

## Spring Oscars @ Currie Day Care of Children

Currie Primary School  
59 Curriehill Road  
Currie  
Edinburgh  
EH14 5PU

Telephone: 07827 336 664

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
1 September 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Out of School Scotland Limited

**Service provider number:**  
SP2007009266

**Service no:**  
CS2018372402

## About the service

Spring Oscars @ Currie was registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2019. Conditions of registration state that an early learning and childcare service can be provided to a maximum of 40 school aged children up to entry to S2. Other conditions unique to the service are adult to child ratios will be a minimum of 1:10 if the children attend for less than 4 hours per day and if all children are over 8 years old and over 1:10.

The service is part of Out of School Scotland Limited, a large organisation providing out of school and holiday care throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians. Based in Currie, west of Edinburgh, the service is delivered from Currie Primary School. Areas of the school used by the service are the dining hall, toilets and the playground at the front of the school.

The aims and objectives of the service are:

- to provide quality out of school childcare to children attending Currie Primary School
- to offer play and educational opportunities in a safe, welcoming environment with a clear emphasis on the social and educational welfare of each child
- to promote the dignity, privacy, choice, safety, potential and diversity of all users and staff of the club.

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Wednesday 25 August 2021 between the hours of 14:30 and 18:00 and returned on Friday 27 August 2021 14:00 until 17:00. This allowed us to see the space where children were cared for and observe them in their daily routines with staff. Feedback was given by video call on Wednesday 1 September 2021.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality Care and Support.

## What people told us

We saw various age groups attending the service throughout the inspection process, ranging from new P1's to P6. Children were curious about our presence and keen to engage with us. We were invited to play and to listen to their views about the service. There was much anticipation from the younger children about a challenge activity set for them. Some comments included:

"I like the snack".

"We go outside when everyone is ready".

"My friend is sitting over there. She comes too".

"We want fidgets but don't get them".

"We asked for loombands and pop-its but we don't have them".

"I've made a pump for my pump-up trampoline and a boat to test".

"My boat has people in it".

We invited parents to offer feedback about the service their child receives. One parent responded by telephone call. Some comments included:

"The venue is much better now as they get out to play every day".

"Staff have good relationships with parents and the app is good for communication both ways".

"Staff show care and consideration. My child always wants to stay longer".

## Self assessment

We discussed self-assessment for improvement during the inspection. Areas for development are highlighted within the report.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	3 - Adequate
Quality of management and leadership	2 - Weak

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

On arrival to the service, children were welcomed warmly and supported with handwashing as per the Covid-19 guidance. Children were familiar with the routine of storing their belongings and handwashing. A group-time took place where staff informed children of the plans for the session and played a game whilst waiting for snack. This meant that children had limited choice of movement and activity for some time after their arrival. We encouraged the manager to consider the differing needs of children. For example, a child may want to run in the fresh air after school, whilst another wants to eat snack straight away (recommendation 1).

Children had a healthy snack which was plentiful. They could choose what they wanted and how much. It was safe and sociable for children as staff sat with them to chat. We encouraged the manager to consider snack as part of the children's experiences. Being more flexible with the routine would enable children to make individual choices (recommendation 1).

Children's personal plans had improved since the last inspection and the requirement made had been met. All children had a personal plan showing their needs and strategies to support them with those needs. This meant that care was consistent for the child and progress could be monitored and reviewed. We discussed the need to further develop the plans to include children's ideas and wishes (recommendation 2). This would mean children were more involved in planning their own care and reviewing whether it had worked for them. The provider agreed this would be developed and was committed to exploring how it could be done in a fun and meaningful way.

A daily challenge had been introduced for children who wished to take part. During the inspection this involved constructing a boat-like structure which could float. Many children engaged in team work, problem-solving and experimenting during this activity. They also had fun as they tested out their structures on water. We would encourage further development of the daily challenge, particularly for the older age group.

Younger children were engaged in their play with friends or in the daily challenge. They were able to use the resources they had as they wished, to extend their play according to their ideas. Older children were not so engaged. They told us they wanted to be online whilst at the service. We discussed the challenge of this with the manager. We encouraged the promotion of play to that age group by engaging with their interests, need for adventure and safe risk-taking (recommendation 2).

