

## **Blackhall Nursery** **Day Care of Children**

Ravelston Park Pavilion  
Craigcrook Road  
Edinburgh  
EH4 3RU

Telephone: 0131 332 8296

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 21 March 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Blackhall Nursery

**Service provider number:**  
SP2009010477

**Care service number:**  
CS2009229790

## About the service

Blackhall Nursery is situated in a converted sports pavilion within Ravelston Park in the North West of Edinburgh. The accommodation consists of an entrance/cloakroom/play area, a play room with dining and kitchen area, toilets and office space. Children also have access to two outdoor play spaces, one at the back of the building and one to the side.

The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 30 children aged from three years to entry into primary school.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that 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 (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by the Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children. Information on SHANARRI can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk).

## What people told us

Before the inspection took place we sent twenty Care Standards Questionnaires to the service for distribution among families using the service. Seventeen of these were returned to us before the inspection took place. All of the respondents told us they strongly agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service." Some respondents added comments. A representative selection is included below:

"Blackhall offers a nurturing, safe, friendly, welcoming environment for my child. I feel supported by every staff member and can always approach someone for advice or assistance. My child is respected and valued."

"Our child loves nursery and when it is not on they make an unhappy face so we take that as an 'I love nursery' which is the best grade we can give. Personally I am happy that they are outdoors so much."

"An excellent nursery for our children. The staff are wonderful. They helped my child settle in as they were nervous about nursery for a long time. Both my children are happy and enthusiastic about their time at nursery with good friends."

"Super nursery, super staff, very happy with the level and quality of care and attention to the development and nurture of the child."

"My child has blossomed at Blackhall. Their speech which was slightly delayed has completely caught up with their peers due in some part to the extra intervention at nursery. I cannot speak highly enough of the lovely staff at Blackhall."

"I am delighted with the atmosphere and the environment of the nursery created by an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic bunch of staff. The nursery provides an excellent start to pre school making the transition to school a seamless and extremely positive experience for both parent and child."

"This is an excellent nursery. There is a real sense of community engagement with the parents. This sets it above other services I have used. The only issue is space. The team do a fantastic job in the limited space. The nursery would benefit and thrive if a bigger building was provided."

"All the staff are so committed and go above and beyond their duty to ensure that children receive the best care and education. It is unfortunate that the nursery has space limitations but the staff make up for this in their creativity, energy, dedication and enthusiasm. It's a very happy place and I cannot praise it highly enough."

"The range of activities inside and out is of high quality and engaging. My child has continued to develop a healthy attitude to learning. I believe the staffs positivity and encouragement have been fundamental in ensuring this."

" They make amazing use of the space and the surrounding environment - it's a real hub in the community. This means children become part of the nursery and the surrounding community."

"An exceptional nursery. Staff go over and above all expectations. Despite the constraints of the building there are always enough amazing things for my child to do. Staff constantly come up with different activities. Each child's voice is listened to and my child has learned so much in the time they have been there."

"The staff really make learning fun. My child has grown in confidence since attending and happily runs in every morning. Staff send out great newsletters and encourage parents to help out with woodland walks, lending library and various eco projects. Very happy with the nursery."

"We are delighted with the care our child receives. Staff make fantastic use of the space they have inside and outside, though I think everyone would benefit from more space. We love the ECO programme and the introduction of the woodland walks."

"Since starting at Blackhall my child has visibly grown in confidence, the staff are wonderful and provide the most caring and stimulating environment for my children. I cannot rate this nursery highly enough."

During the inspection we chatted with some of the children attending the nursery they were proud to show and chat to us about their achievements. They included how well they could write and count, complete puzzles, draw, how they knew the golden rules and were good at sharing. Children showed us their skills outdoors including kicking balls, balancing and making mud pies. Several children chatted about how much they enjoyed meeting with their friends. We found that children appeared happy and confident in the care of staff.

## Self assessment

The service has 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 provision within the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

We saw that children were happy to come into nursery. They greeted staff and friends enthusiastically and settled quickly to their chosen activities. Children were confident in approaching staff for help and support when they needed it. Our observations showed that staff understood when to step into a child's play offering help and support and when to allow children space to think things through for themselves. This helped them to develop skills in negotiation and in problem solving which supported their growing self esteem and confidence.

Staff spoke confidently about the children in their care. Their understanding of child development had been key in ensuring that individual needs and interests were identified and developed through activities and opportunities offered within the nursery. Children's records showed that where additional support needs were identified staff had worked with parents arranging referrals to other professionals and working with them to follow care plans and individual programmes of support.

Staff recognised that moving from nursery to school was a significant event in young children's lives. Support for children during the transition from nursery to primary one was very good. Visits to the local school started in the Spring term with visits to assembly and other relevant events. This allowed children to become familiar with the building, staff and some of the routines they would take part in. In nursery a 'school' area was developed where children who were interested could take part in role play games which helped them work through their thoughts and feelings about the next step in their education careers.

Staffs respect for children's interests and abilities was evident from the way they involved children in all of the activities taking part in the service. Evidence of involvement was included in photographs and written information including floor books which allowed children to explore some of their interests in depth. Seeing their interests reflected in the art, project and activities available in the nursery and outdoor play space had developed a strong sense of being a part of the nursery community in children.

The environment was used well to give children a range of experiences. Opportunities for physical activity were not confined to the nursery garden. They included the popular Tuesday trot where children were encouraged to run at least once around the park enclosing the nursery, a distance of half a mile. One child proudly boasted "Once I did it five times I'm an athlete." Children took part in regular visits to the woodland which started at the end of the nursery garden. This was an opportunity to experience a natural environment throughout the year. Some children were eager to share their knowledge of wildlife, plants and trees. During the inspection we saw children taking part in traffic walks in the area surrounding nursery. Staff took time to allow children to share their existing knowledge about keeping safe on the road exploring their thoughts and ideas and helping them to embed their knowledge through additional activities.

## What the service could do better

We asked the manager to continue reviewing the use of gather time in order to ensure it meets the needs of all of the children using the service. The manager agreed to involve the children in looking at this.

We discussed the limits that the layout of the building placed on children's ability to have free flow access to the outdoor play area. This was an area the service continued to look at.

## 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	
6 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
23 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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