

Claylands Nursery Limited

Day Care of Children

Claylands Farms
Clayland Road
Newbridge
EH28 8LZ

Telephone: 0131 333 4701

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

11 July 2019

Service provided by:

Claylands Private Nursery Limited

Service provider number:

SP2003003496

Service no:

CS2016352076

About the service

Claylands Nursery Limited is situated within the extensive grounds of a non-working farm on the outskirts of Edinburgh. The nursery comprises of a number of converted farm buildings which provide a variety of playrooms for the children. There is a baby room, toddler room and a pre-school room. There are also nappy changing facilities, toilets, a kitchen and an office with a section used as a staff room.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 68 children aged from 3 months to end of primary 4, of whom no more than 20 children will be under 2 years of age and no more than 20 children of primary school age. The enclosed courtyard with the care services premises must not be used in the provision of the care service.

The aims and objectives of the service include;

"To provide a safe and happy, stimulating environment for babies and children up to school age".

What people told us

We observed the children during the inspection and found them to be active and engaged in activities. They were confident in approaching us and keen to engage us in their play.

In preparation for this inspection, we sent out 20 Care Standard questionnaires (CSQs) to the centre to give to parents. We received nine completed CSQs back.

Comments we received were:

"(child) has allergies and they have been fantastic in organising food alternatives when needed".

"(child) has had a brilliant experience at Claylands. The team listen to us as parents and help to identify developments and support re transition from cot to beds for naps. I feel (child) is safe, happy and well cared for there and I can't thank the team enough for what they do".

"Claylands is the one place I feel I can leave my child, and not need to worry. (Child) is excited to arrive and sad to leave at the end of the day. (Child) regularly says member of staff names when at home. I feel it really is a home from home I could not ask for more".

"We could not be happier with the care our child receives at Claylands. The nursery is excellent the facilities are brilliant (especially outdoor space) staff are amazing, and the opportunities given to develop and learn are countless. A big thank you to all the staff for making it such a happy place for (child) to spend the week".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were happy, relaxed and having fun in an environment that was warm and nurturing. We saw positive interactions between staff and children that were respectful and caring. This supported children to feel safe and secure.

Transitions were well planned, and staff were responsive to children that were settling into the service. Children were offered comfort and reassurance by staff which supported them to feel emotionally secure. Staff knew the children well and had all relevant information for them in personal plans. These were reviewed regularly with parents to keep the information current and relevant. This provided a continuity of care in meeting positive outcomes for children.

Children were able to lead their own play and engage with activities at their own pace. They were offered a range of opportunities and experiences to meet their needs and interests which allowed them to make their own choices. We saw this in the rolling snack programme within the pre-school room and the flexibility of group time activities across the playrooms. Children were listened to and achievements were acknowledged and celebrated. This helped to build children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children's learning and progress was recorded through responsive planning, online learning journals and floor books. We saw examples of this reflected in the activities provided in the playrooms. We were not always able to evidence some of the children's progress through their next steps. We discussed with staff the need for consistency for all children. This would extend their learning opportunities and promote positive outcomes.

Healthy and active lifestyles were supported in a range of ways including daily access to outdoor play and promoting healthy eating. Children were provided with home cooked meals which were well planned and followed best practice guidance. The Lunchtime experience across the playrooms was varied. Staff need to ensure that mealtimes are relaxed and a social occasion for all children in promoting positive experiences.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were presented with a warm and welcoming environment that gave opportunities to be active, relaxed and restful. They were able to freely move around areas and children in the pre school room had direct free flow access to the garden.

Children were kept safe as the environment was secure, clean and well maintained. The setting was spread out over several buildings and one form of communication staff used was walkie talkies. This ensured the safety of children and maintained appropriate staff levels across the playrooms and the garden.

