

Longniddry Playgroup Day Care of Children

Longniddry Church
Elcho Road
Longniddry
Prestonpans
EH32 0LB

Telephone: 01875 853741

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

18 May 2018

Service provided by:

Longniddry Playgroup

Service provider number:

SP2003003137

Service no:

CS2003013363

About the service

Longniddry Playgroup, referred to as the playgroup in this report, are registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a service to 20 children aged between two years and entry into primary school. The care service may operate between the hours of 9:15 and 12:15 on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The service is managed by a voluntary committee of parents and run on a day to day basis by a manager.

The playgroup is situated in the local church hall, which is used by other local groups at different times. This means that the playgroup must be completely set up and cleared every day. The playgroup use two rooms in the church hall, one for free play activities and one for snack, singing and other activities. The kitchen area is used to prepare children's snack. There is a secure garden for the children to play and a large shed for equipment and toys. The playgroup use the main toilets in the building.

The aims of the playgroup, which they shared with parents, include: 'To advance the education of pre-school children so that they can take a constructive place in the community and to value parents as the prime educators of their children and to allow them to take part where appropriate.'

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 GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We issued a care standard questionnaire as part of the inspection process. Eight out of ten questionnaires were returned. Parents made positive comments about the playgroup and the experiences their children received there. Parents were particularly positive about the settling in procedures and the kindness of the staff group.

We spoke with several children as they played. They did not tell us their views of the playgroup but played happily and were confident in their interactions with the staff group. This led us to assess that they enjoyed the playgroup experience.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We have commented further in this report about the need to carry out quality assurance work in the setting.

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 playgroup provided children and parents with a good first experience of group care. They used good communication with parents and a flexible and child centred settling in procedure to achieve this. Children were relaxed and happy in the care of staff whom they went to easily for reassurance and comfort.

Staff had gathered a good range of information on each child to support their care in the playgroup. Staff knew children well and were able to talk to them about their family and siblings. This helped to make children feel secure in the playgroup. Staff had developed folders for each child which detailed their time at Longniddry Playgroup. These held some development information and gave a good flavour of children's likes and preferences.

To promote health and wellbeing staff provided a good range of opportunities including projects such as planting vegetables and talking to children about healthy options and promoting good hygiene procedures. The outdoor area was attractive and provided a versatile space for energetic and investigative play. The playgroup were actively looking at ways to enable flexible use of this space to allow children to choose to play indoors or outdoors. A small healthy snack was provided daily for children. We talked to staff and the chair person about adapting this to a rolling snack to further promote choice and independence.

The committee have been very supportive of the staff group and have been active in promoting the playgroup in the local and wider community to ensure that this resource is well used and remains an active part of the community. We assessed that they were aware of their responsibilities as care providers and had continued to forge good links with parents and families who used the playgroup.

To assist the committee in understanding what went on in the playgroup members of the committee regularly attended the playgroup sessions and the manager was invited to the committee meetings to ensure good lines of communication. Parents were given regular updates about the life of the playgroup through the Facebook page and minutes of committee meetings.

What the service could do better

We looked at children's care plans and have commented that generally these were well maintained. As an area for further improvement the manager should ensure that information was recorded of situations where staff were working with other professionals or carrying out work to support a child with a particular aspect of their life or development.

We spoke to the manager and chair person about the planning for play activities. Whilst generally there was an acceptable range of activities staff needed to ensure that play opportunities reflected a responsiveness to individual children's interests and were not adult led. Staff had begun this process but it now needed more firmly imbedded as the method of planning activities. (See recommendation one.)

No progress had been made to ensure that staff practice, the quality of experience for children and on going improvements were assessed in the playgroup. This would enable the committee and staff to form an action plan or development plan for the service. (See recommendation two.)

The manager of the playgroup had a condition on her registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), all registered services must have an appropriately registered and qualified manager. We spoke to the chair person about the need to have a contingency plan given that this condition has not been met nor training to gain the necessary qualification started.

We recognise that the work of a voluntary committee can be difficult. The chairperson and committee have been very supportive of the playgroup and staff and as commented above had contributed greatly to the continuing running of the playgroup as an important local resource. Part of their role and remit is as the employers of the staff group. We have asked them to be more actively involved in the monitoring of staff performance. This will help the appraisal process and ensure that training staff undertake is being pulled through to practice. It will also help staff identify more fully the additional training they may need to help them meet positive outcomes for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. To support children to develop skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving staff should ensure that play activities as responsive to children's individual needs, interests and ideas. Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life. Standard - 1.31.

2. To promote a culture of continuous improvement the committee, manager and staff should develop an effective procedure for quality assurance. Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life. Standard - 4.19.

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
6 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		Management and leadership
19 May 2015	Unannounced	4 - Good
		4 - Good
		4 - Good
		4 - Good
19 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		3 - Adequate
		4 - Good
		3 - Adequate

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
30 Jun 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
20 Sep 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
29 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
28 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
25 Mar 2009	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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