.

The outdoor area gave children daily opportunities for exercise in the fresh air. We saw that the equipment provided promoted active physical play.

There were policies in place to guide staff practice in maintaining a healthy environment through infection control procedures. The self evaluation told us that staff held First Aid certificates which were regularly updated.

The teacher described how children's emotional needs were supported. For example, she visited families at home prior to children starting at nursery. This enabled the child to meet her while in their familiar surroundings and provided an opportunity for the family to discuss their child's needs with her. There was a flexible settling in process to meet the needs of each child when they started at nursery.

The teacher told us that they were using the 'emotional literacy' package developed by City of Edinburgh Council to support children's emotional development. We saw that staff had encouraged children to discuss their feelings, hopes and fears and recorded these on paper 'leaves' which were hung on a 'feelings tree'. This process supported children in sharing their feelings and becoming aware of the feelings of others. The information gathered informed staff's approach to meeting children's needs and included the provision of play resources to support this aspect of development.

The teacher told us that staff have an opportunity to attend Child Protection training on a bi-annual basis to update their knowledge in this area. They are given relevant documentation to ensure that they are familiar with the most current practice.

Areas for improvement

There were areas of play provision that could be further developed so that children had a full range of play activities to support their play needs and learning. The size of the water tray should be increased so that more interesting and challenging play can be provided. Developing a wider range of attractively presented resources for children to cut up and use for gluing would stimulate their involvement in creative play. We suggested that playdough or clay be available on a daily basis. We discussed these aspects of play provision with the teacher and management and it was agreed that improvements would be made in these areas. See recommendation 1.

Risk assessments for the playroom and outdoor area should be developed. We discussed this with the teacher and it was agreed that these would be put in place. See recommendation 2.

A parent indicated in our questionnaires that she felt the procedure for collecting children could be improved. We discussed this with the Head Teacher who agreed that procedures would be reviewed.

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 2

Recommendations

1. Play resources should be developed to provide a balanced range of activities to engage and challenge children. Standard 5: Quality of Experience, Standard 11 Access to resources - National Care Standards early education and childcare.
2. Risk assessments should be developed for the playroom and outdoor area. Standard 2: A safe environment - National Care Standards early education and childcare.

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment - NOT ASSESSED

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Grade awarded for this theme: 4 - Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing in the service.

Service strengths

There were a range of approaches to involving parents in evaluating the service as identified in Quality Theme 1.1.

Areas for improvement

Parents should be provided with an opportunity to formally evaluate this aspect of the service. See recommendation 1.

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of recommendations: 1

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

1. The questionnaire developed should include an opportunity for families to comment on this aspect of the service. Standard 13: Improving the Service - National Care Standards - early education and childcare.

Statement 3

We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

Service strengths

All staff were trained to work with young children and registered with the appropriate professional body.

Staff were highly motivated to continue in their professional development. For example, one Early Years Practitioner was studying for the BA in Childhood Studies and another was attending the Froebel Course at Edinburgh University. Staff could also attend a range of CPD training through the courses offered by Edinburgh City Council.

In line with good practice, there were regular meetings so that staff could discuss their plans for supporting children's development and learning. These meetings also

promoted continuity of care by enabling staff to pass on information, encouraging a team approach to practice.

Staff had access to the range of policies developed by the Local Authority to support staff in achieving best practice in line with legislation and best practice guidelines. The teacher is a member of the British Association for Early Education (Early Education) which provides a programme of talks and lectures for all staff working in early years settings.

From discussion with the teacher and review of the self evaluation we could see that the nursery aimed to promote best practice by following a holistic approach which took into account children's experience and stage of development when planning support for their development and learning.

Areas for improvement

We made a recommendation under Quality Theme 1.3 about improving play provision for children. Staff should ensure that the core resources in the nursery contribute to the overall breadth and balance of experience provided for the children. See recommendation 1.

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 1

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the experience provided for children fully reflects practice guidelines such as the Curriculum for Excellence. Improving core play experiences will contribute to this aim. Standard 5 Quality of Experience - National Care Standards early education and childcare.

**Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership - NOT
ASSESSED**

4 Other information

Complaints

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

Additional Information

Action Plan

Failure to submit an appropriate action plan within the required timescale, including any agreed extension, where requirements and recommendations have been made, will result in SCSWIS re-grading the Quality Statement within the Management and Leadership Theme as unsatisfactory (1). This will result in the Quality Theme for Management and Leadership being re-graded as Unsatisfactory (1).

5 Summary of grades

Quality of Care and Support - 4 - Good	
Statement 1	4 - Good
Statement 3	4 - Good
Quality of Environment - Not Assessed	
Quality of Staffing - 4 - Good	
Statement 1	4 - Good
Statement 3	4 - Good
Quality of Management and Leadership - Not Assessed	

6 Inspection and grading history

All inspections and grades before 1 April 2011 are those reported by the former regulator of care services, the Care Commission.

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