

Aberlady Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Moor Road
Aberlady
Prestonpans
EH32 0RQ

Telephone: 01875 870 232

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 4 September 2017

Service provided by:
East Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002600

Care service number:
CS2003015829

About the service

Aberlady Primary School is a rural school in the village of Aberlady in East Lothian. The nursery class is within the school. The accommodation includes a reception area which is also used as a cloakroom, playroom with access to toilet area and the secure outdoor area. The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged three years to primary school age entry.

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

There were 17 children in the nursery on the morning of our visit. Six children attended the afternoon session. We spoke to several children as they played about nursery.

We issued seventeen care standard questionnaires to parents using the nursery. Five parents returned the care standard questionnaire. All parents strongly agreed with the statement 'Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.'

Comments included:

"We are thrilled with the nursery. The staff have gone to great lengths to ensure my child has settled well. She's built fantastic relationships with all the staff

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	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We saw children who were happy and content to be at nursery. They were able to make choices about where they played and used the areas well. Staff had worked on providing opportunities for language, literacy and numeracy within the nursery environment. Children were secure and confidently interacted with the inspectors and were keen to share their learning journals.

Interactions between children and staff were nurturing. Staff were committed to supporting children to become confident and resilient individuals and were good at managing behaviour and conflict between the children. We saw them acknowledging that the children were upset, listening to them and supporting them to understand their feelings. This gave children the opportunity to self regulate their behaviour and manage their feelings. Staff were kind, caring and took a genuine interest in the children's lives.

Staff welcomed parents and carers warmly and were confident in sharing children's experiences with them. Some parents told us they felt supported by the nursery.

We saw children enjoyed preparing snack and setting the table. Children were supported by an experienced practitioner who thoughtfully extended the children's learning in a meaningful way. This resulted in a very relaxed atmosphere and children enjoyed sitting together and socialising with their friends.

The nursery had an enclosed outdoor area which children could access directly from the playroom. Staff had developed areas to encourage imaginative play which children used well. Physical development was encouraged through music and movement in the hall. Children told us they enjoyed this.

What the service could do better

The service should review and develop the planning system by introducing more opportunities for responsive planning. Staff agreed that observations of children's own interests would support them to be fully engaged in their learning.

Learning journals should be reviewed and developed to be more individualised. Staff should take account of children's own interests and personal stage of development. This would allow staff to support individual children and to be part of their own learning journey.

The service had identified this area for improvement within their development plan. We agreed with this area of improvement.

The service had some information on children and staff could talk confidently about their needs. However, no written strategies were in place to support individual children. Staff should be clearly recording how they will meet the child's health, welfare and safety needs. We discussed with staff how these plans should be more effective.

This was a recommendation made at the last inspection - it is not met and carried forward.
(Recommendation 1)

During the inspection we saw some staff interrupted children's play. We also observed some staff interactions limiting children's learning. This stopped the children's flow of creative ideas and communication opportunities. Staff should observe children's play closely and ensure they intervene only when necessary. This would reduce the risk of adults limiting naturally developing play and learning.

The head teacher had identified that all staff need to be involved in team meetings to discuss best practice documents. We agreed with this area of improvement.

Children were happy in their play. However, the room layout and resources did not always support children's learning. We advised the team to consider the learning environment and ensure they were providing resources that offered children opportunities for appropriate challenge. The service should develop opportunities for more open-ended play for example providing more multi purpose, natural and loose part materials. This would provide a richer learning environment and support children to use their imagination, problem solve and be creative.

The room layout should be more flexible which would allow children to test out the possibilities that their environment can offer them.

The service should take account of current best practice: Building the Ambition and Space to Grow which can be found at, www.hub.careinspectorate.com and Loose Parts Play, which can be found at www.inspiringscotland.org.uk

Recommendation 2

The service should be aware of the notifications that the Care Inspectorate require. A new certificate should be downloaded as soon as possible to reflect the change of manager and any other relevant information.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. To improve outcomes for all children 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.

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

Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing

Standard 14 - Well managed service.

2. The service should increase the range of multi purpose, natural and loose part resources. The layout of the playroom should be reviewed 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.

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
30 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
25 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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