

St. Ninian's Primary School Nursery - Livingston Day Care of Children

Douglas Rise
Dedridge
Livingston
EH54 6JR

Telephone: 01506 414612

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

31 October 2018

Service provided by:

West Lothian Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002601

Service no:

CS2003016165

About the service

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

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

St. Ninian's Primary School Nursery - Livingston is a West Lothian Council service and is in the area of Dedridge, within the town of Livingston, West Lothian. The named manager is the headteacher of the primary school. The deputy headteacher supports the daily operation of the nursery and is supported by two early years officers.

The nursery building adjoins the school and children have access to a large open plan playroom and a bathroom. There is an outdoor fun play area that children use daily.

The service is registered to provide the following:

To provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children aged three years to entry into primary school.

Staffing ratios as stated in the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years must be maintained at all times with a minimum of two adults in attendance at any one time.

The nursery aims include the following:

"To work together as a team to inspire change in our nursery by being innovative, creative and building on our individual strengths.

To offer our children risk and exciting play opportunities, indoors and outdoors, by bringing a Froebelian approach into our practice.

Promote wellbeing and positive relationships to ensure best possible outcomes for children and families".

What people told us

Parents/carers comments:

Nine parent and carer questionnaires were returned to us by the time of the inspection. We also met 14 parents at two focus groups organised during the inspection and we spoke to another parent by telephone. All were very happy with the service.

Some of the following comments were provided:

"This is a great nursery. My child likes coming here. The staff do all types of activities with the children. They take the children on outings, for example, to the woods, the park and the local library. They just love it".

"The children are out in all weather, which is really good to see as they come home tired which is great".

"Staff are good at spending time with you and getting to know you and the child. They know my child really well".

"My child comes home and tells me all the things they've been doing that day".

"The PEEP programme is great (share ideas with parents on how to support their child's early learning) every Friday. These are helpful and fun and Carol is just great".

"Last year we had some changes to staffing and this was a bit unsettling for all of us. However, things have improved for the best. We now see the same staff and this has helped to give children consistency and great learning experiences".

"On line Journals have been great. As a parent you feel really involved in your child's learning. I can read these at any time".

"The transition programme is tremendous. The children get lots of opportunities to visit the school before they commence there. This is due to the types of activities the staff do with them before they go to school".

"The staff are excellent. They go out of their way to ensure the children are happy and settled. Their positive and encouraging attitude to the children and the learning is great".

"It's just like a big family".

Children's' comments:

We observed children taking part in a selection of activities indoors and outdoors.

We found children to be very happy and enjoying activities, including snack and an outing to the local woods.

Children were confident to tell us about their experience in the service.

The following comments were provided:

"I like to help with snack and pour my own drink".

"It is fun dressing up and putting on the furry jacket and scarf".

"I like playing outside" (many of the children made this comment).

"I run, jump and chase my friends when I am in the woods. The ladies look after us".

Other professionals:

"I am now seeing pupils across the two main transition phases and having a coherent physical education (PE) program is having a great impact on our engagement and attainment in PE.

Our nursery children are a valued part of the whole Health and Wellbeing agenda within our school. Alongside the provision they have in the nursery, we ensure they have their annual Sports Day, they take part in the Health Week and they have even taken part in a Daily 'Half'-Mile to experience the Daily Mile the primary school children take part in.

The nursery staff actively look to tailor their support to individual pupils when they attend PE sessions. This takes the shape of positive reassurance at first with a new place and teacher as well as allowing pupils to visit the hall before sessions so they know what to expect when they are coming down for that session.

There is a lovely positive atmosphere towards their PE when the pupils attend which I can tell is nurtured by the staff. Staff are clearly using some of the focuses from lessons in Health and Wellbeing discussions with children as when they attend PE again a week later they are recalling information well and clearly.

Adding the nursery to our PE provision has been a worthwhile and successful initiative which has given the feel of our schools' PE a whole new and positive vibe which staff and children are a big part of".

