

Wiggly Worms Children's Day Nursery Day Care of Children

Mansfield Road
Hawick
TD9 8AB

Telephone: 01450 373 969

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 January 2023

Service provided by:
Wiggly Worms Children's Day Nursery
Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2016012797

Service no:
CS2016350944

About the service

Wiggly Worms Children's Day Nursery is referred to as the nursery in this report. The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 42 children at any one time aged from 2 years up to Primary 7. Within this number a maximum of 8 children will be of primary school age.

The nursery is situated in Hawick and is close to local amenities. The nursery has two playrooms, accessible toilet and nappy changing facilities, large kitchen and office. Children have access to a secure outdoor garden area.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 23 January 2023. Feedback was given to the provider on 25 January 2023. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with 10 people using the service and 7 parents and carers
- spoke with 9 staff and management
- observed practice and daily routines
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing interactions from staff who knew them very well.
- Effective communication with parents meant children's needs were supported and parents felt included in the child's care and learning.
- Staff worked very well together and had built trusting relationships with children and families.
- Children benefitted from high quality play experiences.
- Children's health and wellbeing was promoted with daily access to the outdoors.
- The nursery has excellent values which give children a real sense of belonging.

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, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	6 - Excellent
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

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.

Quality Indicator 1.1 Nurturing and support

Staff had developed a nurturing and inclusive ethos evidenced through their warm and caring approach towards children and their families. Interactions between staff and children were responsive as wellbeing was important to staff and embedded throughout their practice.

Staff promoted children's independence, privacy and dignity in a thoughtful manner throughout the day. For example, giving them space to carry out tasks for themselves and, children in the Hedgehog room can ring a bell in the toilet to alert staff if they need assistance. Children benefitted from warm attachments which supported them to feel loved, valued and respected. A parent told us "I trust all the staff as they know my child very well".

Children benefitted from very effective personal planning which highlighted their care and support needs. For example, home to nursery transition information ensured children received continuity of care linking with home routines. Transition processes were unhurried and thoughtful and ensured care was right for each child. Floor books evidenced very well planned transitions between nursery and primary school. This included consulting parents about worries or anxieties they or their child may have and how they could work together to alleviate these.

Children who attended split placements benefitted from very effective partnership working. This included planned visits to the service, meeting keyworkers and sharing learning journal information. This meant positive outcomes and experiences for children.

Children and their families were central to the process of effective communication. Parents commented they were kept up to date with everything in the service and on their child's progress. This was done by using daily chats, on-line FAMILY resource, closed social media group and information reviewing. Very good use of chronologies highlighted significant events in the children's/families lives and enabled staff to respond quickly and sensitively to any changes. A parent told us "It's brilliant here. Staff go above and beyond and we are all very happy".

Children experienced unhurried and caring support at meal and snack times. Staff recognised daily routines provide a very a rich opportunity to promote attachment. Children were involved in snack preparation and self service, encouraging them to be independent and develop life skills. At lunchtime children enjoyed either the homely lunch prepared on premises or their own packed lunch. The hedgehog room lunch experience allowed children self service and choice. We saw friendships developing between children and conversations being had around the tables. Children in the Rabbit room were well supported as they got used to new routines. A parent told us they were "working up to staying for lunch as we are new to the nursery and working with staff to help settle in". Staff worked in partnership with parents to promote choice as they encouraged children to try new foods while taking account of cultural and dietary needs. This meant children were able to build positive relationships with food.

Accidents and incidents were recorded by staff in order to reassure parents of any first aid administered to their child. Medication was stored safely and strategies to support the wellbeing of children had been put in place. This meant children were kept safe.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Play was highly valued in the nursery. We observed children having fun, building friendships and confidently taking ownership of their play and learning. Staff knew children's individual learning styles and had a very good knowledge of child development. This meant they were able to provide a very good balance of spontaneous and planned quality experiences. This supported children to explore their own ideas and build on their interests and creativity.

Children's interests and ideas were displayed in learning journals and they can look at them and add to them when they wanted. These journals evidenced a variety of the very good experiences and positive outcomes for children. These included photographs and art work children used to recall memories of events.

