Cranston Country Nursery
Day Care of Children

Edgehead Road
Pathhead
EH37 5RG

Telephone: 01875321370

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 21 September 2016

Service provided by:
Cranston Nurseries Limited

Service provider number:
SP2009010374

Care service number:
CS2009216752
About the service

Cranston Country Nursery is located in Edgehead Road, Pathhead, Edinburgh. The nursery works with children from birth to five years and is in partnership with Midlothian Council. They work with the national Curriculum for Excellence, and national guidance, Pre-Birth to Three. The nursery is in a rural setting, with four garden areas and good car parking facilities.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of ninety-seven children aged between birth and entry into primary school.

The Nursery’s Statement of Vision and Values are as follows:
Cranston Country Nursery’s primary function is to be the lead provider of high-quality childcare with the strong emphasis on education, giving all children who attend the nursery the advantage of a better start when they enter primary education.

Working in partnership with parents, we offer a professional and caring environment where children feel safe and respected.

Parents are supported and included in their child’s care.

Parents are welcomed into the nursery and kept fully informed as to their child’s progress.

Based on equal opportunities, the curriculum at Cranston Country Nursery aspires to produce successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

What people told us

Parents told us:

“We had a previous bad experience with another nursery and we were looking to move our child elsewhere. The nursery staff were helpful and put our mind at rest very quickly. Ever since we moved our child to Cranston my child has been a lot happier”.

“Cranston is an exceptional nursery with dedicated staff who take time to get to know the children and families. Staff are always happy and work very well as a team”.

“My child loves the nursery and all the ladies who work there. We are confident our child is provided with a high level of care and lots of fun activities”.

“Amazing experience for my child and my family, could not fault Cranston”.

“I am extremely pleased with the level and quality of care that my children receive at Cranston. They both happily entered the nursery, eager to play with friends and staff and sometimes ask to go to nursery on their days off.

“Staff are friendly and provide quality feedback when collecting my children from the nursery”.

“It is reassuring that staff know the children as individuals”.

“I like the use of learning log to be kept informed on the children’s progress”.

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We spoke with a number of children who use the service. They were confident in talking to us. Some told us:

“I like coming to the nursery to play with my friends”

“We play outside. We get to run around and chase each other”.

“We play in the sand and sit on the sand and dig, dig, dig - I like playing in the sand its fun”.

“We get to dress up and are funny”.

“The ladies make us laugh”.

“I like playing with the Lego and building lots of things. Like at home”.

“I have my dinner in the nursery and it tastes lovely. I sit with my friend and get to pour my own water”.

“Joan is the cook. She’s nice; she gives us lots of food”.

**Self assessment**

The Care Inspectorate received a well worded self-assessment document from the provider. This described the excellent service provided. We were delighted with the way the provider completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under.

The provider identified what it thought the service did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The provider told us how the people who use the care service had taken part in the self-assessment process.

**From this inspection we graded this service as:**

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

**What the service does well**

**Quality of care and support**

The service promoted and supported children’s healthy lifestyles.

Children were encouraged to develop lifelong healthy habits by providing them with a range of interesting and challenging activities, for example, learning about growing healthy foods and providing children with nutritional snacks and wholesome meals.
Parents told us that consultation was fixed in practice and staff worked closely with them for the best outcome for the child. Parents said children had a strong sense of belonging.

We found that staff interacted and engaged warmly with children and this provided children with a caring, secure trusting relationship.

Parent’s comments showed they were very happy with the quality of care provided: “If any problems arise with the children, the staff agree a way forward and deal with matters professionally and in a way that makes me trust their judgement”.

“Staff are excellent and diligent about providing individual handover information and at pick up time”.

We found that staff were knowledgeable about child protection procedures and related issues and would seek advice from other professionals if required.

**Quality of environment**

Children experience an indoor and outdoor environment.

The environment was carefully and thoughtfully planned collectively with children and staff taking into account the wishes of parents. This reflected the different needs, stages and interests of children attending.

The outside area had been significantly developed since the last inspection and this has provided children with positive, daily challenges supporting them to explore the world around them.

Children told us they liked playing outdoors, playing in the mud garden, getting dirty and making chocolate soup. Staff understood children’s need to express themselves and supported them to do so safely.

Staff showed a great willingness to encourage children to play outdoors in all weather. We witnessed this throughout our visits to the service. Children were provided with suitable clothing to ensure they could enjoy their outdoor experience.

Parents commented; “I particularly like staff commitment to outdoor play and exercise”. Another parent commented “The outdoor space is fantastic and used frequently by the children”. This showed that parents appreciated that their child’s health and well was being supported by staff.

Overall, the nursery provided a very good service.

### What the service could do better

Two parents indicated they would like to be asked more for their ideas on how to help improve the service. This was discussed with the manager and it was agreed management would examine how best they could develop this with parents. We suggested that parents may want to contribute more to menu planning.

The manager told us that staff had yet to undertake training on National Practice Guidance ‘Building the Ambition’ and ‘Setting the Table’. ‘Building the Ambition’, is guidance that supports practitioners to deliver quality early learning and childcare. ‘Setting the Table’ highlights the importance of nutrition in the early years and the role that childcare providers have in shaping both current and future eating patterns in young children in
Scotland. The manager informed us that both items are to be discussed more with staff as part of their future training and are included in the Services Development Plan.

We talked about staff referring to and discussing together ‘My World Outdoors’ a resource that promotes the extensive benefits of outdoor play for children’s overall development and learning. It groups together examples of innovative and effective practice around the recognised wellbeing indicators. The manager has included this as part of the Services Development Plan.

We suggested that children could be involved more in risk assessments where they can learn more about risks. This would help to support their decision making and achievements.

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

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