

Riverside Cottage Nursery Day Care of Children

Riverside Cottage
9 Riverside Lea
Blackburn
Bathgate
EH47 7EL

Telephone: 01506 650583

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 7 December 2016

Service provided by:
David Addison

Service provider number:
SP2011011751

Care service number:
CS2011305706

About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 13 November 2013 and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 35 children at any one time aged from 2 years to 12 years.

The service is semi-rural and is located in two acres of land, in the Blackburn area of Bathgate, Edinburgh. The building is purpose designed and children have access indoors, to one large playroom with log burning stove, a cloakroom and toilet area, although most of the amenities are based outdoors. Children can play and learn in a variety of spaces including a lawn area, courtyard, woodland, an allotment and poly tunnels. There is also an outside toilet. Children also make use of the nearby river and open field. Children help to grow and cook vegetables and care for the chickens and pet dog. The service is close to local amenities in Blackburn and Bathgate.

The stated aims of the service include the following:-

"To provide a family atmosphere where staff and children undertake tasks, cultivate the allotment, prepare meals and eat together.

The service aims also include: enhancing children's awareness of nature and the world around them, giving children the opportunity to learn to use basic tools and learn skills that are traditional. Children will be encouraged to express themselves, their ideas and views on a wide range of issues."

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

There were 68 children registered to attend the service at the time of the inspection and most attended on a part-time basis. During the inspection there were 22 children attending, for full day and part day sessions.

We spoke with three preschool age children and with five school age children during the inspection. All children were very happy to be at Riverside Cottage Nursery. Children told us:

"We play new games, make new friends, and learn how to grow things and how to make things like Christmas decorations, we made tree faces out of mud." Children also told us they learned how to make fire in the woodland and about how they roasted marshmallows. They said they felt the staff cared for them and told us how they cared for each other.

We spoke with two parents about the quality of the service. These parents commented very positively about the staff team, their supportive care and their skills and were very happy that their children's needs were being met effectively in the service.

Six families returned Care Standards questionnaires to us before the inspection and gave positive feedback about the service and the staff. Some of the comments from parents included the following:

"Children make decisions, manage risk, a wonderful environment."

"Riverside Nursery is fantastic...and overall it is a truly amazing nursery."

"...We particularly appreciate the outdoor areas and the opportunities the children have to explore nature....(child) has loved his time at riverside and it has helped (child) develop into a confident and caring (child) with a real interest in the world around (child)."

"This nursery offers an excellent opportunity for children to learn a range of skills not widely catered for ...with a healthy dose of outdoor activity...my (child) has gone from the (child) scared of spiders to the walk leader on trips to the fallen tree!"

"Staff are first class, taking time and care to understand our children's needs and passions and nurturing their talents at their pace...truly child centred...calm and creative environment where children are able to learn about themselves and others."

Self assessment

We did not receive a self-assessment from the provider. Issues relating to quality assurance, acting on feedback from people using the service and the quality of the service's improvement plan are considered below.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

The nursery provided a calm and relaxed family atmosphere where children's choice was at the centre of everything. We saw that the staff were responsive to the children and relationships were mutually warm and affectionate.

Children had free access to a range of excellent, high quality play and learning opportunities throughout the year. In this way children's desire to learn and their natural curiosity, creativity and enquiry were encouraged. The staff was proactive in ensuring the children enjoyed a range of rich experiences, contributing to improved outcomes in children's confidence and in co-operating with others. Children participated, were respected unconditionally and were listened to. They were able to be responsible in a variety of ways such as growing and harvesting their own vegetables and caring for the nursery's animals, the environment and each other. One child told us "children ask each other if you are ok" and told us they feel cared for by staff. They also told us staff listened to them and that they listened to staff. This high quality practice demonstrated staffs' commitment to meeting the children's needs and overall wellbeing.

Staff we spoke with were positive about the range of training opportunities and support from colleagues that was available to them. They understood why it was important to remain knowledgeable in relation to best practice. Having a well-trained staff team is beneficial to children as it leads to improved outcomes for them because staff have the skills to provide appropriate levels of care and support.

Parents and carers were encouraged to contribute to the nursery in a variety of ways and the service had employed a dedicated staff member to encourage and facilitate communication between everyone in the service. The service responded to suggestions from parents and for example, had established a graduation day and had reviewed menus.

The service used a number of excellent methods to involve the children in planning and evaluating their own care and in developing the service.

Children's health needs were promoted through daily access to fresh air and physical play activities. Children had freedom of choice to move between the indoor and outdoor environments in all weathers. Children learned how to use tools and to manage risk in their play.

The service had adopted a system whereby they and the children made agreements about boundaries and keeping safe.

The older children were able to tell us about healthy choices at snack and we saw them following good hygiene routines.

Children's emotional wellbeing was supported through well organised transitions which took account of children's needs, both for starting at Riverside nursery and moving on to school nursery and school.

What the service could do better

The service should continue with their Improvement Plan to review, amongst other aspects, the nursery values and ways to enable children to be fully involved in their own care plans.

They should ensure the medication permissions they use are in line with best practice guidance.

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	Grading	
12 Aug 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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