

Mount Esk Family Learning Centre

Day Care of Children

Mount Esk Nursery
Bonnyrigg
EH19 2LS

Telephone: 0131 660 1749

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 11 May 2018

Service provided by:
Midlothian Sure Start

Service provider number:
SP2003003175

Care service number:
CS2003050864

About the service

Mount Esk Family Learning Centre is registered to provide a service to provide a service to a maximum of 16 children at any one time between the ages of six months and 12 years. The service operates from premises inside Mount Esk Nursery school in Bonnyrigg Midlothian. The have access to a playroom, outdoor playground, kitchen, toilets, nappy changing area and a parents room.

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 (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by 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. Getting It Right For Every Child 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 Getting It Right For Every Child. 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.

What people told us

Before the inspection took place we sent six Care Standards Questionnaires to the service for distribution to families using the service. Two of these were returned before the inspection took place. In addition we spoke to three parent's during the inspection. One respondent strongly agreed and one agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service."

Representative comments included:

"Staff are very welcoming and friendly. My child is always happy to be left in the nursery."

"Staff are easy to talk to. I never feel rushed and I've learnt a lot from them about stages of development that my child goes through."

"I get plenty of information, the staff are lovely. My child will go to Mount Esk nursery I think it's good that they share the playground."

"My child has become more independent and I think staff have really helped with this."

Children were confident and related well to staff. It was apparent that these positive relationships supported children to achieve. Some children were happy to show us the places where they liked to play most. Comments included:

"I like my snack."

"We'll play and I'll show you how I can balance."

"When I go to school I'll be able to read, I can nearly read."

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	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

Well qualified and experienced staff worked hard to ensure that parents and children were welcomed and valued into the service. They knew the children in their care very well and were aspirational for them. This was apparent in the range and variety of opportunities and experiences they supported and in the respectful way they spoke to children, listening to them and giving them choices in everything they did. All the staff's interactions with children were focused and purposeful. They tailored their conversations to individual children's stage of development and gave them time to respond. This showed respect and understanding of how young children process information.

All of the children attending the service were aged under three years. Staff had created a beautiful, welcoming and nurturing environment for these young children. Plentiful age appropriate resources gave children real choice in the areas they chose to play. Staff's knowledge of children's interests and stage of development helped ensure they built challenge into activities.

Babies benefited from a soft, calm and comfortable space furnished with sensory and tactile toys and resources. Natural and sensory materials gave babies opportunities to explore different textures and sounds. These experiences helped children to develop a sense of enquiry and interest in their world. Older children were able to move around freely and safely accessing all of the resources without adult help because careful thought had gone into supporting them to be independent and to make their own choices.

Children enjoyed free flow access to the outdoor play areas shared with the nursery school. Having the freedom to explore their environment at any time supported children's physical development, their understanding of the capacity of their bodies and allowed them to make decisions about their own safety. We saw that children were happy to move resources around to support their needs. For example a child took a book into the garden found a space to sit then came inside to find a member of staff to come out and read to them.

An additional benefit of accessing the shared outdoor play area was that children regularly saw and interacted with nursery staff and children occasionally popping into nursery for a peep at what was going on. This helped support their transition to the next stage of their education.

What the service could do better

We acknowledged the many strengths of the outdoor play area in supporting children's physical development and providing challenge. However we felt that some of the younger children would benefit from the inclusion of more age appropriate equipment which would help develop confidence in their physical skills. The manager accepted our finding and agreed to explore how this could be achieved. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

We felt that children would benefit from the inclusion of more real life resources. For example the home corner had wooden fruit, we asked the manager to consider the introduction of real fruit and vegetable into this area. They agreed to do this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
22 Aug 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
26 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 5 - Very good
1 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
15 Sep 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
25 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
10 Dec 2008	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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