

Strathesk Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

4 Eastfield Farm Road
Penicuik
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Telephone: 0131 271 4705

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
5 March 2020

Service provided by:
Midlothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002602

Service no:
CS2007157181

About the service

Stathesk Primary School Nursery, referred to as the nursery in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged between 3 years and entry into primary school.

The nursery is an integrated part of Strathesk Primary School in the town of Penicuik, Midlothian. The premises provide children with a large playroom. Children use a separate room for the provision of lunch. Children have access to a large outdoor play space. The nursery also have regular access to facilities within the school.

Aims and objectives are in place and shared with parents.

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. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

During our visit we spoke to several children. Children were excited to show us their nursery and talk to us about what they did there. Children went easily to adults for help or to have a chat and were confident in their surroundings.

We issued a care standard questionnaire to parents as part of the inspection process. Out of 20 questionnaires 12 were completed and returned to us. All parents stated that Overall, they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received in nursery. Additional comments included:

'The nursery have gone above and beyond to help not just my children but support me as well.'

'My child loves nursery and the staff. They have grown in confidence and shares with us all the things she does in nursery.'

'Staff are lovely. They clearly love the children they care for and provide a warm and fun environment.'

'My child is very happy at nursery. Staff are friendly and there is lots of space inside and out and good resources for them to play with.'

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 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

Staff knew children well and respected their individual personalities and preferences. Personal plans were in place and recorded important information which helped staff to plan for and meet children's care needs. Systems were in place to ensure that information was reviewed within the last six months. Some children had input from other professionals such as speech and language therapists or educational psychologists. Some recordings were comprehensive and detailed progress and discussions with parents, others did not. We have asked staff to develop a consistent method of pulling information together to give a comprehensive overview of each child.

Children were relaxed and comfortable in the setting. Staff ensured that all children received a warm welcome when they arrived at the service and staff were responsive to their individual care needs. Children were aware of the routines of the day which helped them to feel secure in the setting. Many children had formed strong friendships with each other and were enjoying the social aspect of being with their friends. Staff encouraged children to resolve disputes, where they were able to, which encouraged children to develop social skills and respect for each other.

Significant improvements had been made to the routine for lunch. Lunch was now given in two sittings in a nearby room separate from the main playroom. The lunchtime routine provided several opportunities for independence and was a well organised, social and relaxing time for children. Staff sat with children and gave support where necessary. Children could go to the lunch assistant and select what they wanted on their plate. Children helped to clear up and were familiar with the routine and expectations of staff.

During our visit children were engaged in the range of activities and having fun with a good range of learning opportunities. Some staff were skilled at using open-ended questioning to help children think through challenges, some staff could develop this skill further. Children were very interested in books and there had been an increase in the provision of resources for music, dance and drama. These opportunities help children to develop language, think creatively and work with peers.

Procedures to protect children were in place. Staff could confidently describe child protection procedures and the lines of reporting and communication. Links with the community base were used to build positive relationships with families to provide information and support.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The playroom and hallway provided a warm and welcoming environment for parents and children. Staff gently ensured that areas were well maintained throughout the busy session. This helped children develop a sense of respect and responsibility for their environment. There was space for children to play in groups or individually. To reflect that children were in nursery for a full day staff had provided some spaces where children could relax and rest if they wished.

The outdoor area was available for children to use for the entire day. Free flow between indoor and outdoor play was well embedded and children knew the routine well. The outdoor space continued to be an area that staff were developing and good progress had been made to incorporate open-ended resources to promote the use of problem solving and creativity. Staff talked about the plans for the area to refresh some of the resources. This would help them to continue to develop opportunities for literacy and numeracy outdoors.

Play opportunities and resources were based on things that children showed interest in. These interests were then extended by staff to provide a range of learning opportunities. Planning procedures were in the process of being embedded but they were understood by staff and could be used to identify what children were learning. The use of floor books helped staff to share what children were learning with parents.

Procedures for infection control were in place and children were learning how to keep healthy through routine hand washing and tooth brushing. To enhance children's safety staff followed appropriate procedures for keeping and administering medication. Risk assessments were in place and kept up to date. Children were encouraged to be aware of risks in their play but were enabled to take calculated risks in their play which helped them to understand their capabilities and develop skills.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Parents made positive comments about the staff group. They were seen as friendly and professional which helped to form a trusting relationship with parents. They supported children through their warm and nurturing interactions and took a genuine interest in what children had to say. This helped to promote continuity of care for children.

Staff had undertaken core training such as child protection, food hygiene and first aid which contributed to children's safety and wellbeing. Staff discussed some of the available courses they could access through the local authority and although some staff had carried out more training than others all were aware of the

need to continue with their professional development. This was necessary to maintain their Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration. The SSSC are responsible for the development of the social care workforce in Scotland.

Staff took part in an annual review of their performance 'Making Performance Matter'. This was carried out with the senior management team and enabled staff to identify and discuss areas of further professional development. This process also enabled the senior team develop the staff team to meet the value, vision and aims of the nursery setting. Some staff had been given delegated tasks and roles in the nursery to provide them with additional responsibility and an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Roles and responsibilities for senior staff had been clearly defined to ensure that there was a clear line of delegation and responsibility. Regular staff meetings and briefings helped to promote good communication and information sharing. The senior management team had significantly increased the time they spent in the nursery to make sure that they could support staff and have a greater understanding of how the nursery operated.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The senior management team and staff team worked well together to create a welcoming service for children and families. Families were included and respected through regular daily dialogue, newsletters and invitations to be part of nursery life.

Since our last visit a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by managers and staff to assess the quality of the setting and develop an improvement plan. This plan had clear priorities which had included the views and discussions with parents. We could see the progress to make improvements. These were clearly recorded and shared with parents.

Processes for monitoring record keeping and the performance of the nursery were in place. The senior management team attended team meetings regularly and spent enough time in the nursery to enable them to know children and have a working knowledge of what was happening in the nursery. This was an important element of support for the childcare practitioners and senior practitioners.

The senior management team were familiar with their statutory duty to make notifications to the Care Inspectorate and of the role of the SSSC in the monitoring and development of the social care workforce.

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

Requirement 1

Children's health and wellbeing needs must be maintained at all times. In order to achieve this the provider must provide staff training to ensure that staff are familiar with and follow the providers policy and procedure for the storage and administration of medication.

This is in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. SSI2011/201 Regulation 4.-(1)(a) - a regulation to make proper provision for health, welfare and safety of service users.

Timescale: 03 May 2019.

This requirement was made on 15 May 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

Procedures for the administration and storage of medication had been reviewed and improved to help ensure that children's wellbeing needs were met. .

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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	
27 Mar 2019	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
23 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
27 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
19 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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