

## Community Playgroups - Uphall Day Care of Children

Uphall Community Centre  
Strathbrock Place  
Uphall  
Broxburn  
EH52 6BN

Telephone: 07939 252 519

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
10 September 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Community Playgroups SCIO

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012011983

**Service no:**  
CS2018369683

## About the service

Community Playgroups Uphall registered with the Care Inspectorate in March 2019. Conditions of registration state that an early learning and childcare service can be provided to a maximum of 12 children aged from two years to those not yet attending primary school, at any one time. The care service can operate Monday to Friday 9:15-11:30 and Monday to Wednesday 12:15-14:30, term time only.

The service is part of Community Playgroups SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which delivers playgroups throughout West Lothian. Based in Uphall Community Centre, the service is close to residential areas, local bus routes and amenities. The service has the sole use of a playroom including children's toilets and an outdoor area accessed directly from the playroom.

The aims of the service are to:

- provide a stimulating, caring and safe environment for all the children in our care
- actively develop confidence and self-esteem
- work in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals
- provide a quality child centred service to meet the needs of each child
- promote equal opportunities for both children and adults
- be actively involved in our local community
- continue to develop our approaches and provide the highest quality provision for all children.

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Wednesday 8 September 2021 between 9:00 and 12:00 and Thursday 9 September 2021 between 9:15 and 11:00. Further information was gathered by telephone from the area manager. Feedback was given virtually on Friday 10 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

Ten children were in attendance over the two inspection visits. They looked comfortable and relaxed in the setting and sought staff when needed. They were engaging with the resources and experiences on offer. Children were curious about our presence and were keen to show us around and involve us in their play.

We asked the service to distribute information to parents about the inspection. Parents were invited to offer feedback about their child's experiences with the service. We did not receive any responses from parents.

## Self assessment

We did not request a self-evaluation from the service prior to the inspection. We did however, consider the service's approach to self-evaluation and improvement during the inspection.

## 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	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

A strength of the service was the time and space children had to make choices for themselves. They were able to consider what was available to them at their own pace and decide what they would do next. Being able to explore the space and resources freely, enabled children to experiment, discover and problem-solve. Learning was extended by the staff being responsive to children's emotions, interests and actions. This meant that children were guiding their own learning. In addition, children were having a lot of fun with their friends.

Children were gently nurtured to express themselves whilst considering their peers, through reassurance and encouragement. Routines and approaches by staff were familiar to the children, offering security and consistency. The challenges of leaving their parent or carer were understood. Staff supported children through acknowledging their feelings, offering comfort and then distracting them. This validated children's feelings and made them feel heard.

A range of methods were used to communicate with parents. This meant that parents were kept informed of changes and could contribute to children's experiences. Personal plans were up to date and relevant. This meant that children's needs were planned for and reviewed with parents for continuity. Progress in development was monitored through support plans to ensure the care and support was right for each child. The manager understood the importance of working alongside other agencies when supporting families and was able to demonstrate this.

Children had many learning experiences during snack time. For example, pouring milk and chatting with their friends. Children could choose to have snack and decide when to return to play, which encouraged independence and decision-making. The manager had recognised ways to involve children more in the preparation of snack. We encouraged further development of this.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. Staff demonstrated Covid-19 practices to help reduce infection risk. Children were comfortable and confident with the routines.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The main play space was a bright and airy playroom which was clean and inviting. The space had been developed to ensure the whole room was accessible to children. This gave them ownership of the space and supported their independence in using it. It had a warm and homely atmosphere. This was welcoming and reassuring for children. There were places to rest which children used to suit their own needs. Children's work was celebrated and displayed on the walls.

Children were relaxed and ready for play as the environment was created with their needs in mind. A range of resources offered choice and variety, including construction, a home corner, painting and water play. Resources were displayed and arranged in a considerate way. This made them more intriguing and inviting, sparking curiosity and imagination. Loose parts were incorporated around the play space. This enabled children to add a rich depth to their play with open-ended items. For some at this age group, loose parts also offered opportunities for sensory and exploratory play.

Children could independently access the toilets within the playroom. Their child-friendly design meant that children could have support if needed whilst also protecting their privacy and dignity.

A small secure garden was accessed from the playroom. Children moved freely between the indoors and outdoors as they wished. Resources also moved freely between the spaces as children pushed, gathered and carried things as part of their play. The outdoor space was also interesting and varied. Children could climb, balance and ride there. Natural spaces were used as homes and forests for small world figures, allowing endless possibilities.

Children were excited to watch what was going on around their garden, such as grass cutting and an aeroplane flying past. Staff responded by offering information, asking questions and joining in with the excitement. We encouraged the use of the local community more. By exploring the local community, children would have opportunities to learn about the world around them. This would involve assessing risk and following instructions. For example, walking through woodlands or crossing roads.

When the weather was particularly wet, children could use a hall space, also accessed from the playroom. They enjoyed the open space there where they could run, kick balls and ride bikes.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

Staff were recruited safely into the service. This meant that children's welfare was protected. New staff worked through an induction programme to ensure they could care for children in accordance with the service aims and policies. Annual support and supervision sessions enabled staff to reflect on their practice and plan ahead for new goals to achieve. We suggested the provider consider the regularity of these sessions. More frequent sessions would help to monitor progress and support further achievement, thus enhancing the provision for children.

Access to training had reduced throughout the pandemic. Staff had kept up to date with changing guidance through reading and refresher online courses. The provider was committed to continual professional development and so we were confident that staff training needs would be assessed and planned for in the coming months. The knowledge, skills and experience brought to the service by staff, were contributing to positive outcomes for children.

Children were cared for by gentle, calm staff who understood what young children needed from them. Relationships had been built and maintained whilst staff and children got to know each other. Children's changing needs were noticed and responded to sensitively because staff were engaged alongside them. They were respected as staff were accepting of their differences. Consistent staff offered familiarity and security for children and parents daily.

Good teamwork and communication between staff meant that children led the pace of the day. They were unrestricted as staff moved with them. Staff shared information with each other daily to ensure they stayed up to date with children's needs.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

A calm, supportive and nurturing setting had been created and was reflective of the manager's approach. As the manager was preparing to move on, the provider was working towards a smooth transition and continuing support for staff.

The manager was able to demonstrate how staff reflect on their practice and self-evaluate. These processes had brought about improvements in the service. Covid-19 restrictions had impacted on the effectiveness of team meetings in recent months. We encouraged the manager and provider to return to formal planning and evaluating to ensure the service continued to be responsive to the needs of families.

Children's care and support and an enhanced environment were supported and improved through good quality assurance processes. The provider and manager understood the importance of being consistent with audits and monitoring of practice. They had recently developed a calendar to support ongoing, structured quality assurance. This would contribute to children receiving a sustained level of quality provision. We encouraged the provider to further consider how to ensure quality assurance continues as they move forward.

The manager demonstrated previous approaches to gathering feedback from parents about the service. We encouraged the use of this experience to enhance the involvement of parents during a time when they cannot easily enter the service. Children's voices were heard and recorded in a new floorbook. Staff used this to capture children's interests and develop them into experiences for learning.

The service had an annual improvement plan. We discussed the benefit of using this as a working document which links to team meetings, parent and child involvement and improvement.

### 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

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.

### 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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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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