

Stepping Stones Nursery - Edinburgh

Day Care of Children

1a Chalmers Crescent
Edinburgh
EH9 1TW

Telephone: 0131 668 4249

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

22 May 2018

Service provided by:

Janet and Thomas Burns, a Partnership

Service provider number:

SP2004004899

Service no:

CS2003041494

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

Stepping Stones Nursery - Edinburgh is situated within a local German Church in a residential area of Edinburgh. There is a playroom, a separate shared kitchen and toilet facilities for children and staff. The nursery building is close to local parks, shops and public transport.

The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 17 children aged 2 years 6 months to those not yet attending primary school.

There is a manager in place with responsibility for the day-to-day delivery of the service. The manager and the provider are referred to as the management team within this report.

The aims and objectives of the nursery are to:

- provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
- promote all aspects of each child's development and learning.
- encourage a sense of belonging in each child in equal measures.
- create a bond with parents to encourage effective communication.

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

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 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: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/young-People/gettingitright>.

What people told us

We observed and spoke with a number of children throughout the inspection and found them to be happy and content in their environment. They took part in a variety of activities which included finding out about electricity and a French lesson with an independent tutor. They interacted confidently with their peers and staff. Children's comments included:

'I'm busy. I'm making ice cream.'
'Look at me. I'm in the tree.'

We sent eight Care Inspectorate care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents. We received three completed questionnaires before the inspection took place. Parents strongly agreed or agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the nursery. Some parents and carers wrote comments which we discussed with manager whilst ensuring their anonymity. Representative comments included:

'Excellent day care facility. Clean. Excellent communication. My child is thriving in this environment.'

'Stepping Stones is a happy, warm and caring environment. The staff have helped me through some tricky transitions and my son is clearly very happy and thriving. I would highly recommend it to any parent.'

'Children and adults are not asked for ideas in planning activities. More involvement is essential. The garden is an excellent outdoor area for free play. I am confident and trusting in staff and their skills. My child visited the nursery with staff. There is not a lot of free floor space indoors, but lots of activities and materials on offer.'

Self assessment

The service has not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service's 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

There was a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in the nursery and children were greeted warmly by staff. Children settled quickly at play and were motivated by the resources and activities on offer. They were happy, confident and enjoying their time at the nursery. Children were involved in the development of the nursery and their ideas and suggestions were heard and acted upon by staff. Consultation with children was daily practice. Children decided where they wished to play and staff moved flexibly between inside and the outdoor play area in response to children's preferences.

Staff were caring, responsive and supportive and they had a relaxed and friendly rapport with children. They listened to them and valued their ideas and suggestions. This enabling and respectful approach from staff had allowed good outcomes for children to be developed which meant they were valued and involved in the nursery.

A range of documentation, recording and planning was in place to support children's learning and development. Planning took account of children's interest and current topics. Staff recorded observations for their key children which were evaluated and identified next steps for their learning and development.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted by staff through regular exercise, healthy eating and personal

care. Children were aware of the daily routines which included meals times, hand washing and brushing their teeth. Staff supported them to be independent through encouragement and praise. Children were happy and secure in their environment.

The nursery environment, both indoor and outside, provided children with opportunities to investigate, use their imagination and to be curious and creative. The playroom had a variety of interesting areas where children could explore and engage in the activities on offer. Children were encouraged to play outside and be active in the fresh air. The nursery had started to introduce open-ended 'loose parts' play which was enjoyed by the children and supported their creativity and allowed the sharing of ideas. Staff were skilful in extending children's learning which had a positive impact on their outcomes and experiences. The garden area enabled children to be outside for the majority of the day where they were able to explore, to challenge themselves and take positive risks.

What the service could do better

Each child had a personal learning plan (PLP) which detailed their learning and development through the use of observations by staff and the completion of learning trackers. We found that the amount of information contained in the PLPs differed dependent on who the keyworker was. The manager agreed to look at this to ensure consistency in the information each PLP held. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

We observed the snack and lunch experience for the children. We found that there were opportunities to promote independence for the children, such as spreading their own butter or jam and selecting their snack. This could be extended by allowing children to pour their own drinks and tidy away their dishes. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

The layout of the playroom and the amount of furnishings meant that children were limited in their ability to move around freely and to engage in the variety of experiences. We discussed this with the management team who agreed to discuss this with staff and look at ways to change the layout and to reduce the amount of resources. 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	
18 Jul 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
18 Jul 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
17 Jul 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
13 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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