Corstorphine Village Playgroup
Day Care of Children

High Street Hall
2a Corstorphine High Street
Edinburgh
EH12 7ST

Telephone: 07707 695426

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
8 October 2019

Service provided by:
Committee Of Corstorphine Village Playgroup

Service provider number:
SP2003003149

Service no:
CS2003013377
About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

Corstorphine Village Playgroup has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since April 2001 and the Care Commission prior to that. Conditions of registration state that care can be provided to a maximum of 24 children aged between two years and primary school entry of whom there can be a maximum of 12 children aged two years to two and a half years at any one time.

The service is delivered from a church hall in the village of Corstorphine, Edinburgh. A kitchen, toilets and meeting room are all accessed from the hall. A large green space situated adjacent to the hall is available to the service. The central location is serviced by local bus routes and amenities.

The service aims to:
“Provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities within a safe, caring and stimulating environment,
“Provide for the needs of children as individuals giving them the chance to develop and learn through play, offering praise and encouragement along the way”.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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.

What people told us

We asked the service to distribute care standard questionnaires to parents prior to inspection. From the eight questionnaires, three were returned. We also spoke with another three parents during inspection. Comments included:

“The playgroup has been great for my son. He has made wonderful friends, adores all the teachers and his confidence has grown over the past year.”

“I have been and continue to be impressed by this playgroup. The staff are friendly and professional and most importantly, great with the children. It’s a very organised well-run group.”

“They get to do things they don’t do at home. Staff are happy to help them but also to let them play. My child settled quickly and likes all the staff. They go outside but I would prefer if they went out more.”

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Monday 7 October 2019 and returned for an announced visit on Tuesday 8 October 2019. We observed two morning sessions of the playgroup and the number of children present varied between both.
Self assessment

A self-assessment was not requested prior to inspection. We reviewed the service quality assurance systems and supported further development to identify priorities.

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

A strength of the service was how well children were supported with settling into playgroup. Information about what children liked and felt comforted by was used sensitively to make the transition easier. Staff worked alongside parents to ensure they had up to date information about children. This meant children were respected with responsive and consistent care. Additional support needs were planned for and reviewed with parents to ensure their relevance. The service was exploring how best to plan and record children's progress in learning. This would help them to identify next steps for each child and share progress with parents.

An increased use of open ended materials offered variety and creativity in play as children used their imaginations. Staff understood their need to move resources around the room and use resources as desired in play. Sensory activities supported children’s natural curiosity and offered learning through discussions with staff. Children were settled and busy in their play however some opportunities for extending learning were missed. Children were giving cues in their play and showing interest in things which could have been picked up by staff and used to explore, discuss and experiment. This has been addressed in the staffing and management themes.

Snack time was safe and sociable with some opportunities to practise skills such as pouring and hand washing. Whilst children had some opportunities to prepare food when making soup or baking, food preparation was not a daily or weekly learning activity. The service had not developed this from the last inspection. We discussed the benefits for children to work with staff in preparing snack each day.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good
Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were cared for in a safe and secure environment. The large hall offered space and freedom to play. It was divided into two parts to facilitate physical play. Children could cycle, run, climb and slide. They were encouraged to think about their own safety which helped their decision making and problem-solving skills. New resources offered cosy quiet space for children and more opportunities to be creative.

Children were playing outdoors more now than at the last inspection. They continued to be involved in developing their vegetable patch in the nearby library garden. Children were harvesting their crop, preparing and eating it for snack. This helped children learn about food production and healthy choices. The large grassy area adjacent to the building was used more for free play. Children were supported to learn about their natural environment and be respectful of it. Staff shared plans for developing the outdoor experiences further.

The service shared the space with other user groups and so had to clear playgroup resources by the end of the session. The smaller room offered a space separate from the tidying for story and song times, circle games and discussions at the end of the session. We encouraged the service to review the content of this point in the session and ensure children’s needs remain at the centre of provision.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Children were nurtured by kind adults who showed commitment to meeting their needs. Their calm, respectful approach was supportive and sensitive to young children who found leaving their parents a challenge. Good team work meant that information about children was continually shared to ensure a consistent approach by all. The combination of new and long-standing staff brought a mix of skills and knowledge to the service. Staff were recruited according to best practice guidance. This meant that they were suitable to work with children.

We found that staff had a limited working knowledge of current best practice guidance to inform their practice. We signposted staff to the Care Inspectorate’s website The Hub which offers up to date best practice in the early learning and childcare sector. Staff should now further their knowledge of play and their role in it through training, peer support and professional reading. This would further enhance the play experiences offered to children and support staff to extend children’s learning in those experiences.
Staff with training conditions on their registration with SSSC should aim to achieve this in a timely manner. This would support service improvement through enhanced outcomes for children. The Scottish Social Services Council regulates the care workforce in Scotland.

We have issued a recommendation to support staff to progress with improvement (recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To ensure children have consistently high quality play experiences, staff should further their knowledge of play and their role in extending learning.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards:
3.14 I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow professional and organisational codes.
4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

A calm, motivated and committed attitude from the manager meant a supportive atmosphere in the service. The manager showed insight to her staff’s strengths and areas for improvement. She recognised where the service could be enhanced to improve outcomes for children, however time constraints seemed to inhibit progress. We agreed she should explore this and possible solutions with the provider.

The manager should continue to develop an improvement plan which highlights priorities of all people involved in the service. This should be informed by a range of quality assurance and self-evaluation processes. A working improvement plan showing input from children, parents and staff would offer clear guidance for enhancing children’s experiences and opportunities.

Whilst some quality assurance processes were in place such as staff support and supervision sessions and team meetings, we felt these needed to have more impact to maintain change. The manager agreed to ensure actions set for staff were specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. This would support staff to move forward with their actions. We have issued a recommendation to support improvement in this area (recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0
Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. In order to assure quality of provision for children, the manager should further develop systems to monitor, reflect on and evaluate practice with the aim of improvement.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 4.19 which states: I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.

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

The provider should enhance their safer recruitment practices and be clear about checks and registrations required for all people working with children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard 4.24 which states “I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited”.

This recommendation was made on 11 October 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The Safer Recruitment Through Better Recruitment document was used to write a recruitment policy. Both the manager and the Committee were involved in this process. All staff have been recruited safely.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Gradings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Sep 2018</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Oct 2017</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 - Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Sep 2013</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Aug 2012</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Gradings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec 2010</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Feb 2010</td>
<td>Announced (short notice)</td>
<td>Care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 - Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Mar 2009</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren’t good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foilseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nìthear iarritas.