

Currie Playgroup Day Care of Children

The Guide Hut
154A Lanark Road West
Currie
Edinburgh
EH14 5NY

Telephone: 07756691813

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

11 October 2018

Service provided by:

Currie Playgroup Committee

Service provider number:

SP2003002836

Service no:

CS2003011868

About the service

The service has been operating since 2002 and registered with the Care Inspectorate since it was formed in 2011.

Currie Playgroup is registered to provide care to a maximum of 20 children, aged two years to primary school age. From 11.30 am until 11.55 am the care service may be provided to a maximum of 30 children aged between two years and primary school entry. During school holidays care may be provided to a maximum of 15 children at any one time aged between two and six years.

Currie Playgroup is based in The Guide Hut, leased from Girlguiding Currie. The accommodation is based in a self contained building which consists of a playroom, toilet facilities and a kitchen area. The playgroup has access to the surrounding outdoor area which is fully enclosed.

The service is provided by a parent management committee and works in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, to provide a pre-school curriculum.

The aims of the service include:

- "To provide a happy, safe, and attractive environment where everyone is made to feel welcome.
- To promote effective learning and development through play for all children, in line with the curriculum framework for three - five and also the framework for birth - three.
- To encourage all children to develop to their full potential.
- To utilise the space available at Playgroup to maximize its educational value, both inside and outdoors in the garden area.
- To promote staff development by encouraging participation at relevant training courses and an annual review.
- To develop partnership with parents/carers and the local community by encouraging their involvement.
- To ensure that children, parents and staff are treated equally and fairly.
- To promote the policy of social inclusion, equality and fairness.
- To improve standards through self-evaluation".

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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included.

What people told us

We interacted and talked to many of the children. We could see they were happy and actively involved in their play. Some new children were settling into the service.

One child told us: "I like to play in the tent and on the trampoline."

During our visit we spoke with two parents who told us:

"The service is brilliant. I do not know what I would do without it. My child's settling in was not great. They attached themselves to the manager who is aware of the needs of the children. They let me know what is happening, how my child is doing and I feel very involved. The staff are approachable and I always get feedback with lots of detail about what my child's doing. They really make you feel that your child is 'special'.

My child is settling into the playgroup and it has been fantastic. I was given information before my child started, I have had emails and there is a facebook page. I get plenty of feedback about how my child has been and what they were doing. It has been a flexible settling in time for my child."

We issued 13 Care Standard Questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents prior to the inspection taking place. We received seven completed questionnaires. All parents confirmed to us that they were 'happy with the quality of care their child receives in the service'.

Parents written comments included:

"My child has not been attending Currie playgroup for very long but we have had a great experience. The staff have been incredibly supportive, especially in the first few sessions while they are settling into things. They always keep me up to date with what my child is doing, what they enjoy doing and any friendships they are making. I feel so confident in the staff as I know how much my child is enjoying their time at playgroup just by the happy look on their face when I come to collect them.

Currie playgroup is brilliant. I do not know where my child would be without them. Their personal service is perfect for my child.

Currie playgroup offers a fantastic service. The quality of care is excellent and over the last few years all my children used the service. I have always felt informed and treated with respect. Staff take time to get to know the child, the wider family and relationships with Playgroup continue long after the child has left. On encountering my older children, staff always engage and ask after their development. We could not ask for better.

This playgroup is excellent with experienced and dedicated staff and real parental engagement. My child has really grown in confidence since joining their sessions.

Both my children go to Currie playgroup and both really enjoy it there. They love the garden and the staff make a big effort to get them outside as often as they can."

Self assessment

The service has not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their development plan and quality assurance systems. These demonstrated the services key priorities for improvement and how they were continuing to monitor 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	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The playgroup provided a secure and welcoming environment where children were happy and relaxed. They had systems in place to keep children safe. For example, the manager monitored the entrance door whilst another member of staff welcomed children and parents.

The service was in the process of settling into their new premises, 'The Guide Hut'. The manager had visited a similar service to gain ideas and support, for example, on planning the play areas and how to pack away equipment at the end of the day. The staff and management team continued to evaluate the space, to reflect on how it was working and to make improvements. For example, reflecting on health and safety indoors and outdoors and the play areas on offer.

Some children who were settling into the service were supported well by the staff team, who understood the importance of attachments. This was confirmed to us by a parent we spoke with during our visit.

We saw children were confident moving around the playgroup, they played independently and in small groups. Some children had developed close relationships with their peers and enjoyed spending time with them. We saw they were encouraged by staff to share and help each other. There were a good range of play experiences on offer for the children and we saw they were busy and actively involved in play of their choice. The environment promoted children's interests and allowed them to self select.

The playgroup was supported by a well organised business manager and a committee of parents. An improvement plan for 2018-19 had identified key priority areas for improvement within the new premises.

What the service could do better

The staff were reflecting on daily routines and adapting new ways of working. We asked the staff to look closely and reflect on the snack and tooth brushing routines, to ensure children are given responsibility and their independence is encouraged. In addition staff should ensure that children's lunch time is not rushed, they should use this time to encourage a sociable learning experience which would help to promote good outcomes for the children. (Health and Social Care Standards 1.35 & 2.21).

Children's personal plans and folders were not up to date. Staff confirmed this was due to the moving of premises and settling children in to their new environment. We have asked staff to make sure these are updated as a matter of priority. (Health and Social Care Standards 1.15).

There were inconsistencies on how staff used strategies to promote children's behaviour. We have asked the team to reflect on positive behaviour strategies to support children in a consistent manner. (Health and Social Care Standards 3.19).

The management team and staff were evaluating the new accommodation and reflecting on their practice. They should now focus on the outdoor environment which they are aware, lacks challenge for children. The service should plan the layout and resources to promote a stimulating and challenging environment. The service's development plan should be updated to include these on going necessary improvements. (Health and Social Care Standards 4.19).

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
20 Sep 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
28 Jun 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
24 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
15 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
		Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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