Little Hawthorn Bonnyrigg
Day Care of Children

46 Moorfoot View
Bonnyrigg
EH19 3EP

Telephone: 0131 261 6260

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 August 2016

Service provided by:
Natalie Hollerin

Service provider number:
SP2005007217

Care service number:
CS2012312985
About the service

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Little Hawthorn Nursery Bonnyrigg on 26 July 2016 with following an announced visit on 28 July 2016. At this inspection we spoke with 10 children and six parents. We observed practice and checked documentation relevant to the inspection.

Little Hawthorn Nursery Bonnyrigg registered with the Care Inspectorate on 2 August 2013. The nursery is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children aged between six months to not yet attending primary school. A maximum of ten children aged six months to two years may be cared for downstairs. The service operates in a two-storey former family home in Bonnyrigg. The nursery is with walking distance of local amenities. Accommodation consists of three playrooms downstairs and three playrooms upstairs, toilets and changing facilities, kitchen and staff room. There is also a large fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

We carried out a themed inspection. This targeted approach means that we looked at identified aspects focusing on children’s experiences in the themes we looked at. They were:

- Care and Support: Planning, Healthy Lifestyles and Active Play
- Environment: How the environment supports children’s general development
- Staffing: Training Opportunities, Induction and Safer Recruitment
- Management and Leadership: Quality Assurance and Review

What people told us

Twenty-eight children are on the register at Little Hawthorn. The children attend at different times and on different days of the week. We spoke with six parents whose children attended the nursery. All of them were happy with the way the nursery was managed. Parents told us their children were happy to attend the service. They found the new manager had made positive changes to the nursery. They found staff to be enthusiastic and approachable. Comments included “Staff always greet me and my child with a smile.” and “I love the fact that my child gets so much time outdoors.” Nine of the questionnaires we asked the service to give to parents were returned to us. Parents told us they strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:

- ‘Staff regularly assess my child’s learning and development and use this to plan next steps.’
- ‘My child can choose from a balanced range of activities.’
- ‘My child regularly has access to fresh air and exercise.’
- ‘I am confident that staff have the skills and experience to care for my child and support their learning and development.’

Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.

Additional Comments included:

*“My child is still quite new to the service. I have been really pleased and comforted by how excited staff are to tell me about how my child has been each day and anything knew they have done.”*
*“We have seen a change since last year which fell in line with a number of staff changes. Due to this I feel my child is more settled and back to enjoying their time at nursery.”*
*“Any issue we have raised have been resolved. We are very happy with the staff, Jade is particularly proactive and creative with the babies and toddlers.”*
*“Staff work very hard and are clearly care for and love the children.”*
*“Nadine has great ideas and I love the way she leads her happy team.”*
We shared parents comments with the manager at the time of the inspection.

During the inspection visit we spoke with 10 children. We found the children were enthusiastic about the time they spent in nursery. They told us about the things they enjoyed about it they included: “playing in the garden and going for walks”, “having picnics.” and “painting for my Mum.”

**Self assessment**

The self assessment was not completed before the inspection took place. We understood that this was due to a change of manager which resulted in the document not being submitted. The new manager was able to give us a clear overview of the service including areas of strength and areas for further development.

**From this inspection we graded this service as:**

- **Quality of care and support**: 5 - Very Good
- **Quality of environment**: 5 - Very Good
- **Quality of staffing**: 5 - Very Good
- **Quality of management and leadership**: 5 - Very Good

**What the service does well**

Staff spoke with confidence about how they met the needs and interests of the children in their care. These were reflected in room planning, children’s individual care plans and in children’s folders. Staff supported children to learn about healthy lifestyles through activities and project work. These activities were reflected in floor books which showed that children had been consulted and involved in their own learning. Regular use of the nursery garden gave children opportunities to explore the natural world, provided opportunities for physical play and the opportunity to develop confidence in using their bodies.

The nursery was on two floors. The ground floor was for children up to approximately two to two and a half years. The upper floor for children continuing on to primary school. Thoughtful use of space meant that instead of being cared for in one small room children were able to move between the three play rooms on each floor. This allowed more space to be devoted to core play and other activities. Staff felt this had a positive impact on children’s play and supported concentration and creativity.

Safer recruitment procedures had been followed in the recruitment of new staff. New staff told us their induction was thorough and equipped them for their role in the service. Experienced staff were given lead roles in the service which allowed them to develop their skills and support new and less confident staff. Effective team work, access to training courses and the opportunity to visit other nurseries supported the development of a skilled and confident staff team who understood their role in protecting children and were open to new ideas which supported positive outcomes for children.

The well organised manager understood the importance of quality assurance in helping her to monitor the overall quality of the service. Systems including unannounced observations, regular audits of children’s records and folders 1-1 support and annual appraisals were in place.
Staff and families had been included in developing the services development plan which took account of local and national guidance. Staff were confident in talking about the targets in the plan which were reviewed regularly to ensure they remained on track.

## What the service could do better

The provider should continue to look for ways to demonstrate their commitment to developing the service. They should include going ahead with their plans to ensure greater consistency in children’s records of information.

They should build on the progress already made in the nursery garden in order to ensure that the outdoor area continues to be a place where children can explore and learn in natural surrounding and to provide challenging opportunities for physical play.

## 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Gradings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Jul 2014</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support 4 - Good</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Environment 4 - Good</td>
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<td>Staffing 4 - Good</td>
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<td>Management and leadership 4 - Good</td>
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