Cornbank St. James’ Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

34 Marchburn Drive
Penicuik
EH26 9HE

Telephone: 0131 271 4575

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 June 2018

Service provided by:
Midlothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002602

Service no:
CS2003017288
About the service

Cornbank St. James’ Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children at any one time aged from three years to primary school age. The service is provided by Midlothian Council. The service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since April 2011. Cornbank St. James Primary School is located in a residential area of Penicuik, Midlothian. It is accessible by public transport.

Cornbank St. James’ Primary School Nursery is an integral part of Cornbank St. James’ Primary School. The nursery accommodation consists of one large and spacious playroom with a kitchen, toilets and nurture room located within. There is also a cloakroom area and small staff office. There is a spacious enclosed garden that can be accessed directly from the playroom. There is also an entrance from the enclosed garden into the cloakroom area. The nursery has its own entrance, which is accessed via a secure entry system. The nursery can also make use of the wider school playground and adjacent wooded area.

The ethos of the nursery states:

Cornbank is a welcoming, friendly community where everyone will feel safe, valued and included. We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences which enable children to become Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Confident Individuals and Effective Communicators. Our Vision is built on respect for ourselves, respect for each other, respect for our school and respect for our world.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting It Right For Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included.

What people told us

We visited the service on Monday 25 June 2018 and returned on Tuesday 26 June 2018 to conclude the inspection. During the inspection visits, children were happy to share their views and tell us what they enjoyed about nursery. Some of their comments included:

“I like to do playing in the sandpit."
“I like to play in the water."
“I’m the full day some children don’t stay all day and some do."
“I love playing with my friends and playing transformers.”
“I’ve been writing books.”
“This is (child’s name). She is my best friend.”

Prior to our inspection visits we sent out 20 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents to complete. Seventeen completed CSQs were returned to us. All respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.” We spoke to a further eight parents during the inspection visits. Comments from both sources included:
“The nursery staff were all extremely helpful in discussing my child’s speech. I learnt several helpful tips to help my child whilst waiting on a speech therapy appointment. My child has enjoyed all her time at nursery and is looking forward to starting school.”

“This is our second child’s time with this nursery and we have been continuously impressed with all the staff. I had concerns about the new extended hours trial but our daughter has loved everyday.”

“I am very happy with Cornbank and all the staff. They keep me informed/answer any queries I have and my son is very happy here. I am confident that moving through his early learner stage preschool he will come on leaps and bounds as I see in all the other children at this nursery. From what I’ve seen the school and nursery appear to be professional when it comes to privacy and security. All the staff are genuinely great to work with.”

“I am extremely happy with the nursery. My child loves going. He loves the snacks and even asks me to buy what they have tried. The staff are so approachable and nothing is ever a problem.”

“Lovely nursery with a good variety of activities both indoor and out. Great integration with the rest of the school which is helpful for nursery to school transition.”

“My children have enjoyed the nursery from day one. I would like to see more specific feedback and observations - maybe to make the books available more often and possibly better structure. The staff will always offer day to day feedback and overall I am very happy.”

“Staff are great and have been really supportive.”

“We are really happy - love the outdoor things that they do.”

“We get really good feedback on how our child is progressing and where he is at in his learning. Nursery is excellent and has really set him up well for school.”

“The nursery take hygiene and cleanliness really seriously.”

Our daughter is really settled now. Staff are really easy to talk to and they are great at making sure she is ok. They make sure she gets support as she needs it - like when she first comes in.

One parent expressed concern about not receiving sufficient information about an accident their child had. We discussed this with the nursery team and they confirmed they would consider this concern. They shared with us their procedure for reporting accidents. We signposted them to our guidance ‘Records that all registered care services (except childminding) must keep and guidance on notification reporting’. 

The nursery team positively acknowledged all comments from parents and we were confident they would address any aspects that required attention.
Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These documents considered the strengths of the nursery and identified areas for improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

- **Quality of care and support**: 5 - Very Good
- **Quality of environment**: not assessed
- **Quality of staffing**: 5 - Very Good
- **Quality of management and leadership**: not assessed

What the service does well

Children were nurtured and included because staff knew them well. Staff took very good account of individual needs, interests, and preferences. Children benefited from interactions with staff that were warm and kind. This contributed to them being secure and confident.

Staff supported children who required additional support very well through consistent and sensitive strategies. For example, staff were skilled in the use of communication tools such as sign-a-long. This strategy enabled children to develop their confidence, communication, and self-esteem. Regular child planning meetings involving staff, parents and other professionals resulted in children receiving support that was tailored to their needs.

Children were active and achieving as they could direct their own play and make independent choices about how and where they played. A wide variety of activities and experiences ensured children were engaged and motivated to learn throughout the sessions. During our visit, children enjoyed investigating some herbs they had picked in the garden. Through this experience, children were learning about their own sense of touch, taste, and smell.

Throughout the day children had free-flow access between the indoor and outdoor environment. This access contributed to them being active and healthy. The nursery had identified that the development of more loose parts play would benefit children. ‘Loose parts’ are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They can empower children’s imagination and creativity as well as encouraging them to explore and manage risk. We agreed with this area of development and were confident the nursery would continue to embed this approach.

The nursery had very good transition arrangements for children starting primary one. This contributed to children feeling included and nurtured. Staff supported children to share their feelings about moving on from nursery and children regularly visited the primary one classroom. There they enjoyed taking part in various activities with their older peers and teachers from the school. One child told us, “We made dinosaurs with the primary one’s.” This approach helped children to become familiar with the new environment, thus promoting their confidence and a sense of security.

Children were nurtured, achieving, and included as the motivated staff team worked very well together. They ensured their approaches were consistent and effective. Regular team meetings allowed staff to discuss
children’s needs, interests, and progress. During meetings, staff also reviewed different aspects of the nursery and discussed best practice guidance to consider any improvements they could make. Therefore, children were benefitting from a nursery experience that was interesting, nurturing, and fun.

What the service could do better

As part of the sessions provided 32 children stayed for lunch each day. During the period prior to lunchtime, some tasks such as getting children into groups for lunch and replacing resources were interrupting play and learning. Some children became unsettled at this point resulting in a less harmonious environment than experienced during the rest of the day. Through discussion, we established the nursery were aware of the need to consider this period of the day. We were confident that moving forward the nursery team would address how they managed this time to ensure a more positive experience for children.

To ensure children continue to have fun, nurturing, and interesting experiences the management team and staff should continue to embed their approach to improvement. Staff should continue to use best practice resources such as ‘Building the Ambition, ‘How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare’ and ‘My World Outdoors’ to develop the nursery’s improvement priorities. The staff team should continue to work together with children and parents to build on the current very good practice observed during our inspection visits.

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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