

ESMS Junior School Nursery Day Care of Children

Easter Ravelston
Ravelston
Edinburgh
EH4 3NT

Telephone: 1313475777

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 March 2020

Service provided by:
The Merchant Company Education
Board

Service provider number:
SP2003003566

Service no:
CS2003017044

About the service

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

ESMS Junior School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 160 children aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The care service will operate between the times of 07:45 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. Facilities provided are the Nursery Class and Out of School Care.

There is one class for three year old anti preschool children who are accommodated in a purpose-built building adjacent to the rest of the preschool provision. The accommodation includes a large, bright and airy playroom, multi sensory room, gym hall, children's dining area, after school accommodation and additional play areas. The building also has an outdoor play area leading from the main playroom. This building is also used for wrap around and holiday care. The four preschool playrooms within the main building each have direct access to an extensive and imaginative outdoor play area. The campus also allows access to a range of outdoor environments. The service had a set of aims and objectives which included; 'to allow each child to develop and progress as an individual and to encourage each one to fulfil his or her own potential.'

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). 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. Getting It Right For Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

We spoke to several children and observed their play both indoors and outdoors. Children were very confident and secure in the service; they were happy to chat to inspectors and were able to discuss their learning. Children confidently moved around play areas and chose where to spend the majority of their time. They were very involved in directing their own play and presented as happy with positive relationships with their peers and the adults present.

We sent 50 Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents and received 45 completed questionnaires. These demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the service. All parents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that 'overall, they were happy with the quality of care their child received in this service'. Twenty-three of the returned questionnaires included comments which were shared with the head of the service. We also spoke directly to six parents during the inspection.

Due to the high volume of comments a sample of these are noted below;

"Delighted with the service, it's fantastic. They check in with you often, there's so much information which helps your children. I'm coming in for stay and play. Staff got to know my child well and they are keeping me informed. We've got to know the staff so quickly as our child talks about them all the time. They tick all the boxes and the staff are so kind."

"Excellent standard of care. The staff are extremely experienced and knowledgeable. The nursery has a very warm and friendly environment and my child has been happy and settled from the first day thanks to the atmosphere and range of activities available. I am delighted with the experience so far."

"Our child has been at this nursery for just over a year now and we genuinely have never questioned the decision to move them there. It is very clear that they are very happy in the nursery by the way they bound into the room every morning and comes home happily telling us about their day. The nursery staff clearly provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for all the children."

"My child is very happy at ESMS nursery. They run up to the door on the way in and are very comfortable in the environment. There seems a good mix of enough routine to help them to feel safe, but plenty of freedom and creative play to encourage their development. We are very happy and would definitely recommend it."

"We cannot recommend this nursery highly enough. The staff are outstanding. They care about the children, they care about their learning, are enthusiastic and open, approachable and friendly. They share what happens in the room and tell us about our child's day. The toys and extra activities (such as music, PE, digital education) they do are phenomenal. The outside area the children have access to is fantastic. We cannot rate the standard of care any more highly and we're delighted our child has a place."

"I haven't seen a better setup than at ESMS. All the areas are so well thought out and organised. There are countless options and opportunities for them to develop fine and gross motor skills, sequencing, roleplay, imagination, vestibular, body awareness and their creativity. Staff are always warm, approachable and professional. Our child has settled in very quickly and we are delighted."

"The children are asked about their interests and these topics are used as a point of conversation and learning needs are developed based on the children's own interests. They are also incorporated into the nursery room environment. This is a great way to introduce self directed learning."

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 which demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service. The enhancement of literacy and numeracy attainment was having a positive impact as the indoor and outdoor environments were rich in literacy and numeracy and staff's professional development was increasing their knowledge in this area. We could also see the progress of work on 'chat' books in supporting children's consultation and participation contributing to the rich, inclusive environment.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Children were highly engaged as they developed their play, facilitated by staff who understood and provided appropriate pace and challenge in their interactions.

Children's opportunity for control and direction over their play was fully inclusive; some children chose to spend their whole time outdoors which was accommodated by staff who ensured snack was available in the garden. Children were also able to choose how often they attended other activities such as gym time and forest play. Staff's recognition of children's capabilities provided them with opportunities to express their own power and shape their experiences, contributing to children's self esteem, leadership skills and identity as competent members of society.

The strong focus on literacy development through fun, interactive activities such as the book reviews and wonder walls and interesting resources were supporting children to express themselves freely and fluently to develop strong language skills. These approaches and others such as the 'chat books' were also contributing to children's empowerment through active consultation and participation. Children's emotional wellbeing was supported through the ongoing work with parents and staff to further develop attachment led practice. This positive wellbeing enabled children's high levels of engagement and involvement in their learning.

Continued development of home learning links supported parental involvement in children's play and learning. This contributed to enhanced literacy and numeracy attainment for children.

We spoke to children about their personal learning journal and they confidently shared their books with the inspector. We saw there was a range of information contained within these. These highlighted children's current progress and possible progressions in learning and development. Children had full ownership of these and a high level of involvement in the planning. This meant appropriate learning experiences were being identified to support children to achieve.

Children experienced challenge in their physical activity through thoughtful gym activities which promoted them to fully explore the capabilities of their own bodies, whilst encouraging creative thinking and independence. Frequent forest play further built on this by offering children risky play experiences which allowed them to encounter uncertainty and potential hazards in a controlled environment. This challenged and supported children to learn important life skills and experience for encountering unpredictability in their world.

The beautiful environment both indoors and out and the range of interesting, varied and creative resources inspired children and engaged their senses. This included a new sensory room, extensive loose parts play area, natural resources throughout playrooms, props to support social stories and physical play resources. This allowed children to extend their learning and supported their imagination and curiosity.

Robust systems and approaches in regard to the safety of the environment were in place and kept under review, contributing the continued wellbeing of children through the minimising of risks.

What the service could do better

The lunchtime experience needs to be kept under review to confirm continuity for all children. This includes ensuring all children have opportunities to be independent during this time, whilst supporting infection control. Review of snack menus should be carried out to ensure these remain balanced across the week.

Transitions between rooms for children were not yet fully supporting children's emotional wellbeing. Again, there were variations between the experiences of children; for example, the service should consider the number of adults involved in these different transitions for children attending extended days and review use of rooms for early and late start children. These procedures should be made clearer and all staff made aware to support a shared understanding, contributing to children's sense of security and strengthen meaningful connections.

Although staff were fully aware of procedures, some medicine forms needed to be reviewed to ensure these matched up with the information for continued safe administration across all playrooms.

Access to the outdoor area had an impact on the room temperature. We made suggestions and encouraged the team to keep this under review regarding how this could be managed to support continued free flow access, whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature for children's play indoors.

Streamlining of the approach to accident reviewing, recording and reporting should now be completed to ensure continuity of practice. The daily accident forms should be reviewed to allow for the details of any additional witness, where appropriate, to be recorded in accompaniment to the original witness recording the information. A copy of this record should also be given to the parent. This is to support children's continuity of care.

The service should now progress with developing links in different ways with their local community. We suggested some additional ways the service could develop this. In doing so, this would further increase children's understanding of life in the community beyond the nursery, develop connections with others in the wider world and build their capacity as responsible citizens.

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.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
29 Aug 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
29 Aug 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
4 Mar 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
24 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

To find out more

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 foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.