

St. Gabriel's Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

South Grange Avenue
Prestonpans
EH32 9LH

Telephone: 01875 811062

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 February 2017

Service provided by:
East Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002600

Care service number:
CS2005113748

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com. The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

St. Gabriel's Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children aged 3 years to primary school entry. Staffing Ratios as stated in the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 must be maintained at all times. A minimum of two adults must be present at all times.

The service is located in a residential area of Prestonpans, East Lothian. It provides the entitlement for children aged 3 to 5 to attend 600 hours of early learning and childcare in line with Scottish Government guidelines as part of East Lothian Council.

Children have the use of a designated playroom within the primary school with a large cloakroom area, toilets and direct access to an outdoor play space. The nursery also has kitchen facilities within the room as well as use of an office and storage space specifically for the nursery.

What people told us

Two Care Inspectorate early years inspectors visited the service on Wednesday 8 February 2017 between 08.50 and 16.05. We spoke with staff, parents, carers, childminders and children who were present during the inspection. Feedback was given to the service on the day of inspection.

Children played happily and confidently in their environment. We saw staff who were nurturing children and encouraging them to achieve. Children had formed strong friendships and were respectful of each other and the adults they worked with. Children told us:

"I like to play with my friends."

"My favourite toy is the chute."

The nursery was holding a 'Stay and Play' session on the morning of the inspection. This gave us the opportunity to speak with parents, carers and other family members of children who used the service. They were happy with the service that was provided and praised the staff who worked with their children. They told us:

"The space is really lovely. Staff are really attentive."

"Staff are lovely and very approachable. We are kept well informed."

"Staff are great. My child is thriving."

We received Care Standards Questionnaires from families before we visited the service. Most parents were happy with the service they received. Comments included:

"The teachers and helpers are all amazing. Can't fault them at all."

"Not all staff members are friendly, welcoming and easy to approach. Personally found one member of staff who always goes the extra mile and makes parent and child feel at ease."

"So far I have had a very positive experience and my child is also enjoying it, although he is still settling in."

"My child has made lots of new friends and looks forward to going in every day. As a parent, I find the staff very approachable and friendly and always make an effort to let me know what she has been doing that day."

Self assessment

The service submitted a self assessment to the Care Inspectorate and this had been completed in a thorough and systematic way. They had detailed their achievements and areas for improvement. We found that some of the comments made were not in line with our own findings. These areas were discussed as part of our feedback to the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 – Adequate
Quality of environment	4 – Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children were being cared for by nurturing staff who were respectful of their play and reassured them. Children had built strong friendships with their peers and good relationships with staff, helping them feel included in the service. We observed older children supporting younger children, showing their understanding of responsibility and nurturing interactions.

Self help skills were being encouraged and children were beginning to have more choice over their own play experiences. This was supported by having a bright, large and spacious play space for children which was well defined and organised to meet children's needs. The environment had been planned to offer varied opportunities for play, including active and physical play outdoors.

We saw that children's progress was being presented in a meaningful way using Learning Walls. These showed children's contributions, helping them feel respected in the service. The Learning Walls also showed the next steps which were planned to help children achieve. The use of this approach was also encouraging home links, supporting parents to feel included and respected in the nursery.

Staff were beginning to use relevant best practice guidance to inform their practice. Recently, they had been reflecting on the planning and opportunities there were for child led experiences. As a result, the service had introduced self selection of resources which was helping children be responsible and feel respected by the staff who cared for them.

Children had a good understanding of healthy lifestyles and they were involved in preparing food for snack. This supported their understanding of healthy foods and lifestyles. Snack time also offered them opportunities to develop their social skills and build friendships with their peers.

What the service could do better

We reviewed the medication which was stored in the service as part of this inspection. We found that some medication was out of date and that the storage of medication was not yet up to date with relevant guidance. See requirement one.

While we were satisfied that children's needs were being met, through discussion we found that consideration had not yet been given to creating care plans for children with specific individual needs. We discussed that this would support staff to help children achieve their full potential. See recommendation one.

Children were beginning to have some say over their play experiences and the resources they used in the service. However, we observed that children's play was frequently interrupted by adult led routines which reduced the impact of play on children's development. Routines should be reviewed to increase levels of independence and help children achieve. See recommendation two.

The service had seen an increase in the number of children who required nappy changes during the session. We reviewed the space for nappy changing and the procedures staff used to carry out personal care routines. We found that this was not in line with infection control guidelines which increased the risk of the spread of infection. See recommendation three.

Staff had attended training on early learning and childcare and were engaging in discussions about best practice. Some supporting guidance was not yet having an impact on the experiences that children were offered. We spoke about increasing staff knowledge of play theorists and best practice guidance. The impact of this should be monitored closely to ensure children's experiences are improved. Developing a more child led approach to their play would ensure children had access to rich and relevant experiences in play. In addition, adding more natural, open ended, real and relevant resources would further challenge children and allow them to be creative. Use of the resource 'Loose Parts Play: A toolkit' (<http://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/media/58451/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>) would support this work.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. We recommend that the service review their policy and procedures in relation to the management of medication. Consideration should be given to the guidance document 'Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services' (2014)

(http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/1427/Childrens_service_medication_guidance.pdf).

Particular attention should be given to the storage and monitoring of medication in the service. This will ensure children are kept safe and healthy in the service.

This is in order to comply with regulation 4 of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 3

1. We recommend that the service implement and update children's care plans to include:

- information about children's development
- information on likes and dislikes
- details of any allergies or medical requirements
- parental involvement and discussions
- at least six monthly updates or sooner where required
- information on children's progress
- information on how the service will meet any identified needs
- significant events which may give rise to an additional support need, both short term and long term.

This will ensure children are kept safe, healthy and achieving in the service.

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

2. We recommend that the service review and evaluate the routines for children throughout the day. Points for consideration could be:

- considering the purpose and timing of group times
- increasing children's levels of independence
- reducing interruptions to children's play
- allowing children more choice over where and when they play
- increased opportunities for free flow indoor and outdoor play
- considering how spaces are used to reduce interruptions to play.

This will help children to feel respected, responsible and included in the service as well as support them to achieve their full potential.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Standard 5: Quality of Experience

3. We recommend that the service review the procedure, facilities and monitoring procedures for nappy changing and personal care routines. This should be supported by the document 'Infection Prevention and Control in Daycare of Children and Childminding Settings' (2016) from the Scottish Health Protection Network(<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resourcedocument.aspx?id=5598>).

This will ensure children are kept safe and healthy in the service and minimise the risk of infection.

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

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	
29 Apr 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 – Very good
		Environment	5 – Very good
		Staffing	5 – Very good
		Management and leadership	5 – Very good
20 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 – Very good
		Environment	5 – Very good
		Staffing	5 – Very good
		Management and leadership	5 – Very good

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