

# Scots Corner Early Learning and Childcare Centre

## Day Care of Children

Scots Corner Community Centre  
Blackhall Terrace  
Penicuik  
EH26 0EW

Telephone: 01312 714 740

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
3 May 2022

**Service provided by:**  
Midlothian Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002602

**Service no:**  
CS2019376865

## About the service

Scots Corner Early Learning and Childcare Centre is a daycare of children service. It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 34 children at any one time, from two years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is based in Glencorse, Midlothian and is close to local schools, parks, and shops. The service comprises of one main playroom with connected cosy and quiet spaces. Children have free flow access to a secure and well equipped outdoor space, directly accessed from the playroom.

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 April 2022 between 09:00 and 15:30. Two early years inspectors carried out the inspection. Feedback to the management team took place on 3 May 2022.

To prepare for inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluations we:

- undertook observations to observe practice and children's experiences
- spoke with children who experienced care at the service and 8 of their parents
- spoke with the staff and management team
- reviewed relevant documentation.

## What people told us

As part of the inspection we received views from eight parents of children who attend the service. All parents said that they were very happy with the quality of care their children received and commented on how good the communication was with the service. Settling in for children was highlighted and parents felt they were "always well informed" Further parent comments can be found in the body of the report.

Children were happy and having fun and told us about their experiences of attending the service. They said they "have fun" and "like playing in the garden".

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection. As part of the inspection, we reviewed the services quality assurance processes and improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for improvement.

## 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children were happy and having fun in a warm and nurturing environment. They were made to feel included by staff that were respectful and skilled in building trusting relationships. This contributed to children feeling valued and having a sense of belonging.

Effective personal planning supported children's wellbeing and was reviewed regularly. Staff knew the children well and supported them in a caring and responsive way. Personal plans for some children included deployment action plans. These provided additional support to meet children's individual needs. A strength of the service was its commitment to building strong relationships through partnership working with other professional agencies. This proactive approach helped staff identify appropriate strategies to meet children's needs and contributed to them reaching their full potential. Parents told us that the staff are "a breath of fresh air" and truly know how to put the children "at the centre of everything they do".

Opportunities were planned to extend children's learning in spontaneous and responsive ways. We saw this reflected in the activities provided. Children were enthusiastic and having fun exploring activities independently including "making a circus". Staff were skilled in asking meaningful questions that helped stimulate curiosity and problem solving skills. Further experiences we saw provided challenge to develop children's language, literacy and numeracy skills including lotto games and sensory play.

Learning journals held significant observations and next steps were identified. These were regularly updated and parent involvement was encouraged in commenting on the children's experiences and learning. This meant parents were involved in their child's care and experiences. Additional to the online learning journals children had 'special books' which contained photographs and art work. These were easily accessible to be shared and achievements celebrated. Floorbooks included children's activities, experiences views and ideas. This meant that children's voices were heard and they were consulted and involved in planning their own play and learning.

Positivity and kindness was encouraged in the setting and staff modelled respectful and kind behaviour. Children were encouraged to manage conflict and work out any issues that arose. This helped children develop negotiation skills, resilience and understanding of boundaries.

The service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. We observed children being supported to understand the need for good hygiene and they told us they wash their hands because "of germs and a sore tummy".

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children benefitted from a warm and welcoming environment that was bright and spacious. Parents commented "every member of staff was extremely welcoming and joyful" Direct access to the garden meant that children could play freely throughout the day and were confident making decisions on where and when they played. Children were encouraged to show respect for the environment and were supported by staff to carry out risk assessments. This gave children a sense of responsibility.

Quality resources and well-equipped areas reflected children's interests in both indoor and outdoor spaces. These Included open ended and natural resources which were easily accessible to support children explore the environment. A small cosy area adjoined to the playroom provided a quiet and relaxing space to relax, rest and sleep. The community hall within the setting was used for a range of activities, including small group activities and parent involved groups. One of these groups facilitated by staff was Peep, which supported families with their children's early learning in an enjoyable way.

Children were having fun with opportunities to experiment with different materials which offered challenge, creativity, and investigation. We saw examples of this through sensory play and "tea making" in the home corner. Staff helped facilitate children's ideas which included children using binoculars to "look for treasure" and "building towers" with cardboard boxes.

Children were included in their local community which supported their wellbeing and sense of belonging. They regularly accessed the local park and woodland area for den building and woodland activities. The "woodland explorers group" gave children further opportunities to develop their knowledge of their local area.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children benefitted from a staff team who were enthusiastic, warm and caring. They communicated well as a team and shared relevant information to provide the right care to meet children's needs. Staff were motivated and committed to achieving quality outcomes for children. Parents told us that staff are "always approachable and friendly" and that they "go out of their way to make us feel welcome".

Processes and systems were in place to ensure the professional development of the staff team. Staff were motivated to take part in training opportunities and were reflective in their practice. They used these opportunities to share knowledge to further improve the service. Staff had identified areas of improvement, which included supporting children's early literacy. They were developing their skills and knowledge through the use of the literacy toolkit Up Up and away.

Regular team meetings, development opportunities, and support and supervision sessions supported staff to reflect and improve on practice. As a team, staff took ownership to inform the service improvement plan, using best practice guidance and reflection to celebrate strengths and areas of improvements.

Staff were recruited in line with safer recruitment guidance and all were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). All staff that we spoke to clearly understood their role and responsibilities which led to positive experiences and outcomes for children. Staff induction was thorough and staff were provided with mentors to support them in their role. Newly recruited staff told us they felt very well supported and fully informed of the policies and procedures within the setting. This meant that staff were confident and knowledgeable in meeting children's needs and providing positive outcomes.

Staff told us they felt included and their views valued and respected. There was a strong community spirit within the team and staff wellbeing was highly promoted. The staff room provided a wellbeing space that was relaxing and offered a range of motivational material and affirmations. A compliments folder included comments from parents that highlighted the care and kindness of the staff, and the quality service they provide.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The manager who had recently taken up post had been sensitive in her approach. She had celebrated the ongoing work with staff whilst also introducing new ideas to inform the future vision of the service. The manager was supported by the senior team who had designated roles and responsibilities, including the induction of new staff. They had been reflective in the need to streamline their roles further, which meant they would have a clearer focus and provide a more effective use of time. Staff told us they felt well supported and informed of decision making by the management team.

Effective policies, procedure and quality assurance processes were in place, which helped support the monitoring and development of the service. Staff carried out different aspects of the self evaluation process daily which was reflected in their responsive and promotional planning. This was having a positive impact on the outcomes for children. Parents commented that they had been asked to review the updated outdoor policy "this type of communication helps us feel more involved in the service as a whole".

A major strength of the centre was its proactive approach and commitment to working in partnership with families. There was a clear vision and focus of further community involvement as part of ongoing development and improvement. As well as the development of Peep groups within the setting further plans were in place to support parents through the programme 'parents involved in their children's learning' (PICL) This builds knowledge in developing and extending children's play and interests at home.

Children benefited from a culture of continuous improvement and on-going development within the service. This promoted positive outcomes for children and supported very good care. Parents told us If the service continues to run the way they do and "evolve and develop" they would be "very happy".

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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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