There were a range of opportunities and experiences provided and we saw children having fun and enjoying playing with bubbles, dough and "making burgers" in the home corner. Staff were responsive to children's needs and encouraged them to practice their independence skills through routine tasks of the day. For example we saw children confident in clearing away snack dishes and in attempting to put their own coats and boots on before going into the garden. Staff offered lots of praise and encouragement and supported children as required. We found that some areas of the playrooms were not always well resourced or easily accessible. We discussed with staff ways to ensure that all children had a suitable range of accessible resources that offered rich and meaningful experiences to provide a breadth and depth of challenge for all children.

A real strength of the setting was in its outdoor space which children had daily access to, regardless of the weather. It offered a wide range of opportunities for children to engage in active and physical play, which was interesting, creative and challenging. A newly developed section of the garden was growing naturally and provided lots of areas for children to explore in the long grasses. A range of open-ended materials were available for example crates, boxes lengths of materials, logs and sticks These can empower children's imagination and creativity as well as encouraging them to explore and manage risk. Children told us this area "was really exciting".

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Children benefited from the calm and consistent approach used by staff across all playrooms. Their interactions with children were sensitive and responsive and we could see that children had built trusting relationships with staff.

Staff worked well together and supported each other to complete routines of the day and provide opportunities and experiences for children. Some staff had recently moved playrooms which provided them the opportunity to work with different age groups and further develop their skills.

Staff were recruited in line with safer recruitment guidelines. They could not begin their employment until satisfactory references and PVG information had been received. Staff were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) for the role they held within the nursery. They were aware of the SSSC's Codes of Practice which describe the standards of conduct and practice within which all staff must work.

An induction programme for newly employed staff included an overview of the nursery, policies and procedures and information regarding child protection. Staff told us they found the induction thorough and it gave them a good understanding of their role within the nursery. Systems were in place to offer staff regular support and supervision and staff appraisals were carried out yearly. These helped identify staff training needs to further assist them in their role within the nursery.

The nursery was in partnership with Edinburgh Council and gave them access to a range of training opportunities. Training that had been undertaken included child protection, first aid, outdoor play, Building the Ambition and Loose Parts Play.

Shared learning opportunities had been developed between the two nurseries of the larger organisation and was supported by the management team. This provided for shared experiences of observations, professional dialogue and reflection on practice..

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

A new manager had very recently been appointed who was internal to the organisation. She was confident in her knowledge of the setting and was committed in her approach to develop and improve the service. She was supported in her role by the nursery area manager.

All policies and procedures had recently been reviewed and updated to support children's wellbeing and ensure positive relationships with parents. These were displayed in the nursery and could be sent to parents on request. Quality assurance and monitoring systems had also been updated. We discussed the need to ensure they were kept current and had appropriate evaluation processes in place.

The settings Standard and Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP) identified priorities for the development of the service. We discussed these priorities with the management team and found they were reflective of the areas of development we had identified. These were to further support children's learning progress through their next steps, and to add challenge that was rich and meaningful for children. We felt confident that these would be taken forward and these would extend and enhance children's learning progress and promote positive outcomes.

Parents were encouraged to be involved in the life of the nursery and were given a variety of opportunities to evaluate the service. These included daily discussions, questionnaires, newsletters and parent meetings. This helped to ensure that parents had opportunities to influence what happened within the nursery and to comment on the quality of the experiences offered to their child.

Staff were positive of the new management team and felt supported and respected in their roles. We discussed that there had been a lot of change and movement of staff across the playrooms. We highlighted the importance for children to have routine and consistency in their day. This would give them a sense of security and belonging.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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

Recommendation 1

In order to ensure children's personal plans are right for them and supports them to achieve their potential staff should be supported to complete relevant observations of the children and record next steps for children's learning and development.

Health and Social Care Standards. My support, my life. Standards 1.15 and 1.27.

This recommendation was made on 10 August 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We evidenced through children's on line learning journals that relevant observations were completed by staff. We found mostly children's progress and next steps were completed but not always consistent. We discussed with the management team the need for consistency for all children in extending their learning opportunities.

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
20 Jun 2018	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
23 Feb 2018	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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