

# Gullane Playgroup Day Care of Children

Old Primary School  
East Links Road  
Gullane  
EH31 2AF

Telephone: 7729436336

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 16 November 2016

**Service provided by:**  
Committee Of Gullane Playgroup

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002867

**Care service number:**  
CS2003011931

## About the service

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It's a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it right for every child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included - often referred to as 'SHANARRI'.

Gullane Playgroup is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time, aged from two - five years. The playgroup is managed by a committee of parents.

The playgroup is situated in the old primary school building, in Gullane. The children can access a large playroom and an enclosed garden. The playgroup also benefits from separate toilets and a changing area. The building is maintained by East Lothian Council.

The aims of the service are:

"To provide pre-school aged children in our community with a happy, caring, secure environment, where they can participate in fun play activities and are encouraged by staff parents and carers to develop skills and grow in confidence."

## What people told us

We spoke to the children during our visit and we observed how they interacted with each other and with the staff. Most children were relaxed in the care of the staff, played well together and were developing friendships.

We sent nine Care Standard Questionnaires to the service to distribute to families. Seven were returned to us prior to the inspection. Feedback was very positive, comments from parents and carers were:

"The playgroup is wonderful. When my child first started, they were anxious and would rarely chat to other children or staff. They have been there for over a year now and have become a chatty child, who looks forward to playgroup every week.

My child absolutely loves going to playgroup. When my child started they settled in really quickly which I think is due to the fantastic environment, the staff, particularly the play leader have created at the group. My child loves all the creative activities they do and always comes home with lots of stories of all the fun things they have done. They have learned so much through the different topics, such as seasons, frogs, butterflies and volcanoes. The staff are always great at giving me a summary of how my child has been that day and what they have enjoyed doing.

These girls are worth their weight in gold. They all do a fantastic job and my child loves each and every one. We

are really lucky to have such a qualified team.

My child has been at playgroup for 18 months. I have always been extremely happy with the staff and the environment as a whole. I would strongly recommend the service to others.

Activities are appropriate and I am impressed by the rotation of toys, games and crafts each day at the different play stations. As a creature of habit, my child will always go straight for the cars, but each day the staff take the care to place different vehicles in this area. Improvements to the outdoor area have been a great success. I hope future inspectors get the weather to see this area in operation, it is safe and fun and the children have made excellent use of it over the last few weeks.

Playgroup, I feel is excellent preparation for nursery developing peer relationships, talking, listening skills and an awareness of the world beyond themselves. I was impressed when my eldest child made the transition from playgroup to nursery, as information was shared and the nursery teacher visited playgroup in advance. My child is happy and has had a lot of fun, staff are providing them well with life skills."

The parents we spoke with during our visit told us:

"My child loves the playgroup. They tell us great tales about their time at playgroup and do not want to leave. They talk about their friends.

My child really loves it and interacts well with the other children.

My child is really safe here at Gullane playgroup. The staff are aware of the children's safety and keeping them safe. The new garden is a nice big space for the children.

The playgroup is fab and the staff have been fantastic.

The staff update me on how my child settles, we received a settling in report which stated how they were making friends, learning to sing and settling in.

There is now more outdoor play and dedicated snack time which is more sociable.

The teachers always give us feedback and the children always have nice time. They have time for us as parents and they are very attentive to children."

## Self assessment

We received a fully completed self-assessment from the service. We were satisfied with the way the provider had completed this and with the relevant information they had given us for each of the themes we looked at. The service identified things they thought they did well, some areas for improvement and changes they planned for their service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed

**Quality of management and leadership**

not assessed

## What the service does well

The caring and supportive staff team are committed to their work with children and their families. They ensured children's needs were met in a safe and nurturing environment.

Children's were learning about healthy lifestyles. They learned about healthy eating promoted through healthy snacks choices. They were involved in cooking, baking activities and the preparation of snacks. Children were learning to care for themselves and to be independent, washing their hands, choosing snack, and putting on outdoors clothes.

We found the staff knew the children and families well. Good working partnerships had been developed with families and everyone had the children at the heart of the service. Planning and evaluating of the playgroup was carried out in consultation with children and their parents, this ensured they had an active voice and were involved in decision making. The playgroup's development plan for 2016/17 included further ways to improve the outdoor area and the transition of a new management committee.

The staff and management committee had worked very hard fundraising to make extensive improvements to the environment both indoors and outdoors to benefit the children and ensure better outcomes. Improvements included upgraded toilet facilities, a sensory room, cloak room, new windows and refurbishment of the garden and new outdoor storage. The new garden provided a larger space for outdoor play, sensory areas as well as opportunities for children to grow fruit flowers and herbs. Children and their families had been involved in these improvements alongside the staff, helping to complete and maintain the garden including donating planters and compost. They had also helped in the completion of the sensory room which provided a quiet, relaxing and pleasant space for the children.

Safe outdoor play was promoted by watchful and attentive staff, who ensured children were dressed appropriately for all weathers. Children were learning a great deal about nature, looking at birds and their nests, caring for butterflies, tadpoles, planting, growing and recycling.

The staff were working well as a team to support very good care for the children. They were aware of the importance of smooth transitions and building relationships for new children and their families. Parents and children were encouraged to visit the group and to attend pre admissions meetings. Staff used settling in reports to give a summary to parents of their child's experience. These systems helped staff to settle children into their new environment, gather important information about each child and plan for their individual care needs. A key worker system helped staff to monitor each child's progress and plan for their learning and development. The staff had developed very good relationships with the local schools and nursery. This had supported very good transitions for children moving on from the playgroup onto these services. The staff recognised the challenges for new families coming into the area and planned to hold a 'family day' and more community events to support them.

## What the service could do better

We discussed with the staff and management committee in attendance, further ways in which they could improve the garden and outdoor play for children, by using more natural materials, loose parts, and the good practice resource which they had obtained 'My World Outdoors'.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
11 Dec 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
11 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
16 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
11 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 2 - Weak Management and leadership 4 - Good
3 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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