

Craigmillar Early Years Centre

Day Care of Children

6 Craigmillar Castle Gardens
Edinburgh
EH16 4AD

Telephone: 0131 661 3126

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
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Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
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Service no:
CS2003015640

About the service

Craigmillar Early Years Centre is part of the City of Edinburgh's Early Years Provision. The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 to provide a care service to a maximum of 46 children aged birth to Primary 3. A maximum of six children of primary school age may be accommodated in the service at any one time.

The service is based in a residential part of South Edinburgh. The building is on one level with consisting of playrooms, offices, staff room, parents room, kitchen and toilet facilities all set within a large enclosed outdoor play area and parking space.

The aims of the service include the following:

"To meet the individual needs of the children and their families, offering high quality learning experiences in a caring and supportive environment."

We undertook the inspection of this service using virtual methodology which includes the use of technology to inspect services.

This was a focused inspection in order to evaluate how well people were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to support the wellbeing of people experiencing care during the pandemic.

What people told us

During the inspection we spoke to parents who were happy to share their experience of using the service during the pandemic. The parents we spoke to were positive about the service they received. Comments included:

"I can't praise the staff enough. They care for my child as a parent would."

"They've gone above and beyond providing a lifeline to my family. They really care and I feel they're like a family."

"My key worker has been such a huge help giving me suggestions and helping me feel that we will get through this."

"They've been really good at keeping us up to date with things like the arrangements for keeping everyone safe."

"Nothing ever seems like a bother, the staff really are so supportive and kind."

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

5 - Very Good

5.1 Health and Wellbeing

During the initial lockdown when children were not able to come into the service staff used technology to maintain contact with them. They also dropped play and activity packs off at children's homes and offered on line/telephone support to families. These actions helped families maintain a live contact with the service making it easier for children to transition back into the nursery routine.

Before they returned to the service parents were encouraged to complete a questionnaire which included updated information about their child's routine, needs and interests. Socially distanced stay and play sessions were offered in the nursery garden. These sessions provided opportunities for staff to have more in depth conversations with parents and for children to gradually re-acquaint themselves with nursery routine. The information gathered was used to review children's personal plans and ensure that staff had the information they needed to support their development.

Since their return to the service children have been cared for in small groups supported by a consistent staff team. This has provided a secure routine for children and allowed staff to get to know their needs and interests. Staff were committed to ensuring that children had a positive and nurturing experience. We saw that interactions were kind and caring focusing on enabling children to make independent choices and have fun while at nursery.

Children were given age appropriate information about caring for their bodies and keeping themselves safe. Regular hand washing was a key part of this. Staff developed ways to make handwashing a fun activity where children were learning embedded habits which would support their long term wellbeing.

Staff understood the importance of supporting children's wellbeing by giving them choices of where and how they wanted to play. They told us their role was to facilitate and provide an environment which supported this in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

5.2 Infection Prevention and Control

A rolling programme of training ensured that all staff regularly took part in infection prevention and control training. During the pandemic, staff had been given additional training in Covid-19, how the virus spreads and the steps they must take to protect children and themselves. In conversation staff were confident in describing the enhanced hygiene routines they followed and in identifying symptoms that would lead them to self isolate and to arrange a Covid-19 test.

As previously stated staff were vigilant in their own hand washing and in encouraging children to wash their hands frequently for the correct amount of time and in demonstrating how this should be done correctly.

Existing effective cleaning routines had been enhanced throughout the building by a team lead by the Janitor. Precautions to protect families using the service were in place. They included socially distanced arrangements for dropping off and picking up children, the wearing of masks and social distancing between adults. Families were given information on the key symptoms of Covid-19, FACTS information on keeping themselves and others safe and when to seek a test.

The service made good use of rooms not currently required by visiting services by turning them into additional staff rooms. This meant that each staff group has its own staff room. By reducing the number of times staff came into contact with one another in a confined space the service minimised opportunities for the virus to spread.

The nursery benefited from a large outdoor play area. The physical and emotional benefits of playing outdoors along with the reduced risk of spreading infection were recognised. Children and staff were supplied with warm outdoor clothing which meant they were comfortable outdoors in most weathers.

Staff confirmed that they had plentiful supplies of protective personal protective equipment and had been trained in how it should be used safely, including frequency of changes and safe disposal of used equipment.

5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the needs of children

The high adult-to-child ratios in place meant there were always sufficient staff to care for children safely and to maintain consistency in staff groups. This minimised the number of staff/child contacts and reduced opportunities for spread of infection. If necessary senior staff would provide cover however this had not been necessary.

Staff meetings, individual appraisals and training sessions had continued throughout the pandemic. This ensured that although the whole staff team did not mix as they had pre-pandemic, communication, support and training continued to be effective in meeting children and staff needs.

Staff were positive about their role in providing a safe and stimulating environment for children and worked hard to maintain a supportive team approach to their work. They confirmed that the senior team were open and approachable giving clear leadership when required. Equally they felt that their individual skills were recognised and valued and that they were given appropriate responsibility for roles within the service.

The management team kept abreast of information from the Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate which affected early learning and childcare and ensured this was shared with staff. Speedy transfer of information ensured staff were aware of current best practice.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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