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. Children were familiar with new routines to mitigate the risks of Covid-19 transmission.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements: 0**

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations: 2**

1. To ensure children have choice, flexibility and autonomy, the manager could consider the daily routines and approaches in line with the service aims and objectives.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 1.25 which states "I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors" and standard 2.2 which states "I am empowered and enabled to be as independent and as in control of my life as I want and can be".

2. To ensure children are involved in the planning and reviewing of their own care, the manager could consider how to meaningfully capture their ideas, needs and interests from their point of view.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 2.17 which states "I am fully involved in developing and reviewing my personal plan, which is always available to me" and standard 2.22 which states "I can maintain and develop my interests, activities and what matters to me in the way that I like".

**Grade:** 3 - adequate

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The service had recently moved venue and was now delivered from the dining hall in the school. Children from the school used the service making it a familiar and safe place for them to be. They were welcomed into a warm, clean and bright environment which had been set up for their use. Older children were responsible and independent as they made their own way to the service from their classrooms. Younger children had the security and support of staff as they learned the routine and route through the school to the service.

The service was still settling into the new space and we discussed developments which would enhance children's experiences. We asked the manager to consider how to involve children in making the space more like their own. A children's display board was available however had limited content with no lead from children. This board could be an opportunity to share information of interest to children, such as snack menus or activity plans. The lack of quiet relaxing spaces meant that children had nowhere to be alone if they chose to. The manager agreed to consider this further.

The indoor space was set up with dining tables which had attached chairs. Resources laid out on the tables included play figures, board games and construction. We discussed the importance of creating inspiring and intriguing play spaces to spark children's imaginations and engage them in play. The use of loose parts would further support this creativity. We asked the service to consider this when they carry out their planned consultation with children regarding new resources.

A door led directly from the indoor space to the playground. Children could not choose to play outside until staff opened the doors. This meant children could not take the lead in meeting their own needs (recommendation 1). When outdoor play was available, they could move freely between the two spaces. Children had an interesting and well-resourced outdoor space to explore. It offered a variety of experiences such as a trim trail, grassy hill and playground markings for games.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

Children were cared for by fun and energetic staff who showed interest in their work. Staff were knowledgeable about their role in keeping children safe and responding to their needs. Children seemed comfortable with staff, suggesting good relationships. This contributed to children being cared for sensitively and respectfully.

Staff were safely recruited and registered with the Scottish Social Services Council. There was a good staff to child ratio which at points supported children's freedom of movement around the setting.

Two new staff were present at the time of inspection and were in their first week of employment. We found that their induction was being informally delivered and did not adhere to the organisations induction process. This meant that new staff were not fully informed of the service policies and procedures whilst delivering a service to children.

A requirement had been made at the last inspection instructing the provider to enhance the support and supervision given to staff. We found limited improvement of this. The provider had introduced a staff development and appraisal process with standard documents to support staff to reflect on their practice and set goals to achieve. This process was not being implemented effectively within the service by the manager. Staff were not enabled to reflect on their practice with children or set goals to improve their practice. This also meant that staff training needs were not being identified and planned for. The quality of service did not improve for children as a result of the providers actions. Therefore, the requirement to enhance staff support and supervision was not met. It will be continued into this report, in recognition of the temporary closures experienced by the service this year due to Covid-19 (requirement 1 in management & leadership).

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The introduction of the Family app had aided communication with parents. It supported the sharing of information about children's needs as well as keeping parents up to date with changes in the service. The use of the app for children's personal plans was still being explored and the manager was committed to this.

We saw that management and leadership of the service had not progressed enough to ensure positive impact on outcomes for children. A requirement was made at the last inspection which was not met. This meant that people using the service could not be confident that it was well-led and managed. The provider had been instructed by the requirement to support the manager in self-reflection and planning to enhance quality of provision. We saw evidence of the support given to aid improvements, such as an action plan and regular support meetings. The manager also attended professional development meetings with peer managers from sister services in the local area. These meetings were initiated to share good practice and explore service issues. Whilst these support mechanisms were put in place by the provider, the manager did not use them to enhance the quality of provision. No monitoring or reviewing of the progress being made by the manager from this support, was carried out by the provider. This meant that the impact on children's experiences was limited.