(extract from a statement received from the PE teacher)

"The library and the nursery have always had a great partnership, working to help the children on their reading journeys, telling stories, having fun with books is a great way to encourage children to take their reading and listening skills forward.

I have always found the nursery staff to be very inclusive with all the children, helping them enjoy their visits to the library and am always made welcome when visiting the nursery to deliver story times for the children".
(extract from a statement received from the customer service officer)

"In my personal opinion the nursery provides a wonderful environment which is loving, stimulating and caters for the children as individuals.

The staff are the biggest asset. The experience which they bring has provided consistency and calmness in a period which has seen significant change. Likewise they constantly appear to be excited by new programmes and ideas which they bring from their staff development.

If I wear my parent council hat, I would say that the nursery links clearly with the primary school. The inclusion of big bed time read and maths, outdoor learning and boost words ensure the learning is in line with primary school however, it is always considered in a manner which is suitable to nursery setting. It is also encouraging to see the nursery lead the primary school. The positive impact of stay, play and learn has spread with great success in P1 to P7".

(extract from a statement received from the chair of the parents council and a parent who's child has attended the nursery)

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service's improvement plan which clearly demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

We confirmed the service has developed since their last inspection. The management team and staff continue to work towards improvements.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The ambiance in the nursery was welcoming, relaxed and provided an excellent setting for children to feel secure, have fun and learn. We noted on children's arrival to the service they had a secure area where they stored their belongings. This supported them to identify with the service. Walls displayed children's work, such as, paintings and drawings. This demonstrated how well children's achievements were valued by staff.

Children and parents were warmly received by a member of staff when they arrived at the service. Parents took the opportunity to engage with staff and valuable information was exchanged. This supported the child's health and wellbeing and helped staff to get to know the family well.

We spoke to a large number of parents who spoke highly of the management team and staff. Parents could not emphasise enough that communication between staff and them was really good. This helped parents and carers to feel confident in approaching and talking to staff about almost anything.

Parents told us about some of the new initiatives in the nursery and how this supported their child's learning, such as the, 'Big Bedtime Read', that encouraged reading and 'Welly Wednesday', a weekly outdoor session that helped children develop skills and supported their physical and mental health and development.

We accompanied staff and children to a 'Welly Wednesday' at a nearby woodland. Staff ensured that children had a fun, learning play session. We observed throughout the thoughtful approach of staff supporting children to have a positive learning experience.

The PEEP programme (Parents as Early Education Partners) was very well established in the life of the nursery. Staff shared ideas with parents on how to support them with their child's learning. Parents told us this has been successful and how they value the programme.

Children's progress and achievements were well recorded and accessible to parents through the implementation of online Learning Journals. Many parents spoke positively about this and some had taken the opportunity to make comments and add to their child's record of achievements.

Staff and parents told us how successful and useful home visits had been to settling their child into the nursery. This has supported staff to get to know the child and family really well. Staff are developing this by making a video of the nursery. This showed how staff valued and respected the transition of children into the nursery setting.

The outdoor space was attractive and had a range of stimulating resources, such as, loose parts materials that supported children's learning. Children enjoyed imaginative play in the mud kitchen/garden. We noted that children had the opportunity to be involved in risky play and for them to assess their own risk.

Staff had an excellent understanding of their responsibility to protect children from harm. They participated in regular child protection training and understood signs of significant decline in children's health and wellbeing.

It was evident that good practice publications such as; 'Building the Ambition' 'My Creative Journey' and the values of 'Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) were imbedded in every day practice. The head teacher, deputy head and staff worked together to place each child and their family at the heart of what they do.

What the service could do better

The head teacher was aware that the bathroom area currently used by the nursery children should be upgraded to include sinks. The head teacher agreed to consult with the appropriate people in regard to improving this area.

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
26 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
3 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
22 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
7 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
23 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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