

Stoneyhill Playgroup Day Care of Children

Community Centre
5 Stoneyhill Farm Road
Musselburgh
EH21 6RN

Telephone: 0131 665 3110

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 August 2017

Service provided by:
Committee Of Stoneyhill Playgroup

Service provider number:
SP2003002819

Care service number:
CS2003011849

About the service

Stoneyhill Playgroup is registered to provide care for up to 24 children aged between two years to four and a half years with a maximum of 10 children being between the ages of two and two and a half years.

The playgroup is registered to operate between 9.30am - 11.45am, Monday to Friday and is run from a community hall within a residential area. The hall is large with a security door and there are kitchen facilities and toilets close by.

The aims of the playgroup are as follows -:

'Our aim is to provide a happy and fun environment for the children. We encourage the children to interact with one another as well as parents. Children are encouraged to play together moving freely from one activity to another, thereby developing their social and motor skills. They participate in arts and crafts, painting, jigsaws, story time and free time, thus giving them the best chance of developing through different types of play. We hope the children will grow in confidence during their time at the Playgroup.'

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.

What people told us

As part of the inspection process we issued 14 care standard questionnaires. We received 11 completed questionnaires from parents. Eight parents strongly agreed and three agreed that they were overall, happy with the quality of care their child received in the playgroup.

Comments included:

"Playleaders are lovely and my child loves them. Look after the kids well and are very caring. Each leader is bubbly and fun for the kids to be around. My child has come on a lot since starting six months ago".

"This has been an excellent service for the stage of childcare my child needs at the moment. Staff work hard to overcome the obstacles the building provides - eg everyday set up, difficult access to secure outdoor space".

"There is a good balance of structured play/learning ie painting & crafts and also just free play. When the weather is good they often get out to the nearby park or rugby pitch. I find staff attentive and caring and quick at stepping in where there is any arguments between the children".

"My child always enjoys going to playgroup there is a great range of activities and the staff are always on hand to help if needed. It's a great place which encourages free play".

"I would like the playgroup to make more use of the outdoor space".

"My child started playgroup 1 Nov 2016 and being away from family was a whole new experience for him. The staff were very understanding and supportive offering both myself and my child support and advice. One staff member has been fantastic and a real safety net for my child to go too, even though all staff are fantastic. The staff are friendly, informative and welcome ideas through their committee and at snack times. Meals/snacks are healthy too. Overall a great care service and my child and us are very happy".

"The Stoneyhill playgroup has helped me with my two children over the past two years. They are very caring and understanding. They address everything carefully and are very helpful to allow the kids to settle in and adjust. It is a credit to the Musselburgh Community and I wouldn't have coped with having a two year old and a new born without them.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

The children were happy and content in their play. Some staff supported their learning with good questioning and we saw secure and confident children. Children were able to make choices about where they played and used the areas well. The sand area was used creatively and children were engaged in this activity.

Staff were nurturing in their interactions with the children. They knew the children well and were able to discuss their needs. Settling-in was child centred and staff treated them as individuals. This helped to promote a sense of security within the setting.

The children had access to a large room. The room layout enabled children to explore the resources on offer and make choices in their play activities. The playgroup told us they had identified an area outside to develop which would increase children's outdoor experiences. We agreed with this area of development. Staff are beginning to think about how to use loose parts within the playgroup environment. This would help support children's imagination, creativity and extend their thinking skills.

The service had updated some of their policies and procedures in line with best practice. This included their recruitment processes and nappy changing

What the service could do better

At the time of the inspection a new manager had been appointed. We acknowledge that she needs time to "find her feet". Some of the recommendations made at the previous inspection had been met. However, the manager now needs to look in detail at the quality assurance systems within the playgroup.

We saw the information about the children. Some staff were writing observations and following this up with next steps. Some children had a termly report. We have asked the service to identify if a child needs extra support on a temporary or a more ongoing basis. This should be discussed with parents. Personal plans should be updated to reflect the strategies that staff have agreed and how they will support the children when in the playgroup. This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.
(Recommendation 1)

Although children were content in their play we have asked the service to review the room layout and resources on offer. Resources should be more natural and heuristic to enhance the play experiences for children. This

would enable children to use their imaginations more and extend their own learning through exploration and investigation.

Staff should also discuss sections of "Building the ambition" section 4: What do we mean by play and learning, and section 6: Early Learning and childcare - what do children need. This would encourage them to think about the set up of the playroom and how children access the resources.

This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.

(Recommendation 2)

Children were taken to wash their hands before snack. However, it was some time before they sat down to eat. During that time children wondered about the room playing with the toys. Staff did not take children to re-wash their hands. A staff member did sit with the children during snack time and chatted to them.

We have asked that the manager review snack time. Children could be included in the preparation and serving of snack.

This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.

(Recommendation 3)

We asked the service to improve their quality assurance systems at the last inspection. We discussed with the manager that an action plan should be devised to ensure the service meets the issues highlighted throughout this report. The manager agreed to this.

We have changed this recommendation to include further details on how the service can be improved.

This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.

(Recommendation 4)

We suggested staff took on more leadership roles in order to drive improvement in practice and enhance children's experiences even more. For example, outdoor play, heuristic/schematic play, resources or developing the snack time. We discussed this further and made suggestions as to how this could be taken forward. This would contribute to increased positive outcomes for children when staff shared their knowledge and the team continually improved their practice as a result.

This should be used to inform the quality assurance system.

This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.

(Recommendation 5)

The service had not notified the Care Inspectorate of the newly appointed manager or the change to the committee.

The manager must ensure that the Care Inspectorate is notified of any relevant changes. The manager agreed to do this.

"Guidance on notification reporting - All registered care services".

Publication Code: OPS-0411-020

(Recommendation 6)

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 6

1. To improve outcomes for each child attending the service personal plans should be devised that are specific for each child. They should be updated to reflect the strategies that staff have agreed and how they will support the children when in the playgroup.

National Care Standards Early Education up to the age of 16:

Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing

Standard 14 - Well managed service.

2. We recommend that the service increase the range of resources using natural materials and everyday objects such as boxes, material and wood

Improve the layout of resources to increase choice and open-ended play opportunities.

National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 5 - Quality of experience.

3. Snack time should be reviewed by all staff taking into account of best practice guidelines. Children should be encouraged to take part in serving of the food and drinks to their friends.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and wellbeing

4. To assess the quality of the service and to plan effective improvements the service should develop a robust system of quality assurance. Attention should be paid to:

- the environment and resources on offer,
- personal plans and strategies in place to support the children
- planning for the provision of play
- staff interaction and the monitoring of staff practice
- impact of staff training on the outcomes experienced by children.
- self evaluation

National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 14 - Well-managed service.

5. Staff should be given the opportunity to develop leadership roles in order to drive improvement in practice and enhance children's experiences.

National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 14 - Well-managed service.

6. The Care Inspectorate should be notified of any relevant changes to the service.

National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 14 - Well-managed service.

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	
19 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
25 Apr 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
11 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
12 May 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
1 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
6 Jun 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

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