We recognise the challenge in a change of provider and acknowledged the service was currently in transition from one way of working to another. We also recognised the restrictions brought by Covid-19, on a providers ability to visit services regularly for monitoring purposes. We strongly advised the management and leadership issues highlighted in this report be addressed as priority to ensure improvements were implemented.

### Requirements

#### Number of requirements: 1

1. The provider must ensure that by 30 November 2021, children and parents experience a service which has a culture of continuous improvement because there are robust and effective quality assurance procedures in place. They should be confident that their service is well led and managed. Suggested steps to achieve this include but are not limited to, ensuring that:

- the manager has sufficient support and the underlying knowledge to effectively improve outcomes for children,
- staff are appropriately supported,
- systematic and rigorous procedures for self-evaluation, auditing and monitoring all areas of the service using best practice guidance are developed, which lead to clear plans for maintaining and improving the service.

This is to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, (SSI 2011/210) Regulations 3 and 4.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & Social Care Standards which state that 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed'. (HSCS 4.23)

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 2 - weak

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

## Previous requirements

### Requirement 1

Children should experience care and support that meets their individual needs. The service must ensure that by 18 January 2021, personal plans reflect children's needs and record specific strategies to support children's wellbeing. Children's needs include those relating to medical, dietary and additional support for learning. These plans should be shared with all staff so that children are supported in a consistent manner. To ensure that children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded, the service should review personal plans with parents at least once in every six months.

This is in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) Regulation 5 Personal Plans.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'. (HSCS 1.15)

**This requirement was made on 19 February 2021.**

### Action taken on previous requirement

All children had a personal plan which outlined their needs and a plan to support them with those needs. Plans were being reviewed with parents and staff were knowledgeable about them. The service will continue to develop children's involvement in their personal plans.

**Met - within timescales**

### Requirement 2

The provider must ensure that by 1 February 2021, children and parents experience a service which has a culture of continuous improvement because there are robust and effective quality assurance procedures in place. They should be confident that their service is well led and managed. Suggested steps to achieve this include, but are not limited to, ensuring that:

- the manager has sufficient support and the underlying knowledge to effectively improve outcomes for children;
- staff are appropriately supported;

- systematic and rigorous procedures for self-evaluation, auditing and monitoring all areas of the service using best practice guidance are developed which lead to clear plans for maintaining and improving the service.

This is to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, (SSI 2011/210) Regulations 3 and 4.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & Social Care Standards which state that 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed'. (HSCS 4.23)

**This requirement was made on 19 February 2021.**

#### Action taken on previous requirement

This requirement was not met and so will be carried into this report, in recognition of the recent challenging times.

**Not met**

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

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

To support and promote children's wellbeing, staff should review planning procedures to ensure that children participate in experiences and activities which occur both indoors and outdoors and meet the interests of all age groups. Staff should pay particular attention to planning outdoor activities for Friday afternoons which provide children with the opportunity to be active and explore nature.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors'. (HSCS 1.25)

**This recommendation was made on 25 November 2020.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The change of venue meant that children could access the outdoor area daily. Some planning for interests took place however older children remain largely disengaged.

#### Recommendation 2

The service should ensure that the COVID-19 risk assessment is specific to the service. Best practice guidance should be followed in relation to handwashing and the use of Personal Protective Equipment. The service should ensure that staff have adequate time for cleaning toys and resources.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice'. (HSCS 4.11)

**This recommendation was made on 25 November 2020.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The Covid-19 risk assessment reflected practice within the setting. It was being kept up to date with changing guidance.

### Recommendation 3

The provider should review staffing arrangements to ensure that staff are deployed and sufficient in number to meet the needs of all children and to provide them with meaningful experiences.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health & Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience stability in my care and support from people who know my needs, choices and wishes, even if there are changes in the service or organisation'. (HSCS 4.15)

**This recommendation was made on 25 November 2020.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff were deployed effectively to meet children's needs. We discussed the need to enhance children's freedom of movement and choice.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

## Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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