Carrick Knowe Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Lampacre Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7HU

Telephone: 0131 334 4505

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 February 2020

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Service no:
CS2003015836

About the service

Carrick Knowe Primary School nursery is registered to provide a service to a service to a maximum of 60 children aged three - entry into primary school.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they are receiving the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer healthier lives. We check that services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Scotlands 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 well indicators at the heart of GIRFEC they are :safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

Before the inspection took place we sent fifteen Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to distribute among families. Six of these were returned to the Care Inspectorate before the inspection took place. All of the respondents told us they strongly agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service."

Individual comments included the following:

"The service has really helped my child to be more interested in exploring nature and how things work. They are always happy to go into the nursery and have a good relationship with staff."

"I really cannot commend the staff team enough. They are caring, interested in the children's overall well being, not just academic/physical. They make time to talk to parents if you need them. I have just sent my youngest child to nursery. My oldest child has progressed to primary 1. I am mostly referring to experience of the nursery over the last two years. We've been delighted, staff have been great with our child, they flourished, the change in them was obvious. They grew in confidence and enjoyed their time there. They miss their key worker now that they are on P1."

"I have found the nursery to be really supportive at helping my child to come out of their shell. They were very shy at first, staff worked with them in a way that allowed them to develop in their own time."

"I am extremely happy with my child's experience at Carrick Knowe and feel fully supported by staff. Thank you to all the staff."

We spoke to several parents during the inspection. Comments focused on the time that staff took to make them feel welcome, staffs knowledge of their children and the quality of activities the children were able to take part in.

During the inspection we chatted to some children. they were eager to tell us about the activities they enjoyed which included playing with their friends and playing outdoors.

Self assessment

We did not ask the provider to complete a self assessment document. During the inspection we looked at the services quality assurance procedures.

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

The quality of communication between staff was a significant strength of the nursery. Staff worked together with the joint aim of ensuring that children's needs were met in a caring and nurturing environment. Staff took account of children's support needs when looking at the teams training needs. The success of this was apparent from the sensitive way staff supported all children to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Staff used responsive planning based on children's interests to ensure that they were engaged in their play. Staff were sensitive and measured in their approach to supporting children, stepping into their play only when invited or when they judged that their intervention would add value to the quality of children's experience. Thoughtful use of questions encouraged children to develop problem solving skills and independent thinking.

Children's general well being was supported because staff encouraged the embedding of protective habits including hand washing at key points in the day. Learning about healthy eating and being involved in choosing their snack foods helped children to understand the importance of caring for their bodies.

Transitions from nursery to school which included joining up with primary one children for story time and assemblies, and buddying up with primary 7 children helped ensure children were comfortable and confident when moving into primary school.

Children took ownership of their environment. They moved freely and confidently between the indoor and outdoor environments transporting toys and equipment choosing how and where they wanted to play. These well resourced areas included very good opportunities for literacy and numeracy, creative play and active physical play.

Children made very good use of loose parts materials. This was particularly apparent in the outdoor areas where children enjoyed creating challenges for themselves. For example we saw children using tubes they had propped up at different heights to test how quickly balls rolled down them. Others created physical challenges which allowed them to climb and jump deciding for themselves on the level of challenge they were comfortable with. Indoors many children played enthusiastically and cooperatively and for long periods of time with block play creating a range of structures.

The nursery made regular use of an area of woodland within the school grounds. Children spoke enthusiastically about this area which was rich in opportunities to learn about the natural world. This experience was complimented by the nursery garden which gave children opportunities to plant and grow some of their own fruit and vegetables.

What the service could do better

We looked at a sample of the information contained in children's learning journals. It was apparent that some staff were more confident in recording in this area than others. We asked the nursery manager to consider how they could improve consistency of recording in children's learning journals.

We asked the manager to review the home area and consider the inclusion of more loose parts materials and a wider range of fabrics for dressing up. This would further support imaginative and creative play in this area.

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	
16 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
18 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
18 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 2 - Weak
5 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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