Inspection report

Little Seedlings Playgroup
Day Care of Children

Mayfield & Easthouses Church Hall
Bogwood Court
Mayfield
Dalkeith EH22 5DG

Inspected by: Linda Smith
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Announced

Inspection completed on: 21 September 2005
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<th>Service Number</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SP2003002883</td>
<td>Committee Of Little Seedlings Playgroup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Smith</td>
<td>Announced</td>
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<td>Care Commission Officer</td>
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<td>21 September 2005</td>
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<th>Period since last inspection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stuart House</td>
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<td>Eskmill</td>
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<td>Musselburgh</td>
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Introduction
Little seedlings playgroup has been registered with the Care Commission since 1st April 2002.

The service is registered to care for a maximum of 20 children at any one time between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Currently there are 19 children on their register.

Fourteen children, two staff members, one parent on duty were present at the inspection.

Aims and Objectives: as stated by Little seedlings

"Enable parents/carers and children to learn together through play in a happy environment."
"Children will be free to choose from the varied and stimulating play."
"Playleader/adult input will aim to sensitive, appropriate and non-directive, based upon the needs of the group and individual children."

Basis of Report
The unannounced inspection was carried out on the 21st September 2005. The report is based on observation, inspection of the premises, discussion and inspection of records and associated materials.

The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Years Childcare and Education up to the age 16:

2: A Safe Environment
4: Engaging With Children
5: Quality of Experience
6: Support and Development
14: Well Managed service

In conjunction with the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and associated Regulations.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
No requirements were made at the last inspection.

Comments on Self-Evaluation
Not returned to the Care Commission prior to the inspection.

View of Service Users
Children appeared happy and content in the care of the playgroup staff. All children were purposefully engaged throughout the inspection.

View of Carers
Four parent's/carers comments forms were returned to the Care Commission prior to the inspection these were supportive of the service.
National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 2: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Safe Environment

Strengths

The large hall used by Little Seedlings was welcoming, pleasant and bright.

Potential hazards have been identified and made safe.

Play equipment was in good order. Staff stated that these were cleaned regularly.

A statement regarding infection control was included in the playgroup information leaflet.

The service had no outdoor area.

The kitchen area was clean. Children have no access to this area.

The toilets were clean and liquid soap and paper towels were in use.

Fire drills were carried out.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified an area for development in relation to this standard: Fire drills should be carried out on a more regular basis in order that all children are made familiar to these. A written record should be kept of when drills take place.

See recommendation 1.

National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children

Strengths

Good interaction was observed between staff and children.

Staff dealt with minor squabbles in a calm and consistent manner.

Praise and encouragement were used consistently by staff.

Children's individual needs were being met in a sensitive and caring manner.

Staff were aware of the stages of children's development and learning.

Areas for Development
No areas for development were identified.

**National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience**

**Strengths**

A good range of activities and equipment was available.

Staff stated that they were flexible in their planning to meet the needs of individual children.

Children were able to influence plans and to make choices.

Planned activities included baking, arts and crafts and music.

Activities were varied to further enhance children's learning.

Staff ensure that children are given the opportunities for physical exercise during the session by providing a clear area of space and larger equipment.

**Areas for Development**

No areas for development were identified.

**National Care Standard Number 6: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development**

**Strengths**

Staff have a good understanding of the individual needs of all of the children who attend the service.

The settling in procedure allowed parents the opportunity to discuss their child's routine and pass on relevant information. Parents were able to discuss issues on a regular basis at pick up and drop off times. This was observed by the officer at the visit.

Staff stated that they had good relationships with the families who used the service.

**Areas for Development**

No areas for development were identified.

**National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service**

**Strengths**
Staff demonstrated professional competence, a good understanding of childcare issues and skill.

Parents were given written information about the service at enrolment. Up-to-date information about the service was displayed on the parent’s notice board.

All records, policies and procedures appropriate to the service are in place.

The certificate of registration was displayed.

The playgroup is a member of the Scottish Pre-school Play Association and Midlothian Association of Play.

The playgroup is constitutionally accountable to the minister and kirk session of Mayfield Parish Church.

Areas for Development

No areas for development were identified.
**Enforcement**
No enforcement action has been taken by against this service by the Care Commission in the last 12 months.

**Other Information**
Staff are aware of the Scottish Social Services Codes of Practice.

**Requirements**
None at this inspection.

**Recommendations**
1. It is recommended that fire drills be carried out regularly and recorded.

Standard 2

Linda Smith
Care Commission Officer