

Strathesk Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

4 Eastfield Farm Road
Penicuik
EH26 8EZ

Telephone: 0131 271 4705

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

27 March 2019

Service provided by:

Midlothian Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002602

Service no:

CS2007157181

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.

Strathesk Primary School Nursery, referred to as the nursery in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged between three years and entry into primary school. The nursery class operates during term time and at the time of our visit was providing full day and part day sessions for children.

The nursery is situated within the primary school. The premises provide children with a large playroom and a large outdoor play space. The nursery also have regular access to facilities within the school.

Aims and objectives are in place and shared with parents.

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 spoke to several children during our visit to the nursery. Some told us that they enjoyed coming to nursery and liked playing with their friends. Several chatted to us about their move to 'the big school' and showed us their play spaces and outdoor areas. We assessed that on the whole children enjoyed their time at nursery and many had forged positive relationships with their peers and some of the staff group.

We issued a care standard questionnaire prior to our inspection. Of the 20 forms issued we received 13 completed questionnaires prior to our visit. All parents agreed or strongly agreed that overall, they were happy with the quality of care their child received in nursery. Additional comments included:

'My child gets on well with all the staff. They are all very friendly and approachable. My child enjoys their day and looking at photos of her day on Twitter.'

'Staff are caring, friendly and professional and I cannot praise them enough.'

'We are very happy with the nursery and staff.'

'I would like more opportunities to sit down with staff and talk about my child.'

'Children seem encouraged to get involved in nursery life and it has a nice welcoming layout.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. Work had been carried out by staff to develop an improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service. We comment on this process in the theme for Management and Leadership.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Information had been gathered about children to help staff meet their care and support needs. There was a positive link between the community base and the nursery which helped staff build positive relationships with parents which helped to support the wider family. Children who had an additional support need had care plans and staff were familiar with processes relating to child protection and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). We spoke to staff about the need to ensure that the newly developed well-being form was completed for all children and reviewed regularly. This will enable staff to have an effective overview of the support children needed and received.

Planning for learning through play was in place. It was generally responsive to children's interests and suggestions but staff's understanding of the planning process and effective planning for play experiences needed to be further explored. Staff used floor books to show children their learning, these were available for parents to look at in the attractively presented hall area. Children were enthusiastic about showing us their development folders. They knew where to access them and could talk to us about the things they were doing in the photographs. We talked to senior staff about the need for an improvement to the quality of recording in these folders which could identify more clearly significant learning and development. This would then have a positive impact on how staff are tracking children's development.

There were some opportunities for choice and the development of independence skills. We talked to senior staff about the supervision of children who have an additional support need being more relaxed to enable these children to make more choices and begin to play in a more self motivated way. Children had access to the outdoor area for almost the whole session and came and went as they wished. They could access the toilets independently but staff should ensure that all toilets are accessible to children. Opportunities for children to help prepare snack could be more explicit but children were encouraged to help clear up before the short group time at the end of the morning session. Children were capable and confident in their interactions with each other and with staff. Some had formed positive friendships with their peers and were encouraged by staff to resolve conflicts themselves. These positive relationships had helped to contribute to a positive group care experience for the majority of children.

Children who attended nursery for the full day session had lunch in the playroom. Children could have a packed lunch which was well supported by staff or a school lunch. Lunch time was a new experience for children and staff and as such, time was being taken to develop a system where children could have a well supported and social learning experience. We have asked staff to use the advice from other settings that provide meals and guidance issued by the local authority to improve this experience for children. This will include looking at: group size, adult support and food choices.

The procedure for administration and storing of medication needed significant improvement to ensure that medication was kept together and that there were clear medication care plans kept with each child's medication. (See requirement one.)

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. Children's health and wellbeing needs must be maintained at all times. In order to achieve this the provider must provide staff training to ensure that staff are familiar with and follow the providers policy and procedure for the storage and administration of medication.

This is in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. SSI2011/201 Regulation 4.-(1)(a) - a regulation to make proper provision for health, welfare and safety of service users.

Timescale: 03 May 2019.

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The environment for children was warm and welcoming. Staff had ensured that the entrance hall provided parents with a good range of information about the nursery, the local community and activities taking place. The policy of having the outdoor area available throughout the entire session promoted choice and opportunities for active physical play and gave children more space and freedom for their play.

On the day of our visit areas used by children were safe and secure. Staff were vigilant about minimising risks but needed to continue their work to enable children to take their own calculated risks during play. Generally areas used by children were clean and well maintained. Staff needed to continue to role model good infection control procedures for children to help establish good habits.

The outdoor area provided children with a good space for play. Further consideration needed to be given as to how to develop this area to ensure that it provided a rich learning environment, we acknowledge that there were tensions regarding the premises provider but these needed to be overcome to improve outcomes for children.

We asked staff to significantly increase in the range and amount of loose parts available for children to use. These items are not toys but materials that can be moved, carried, combined and redesigned in multiple ways. They support imagination, problem solving and creativity. Limit the use of plastic ride on toys, which were not suitable for the age range and use the whole outdoor area for children's play.

Indoors staff had provided clearly defined areas for play and were aware of the need to ensure flexibility in these areas to accommodate children's play. The area for block play was attractive and well used by children. Some other areas were less well used, laid out and resourced. Staff needed to continually assess resources and play areas to ensure that they provided a rich and varied learning environment. This included the development of opportunities for music, drama and dance and the further development of opportunities for using tools and woodwork.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Since our last inspection there had been changes to the way in which nursery classes within the local authority were staffed. We assessed that the staff team had the capacity to meet the needs of children and make further improvements to the service. Support had been provided by the visiting teacher and there were clear pathways for support designed by the local authority who had provided training and opportunities for pedagogical discussion. That said staff now needed some additional support to help them formulate a clear and achievable improvement plan which should include reflective practice to help staff assess the pace and quality of each day.

Senior staff within the nursery should consider the manager training and information provided by the local authority and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) such as Step into Leadership. This would increase their skills and confidence in managing and supporting the staff group. More involvement by the acting head teacher as a source of support would also be beneficial in sharing the school's vision, values and aims and making clear the expectations to promote positive outcomes for all children in the nursery.

Parents told us that day to day communication with staff was positive and a good way of gaining information about their child. There was also a Twitter feed to share information. Senior staff were actively looking at ways

in which they could gather the views of parents in a meaningful way. Staff were keen to involve parents in the nursery through stay and play sessions and asking for parents to share skills in the nursery to promote involvement.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
23 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
27 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
19 Mar 2010	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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