

West Barns Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Forth View
West Barns
Dunbar
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Telephone: 01368 863 209

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 7 February 2017

Service provided by:
East Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002600

Care service number:
CS2003016997

About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

West Barns Primary School Nursery is registered to care for a maximum of 20 children per session aged between three years and those not yet attending primary school. The nursery is open during term time from 8.45am to 11.55am. The provider is East Lothian Council.

The nursery is situated in an annexe within the grounds of West Barns Primary School in Dunbar. It has its own entrance hall, toilets and enclosed garden for the children to participate in more active play.

The aims and objectives of the nursery include the following:

- To create a secure, calm and happy atmosphere.
- To provide a stimulating environment, new learning experiences and to cater for individual needs.
- To help each child to socialise with other children from all cultural backgrounds.
- To welcome and integrate children with special needs.
- To foster self-esteem, self-confidence, independence and good communication skills.
- To build friendly relationships with parents, build trust, share and discuss problems and involve parents in the life of the school.
- To develop ourselves professionally as a team.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (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. GIRFEC supports children and their parents to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

For this inspection, we received questionnaire responses from five parents/carers whose children attended the service. Four respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they were happy with the overall quality of the service. Written comments from parents/carers included:

'This is a new team and the transition has been extremely well managed. My only request would be for an afternoon session to be considered (which I would pay to use).'

'This is a lovely little nursery and my child really loves going here, I have great confidence in the staff and very happy with the service provided.'

'I believe the staff are hardworking, caring, and do their best under difficult circumstances. They really care about the children however the area is too small for the amount of small children, hazards that can fall on children, children can trip over things as well. Some children have special needs, there are not enough staff to deal with this.'

We spoke face to face with six parents/carers during our visit. They were very happy with the service. Their comments included:

'I speak to both teachers, they are very approachable. Staff are very supportive. We get learning stories every couple of months.'

'This nursery is amazing, staff are lovely. Everything I need to know is shared. I like the fact the door is open and kids can run in and out of the play area. I wish they did afternoon sessions.'

'I am very happy, my older children came here. I have been coming in and out of here for 16 years.'

'We love it we could not ask for any better.'

'My child took a while to settle, staff have been really helpful helping to settle.'

There were 17 children present during the morning session on 5 February 2017. We spent time observing and talking to them as they played. Children played both indoors and outdoors. Their comments included:

'Do you want to come out to play with us?'

'I'm trying to make them do cakes, they are going to be ready in a minute.'

'The rules in the nursery are don't hit.'

'I am making a letter for my friend.'

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment document from the service. We were satisfied with the way the service completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under. The service identified what it thought it did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The service told us how families were involved in the self assessment process and how their feedback influenced their plans for improving the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

The head teacher, nursery teacher, nursery nurse and support worker worked very well together. They were very committed to supporting each child who attended West Barns Primary School Nursery. They met regularly to discuss children's progress and make plans to further develop and improve the quality of the care and learning provided by the service.

Staff, parents and children shared mutual respectful relationships. Staff knew children and were aware of their individual needs, they worked hard to support children to reach their potential. Parents we spoke to confirmed that they felt staff knew their children well and responded to their individual needs. Parents felt that staff shared information about their child's progress and development regularly. This meant that parents felt involved in their child's nursery life, progress and development.

Children's health and wellbeing needs were supported daily as they participated in physical play and exercise outdoors. On the day of the inspection, children were very excited to be playing on new physical apparatus which had been purchased. Staff were committed to ensuring that children benefitted from a rich learning environment outdoors and were in the process of further developing learning opportunities outdoors to challenge and stimulate children's physical activity and their curiosity about their natural environment. In order to protect and keep children safe, staff ensured that children were suitably clothed to play and learn outdoors in all weather conditions.

The nursery had very good links with other agencies that were working to support children. We looked at paperwork that evidenced how relevant information was shared with other professionals to set plans and targets for children to help them achieve their potential. Children who required additional support were supported on an individual basis by a child support worker.

We looked at child protection procedures and practices and were satisfied with the procedures and practices in place to ensure service users were protected. The service followed a clear child protection policy which staff were familiar with. Staff were confident in their roles with regards to protecting and safeguarding children and knew who the child protection co-ordinator was.

The outdoor play area was very much an extension of the children's indoor play and learning environment. Children, staff and parents confirmed that children played outdoors every day. Staff talked to us about their plans to further develop and extend the outdoor play and learning opportunities for children, they were using the Care Inspectorate publication My World Outdoors to help them to do this.

We observed staff checking the safety of the environment outdoors, prior to the session starting. Staff identified that some areas of the outdoors were icy and ensured that salt was placed on the ground surface in order to prevent children from slipping.

What the service could do better

Whilst staff to child ratios were in line with annex A of the National Care Standards, we observed situations where the individual needs of some children required the one to one attention of the staff. This impacted on the quality of the experience received by other children. The head teacher and staff team had recognised the impact of dealing with children who presented challenging behaviour and how it affected children's learning experiences and the flow of the day. The head teacher should look into the possibility of additional resources and training to help meet the individual needs of all children using the service.

Through our discussions with staff, we could see that staff knew and planned for children's progress and development. Although, they had begun to develop personal plans for children we felt that staff knew children and were supporting children much better than what was reflected in their personal plans. Staff should use the knowledge they have of children and incorporate this information into personal plans. They should ensure that personal plans show each child's care, support and development needs and how they are meeting them. Personal plans should be reviewed and updated every six months, or as individual needs change, with parents/ carers.

The limited space available to children within the nursery impacted on the quality of the provision and at times presented risks and hazards. Staff were aware of this and had begun to assess how they could adapt and improve the environment. Staff should continue to monitor the space available to enable children to play and move around safely and promote more positive outcomes for children.

The provider needs to review and improve the facilities for safe and hygienic nappy changing. We discussed this with the head teacher who told us that she had already identified this issue and had raised her concerns with the local authority. In addition to this, staff need to ensure that children's toilets are kept clean and have sufficient resources to enable children to wash their hands effectively. Staff should remove unnecessary resources which were stored in the toilet area in order to reduce the risk of cross contamination and infection. (See recommendation 1)

The provider should ensure that maintenance issues reported are dealt with promptly to ensure the safety of children using the service. On the day of our visit, the hook which kept the door leading to the outdoor play area open was broken. In order to allow children free access to the outdoor play area staff had placed a sack of soil in the doorway, this presented an additional trip and fall hazard to children and staff.

Staff should consider the potential risks and hazards associated with the environment indoors and outdoors and record these formally. They should identify the potential risks and the measures put in place to prevent harm or injury to children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The provider should ensure that appropriate nappy changing facilities are available, that they are kept hygienically clean and that children have suitable resources to promote their health and safety.

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	
5 Mar 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
18 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
19 Mar 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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