

Eastertoun Nursery School Day Care of Children

13a Manse Avenue
Armadale
Bathgate
EH48 3HS

Telephone: 01501 730 462

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 March 2022

Service provided by:
West Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002601

Service no:
CS2003016156

About the service

Eastertoun Nursery School is provided by West Lothian Council to offer a day care of children service to a maximum of 35 children at any one time from three years to entry into primary school.

Situated in Armadale West Lothian, the service is in the grounds of Eastertoun Primary School. The premises has of one large playroom with direct access to a secure garden area. Two smaller rooms, a kitchen, cloakroom and children's toilets sit just off the main room.

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Monday 28 February 2022 between 10:10 and 14:40. Further information was gathered by email and telephone calls with staff and the depute head teacher. Feedback was given by video call on Friday 4 March 2022.

What people told us

Children looked relaxed and happy whilst they played with friends. They engaged with resources and experiences around them. A child showed us a floorbook with photographs of children taking part in activities, with interest and delight.

We asked the service to distribute information about the inspection to parents, inviting them to offer feedback. Three parents expressed their satisfaction with the service provided, highlighting the focus on individual children's needs. Some improvement suggestions were offered which we discussed with the service. Comments included:

"99% of the time my child skips happily into nursery and is excited to attend so settling-in during the pandemic has not impacted negatively. We did participate in some of the home learning activities suggested during home schooling and found them interesting."

"I am aware the nursery is moving from (one information app to another) so there haven't been many observations on my child's activities and development shared lately which I do miss. I often rely on the school's (social media) account to see what has been happening in nursery."

"My child enjoys their time at nursery. I suspect this is because the staff are so warm, friendly and comforting."

"Queueing at drop off and pick up could be smoother but it's difficult to think of suggestions. One member of staff standing on the ramp welcoming several children at once is often helpful at speeding things up."

"The staff are all amazing with the kids and my child always has a great time at nursery."

Self assessment

The service was not asked to submit a self-assessment prior to inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

We evaluated children's care and support as very good in the service. We evaluated management and leadership as good in the service.

Children were confident in the service and with the staff caring for them. They were familiar with routines and were able to independently access all areas of the setting. They sought help and comfort from staff when needed. Children were empowered and enabled by supportive staff who understood their individual needs and worked to ensure these were met. Working in partnership with parents provided up to date information relevant to children's care. This helped staff to know children well and respond to changing family circumstances, such as a new baby. Involving other agencies meant that each child received the right support for them when needed. Strong team work, leadership and communication meant that staff were informed and enabled to offer quality care and support to children. For example, the team shared information in weekly meetings to ensure they were knowledgeable and consistent with children's care.

Children's health needs were considered and planned for. Medication was stored according to best practice with clear information about symptoms to look for and actions for staff to take. Staff were knowledgeable about health needs and knew where to access the medication. This meant children's symptoms would be responded to quickly. Regular checks were carried out to ensure medication was present and in date, should children require it.

Freedom of movement around the setting in general allowed children to decide what they wanted to do and where. Children moved between indoors and outdoors, taking resources with them, spending time exploring, experimenting and having fun. Learning opportunities were provided at the children's pace and in response to their interests and curiosity. They were encouraged to consider situations, explore options, and make decisions. This contributed to children's awareness of their environment and each other, building skills for problem solving. A strong ethos of responsibility meant that children were independent and involved in the routines of the setting. This approach reflected the shared leadership among the staff team where each member developed an area of interest to further the learning experiences of children.

The provision of lunches and full day places was introduced last year and continues to evolve as staff respond to what works for children. The lunch experience was largely positive. Children sat with friends and chatted over food. Staff reported improvements in children trying new foods and engaging socially during this time. Children could choose between a hot or packed lunch and could have more food if desired. Staff were committed to lunch being a learning experience for children to enjoy. Children practiced skills such as waiting and using cutlery, however staff were aware further development was needed.

We were confident that children were at reduced risk of infection transmission. The service was using the national Covid-19 guidance to plan and implement measures of infection prevention and control. Examples of this were handwashing at relevant times throughout the day, staff distancing from each other and good ventilation of the play spaces.

What the service could do better

The service should review its quality assurance processes to ensure medication is consistently reviewed with parents every term to adhere to best practice.

The service was in the process of changing the online platform where they shared children's progress in care and learning with parents. The service was committed to completing this change quickly to ensure parents continued to be partners in children's learning.

The service demonstrated a commitment to improving the lunchtime experience for children as part of their transition into or out of their nursery day. Staff had a vision of what they wanted children to experience during this time, based on best practice. For example, making the lunchtime routine a more fluid part of the day. We were confident they would work to achieve this using self-reflection and quality assurance approaches.

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								
15 Mar 2018	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	Not assessed	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	Not assessed
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	Not assessed									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	Not assessed									
29 Jan 2015	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
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Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	5 - Very good									
31 Jan 2012	Announced (short notice)	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	Not assessed	Management and leadership	Not assessed
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3 Feb 2009	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	4 - Good	Staffing	4 - Good		
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	4 - Good									
Staffing	4 - Good									

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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