Staff were skilled and confident when introducing additional materials to extend children's thinking and learning. For example, Chinese food added to home corner meant children were finding out about different cultures.

Numeracy and literacy was promoted with a very good selection of resources available across the nursery. Written signs, pictures and numbers were embedded in play experiences which meant children's understanding of what they were doing was reinforced. A parent who had attended a Sneak A Peek parent session told us "it was wonderful to see what goes on in the nursery and what my child was doing".

Children benefitted from the effective use of loose parts play materials. This meant children's creativity was promoted as they were able to develop their problem solving skills. For example, children were digging holes in the garden with spades and then seeing if they could jump over them. They had fun finding out about the world around them and sharing the experience.

Personal planning was very effectively used to share observations, next steps to learning and development progress with parents. Children knew where their folder was kept and were enthusiastic about showing us them and all their hard work. Staff identified and supported children's achievements and this helped consolidate their learning.

Children benefitted from being able to play outdoors play. Children could take resources between areas which promoted extended learning and curiosity. Children spent a lot of time outdoors and enjoyed the benefits of fresh air, physical exercise and using open ended materials. We saw staff supported play well with very good levels of reflective questioning which promoted confidence and independence and helped children to reflect on their safety.

Children were accessing the wider community by going on walks to local places of interest, for example library. The service had recently purchased a mini bus and staff had taken children out exploring in it. Plans were in place for lots of adventures which promote positive outcomes for children.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

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.

2:2 Children experience high quality facilities

The secure setting welcomed parents, professionals and visitors. Information displayed included children's art work, planning, a lovely selection of black and white photographs of life in the service through a child's eye and staff information. This reassured parents of their child's wellbeing while attending. A parent told us "We all love it here. They do so much with and for children".

Resources were of a very good quality and set up to meet the needs and interests of children attending. Homely touches, fresh flowers and child led displays helped children to feel welcomed and included. Children of all ages were confident moving around their play room. This showed us children felt safe and secure in the nursery environment.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted as children could play outside for a sustained amount of time if they wished. Opportunities were available for them to engage in active and physical play such as climbing, building, digging and caring for the chickens. We saw children actively engaged in loose parts play in all environments. Children's curiosity and imagination was being promoted in a fun and safe environment which met their needs.

Children were involved in risk assessing all areas and this gave them a sense of responsibility in caring for their environment and themselves. For example, putting resources away so nobody could trip on them.

Toilets and nappy changing facilities were kept clean throughout the day. Very effective infection prevention and control measures were in place and in line with current guidance. This meant children, parents and staff experienced a hygienic and healthy environment.

The large kitchen was clean, well organised and safe. This space as well as being used for food preparation could also be a meeting area as well as the adjoining office.

Staff had a very good understanding of confidentiality and this was reflected in their communication with parents. A parent told us "if staff are really busy at pick up time and they know I would like to speak to them. They always phone me as soon as they can and I really appreciate that".

Children's information such as care plans and registration information were kept securely. Sensitive information was only shared with those who needed the information to meet children's needs. This meant, protection of children's information complied with relevant best practice.

How good is our leadership?**6 - Excellent**

We evaluated this key question as excellent where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Children and parents benefitted from a nursery whose vision, values and aims promoted "Belonging, Becoming and Being". Excellent work around the nursery's core values gave children an excellent sense of belonging. Children were included involved in acts of kindness in their community. For example, little bags of shortbread were made up and children handed them out to people in the community they met while out with the nursery to wish them merry Christmas. Acts of kindness have been embedded in nursery for a number of years. Values were installed in children as part of what the nursery did.

We observed staff to be motivated, happy and enthusiastic and had created high quality outcomes for children. One parent told us "Nursery is a fantastic place for my child".

Improvement planning and quality assurance was very effective and involved collecting, acting and reflecting on feedback from staff, parents and children. This meant everyone felt included and their views were listened too. Staff were committed to their role and shared responsibility for the monitoring and development of the nursery. This included tracking systems, auditing medication and observation recording and team discussion. Accident records were audited in order to inform risk management of the nursery. This meant outcomes for children were very positive.

Excellent links had been made with parents and local community. For example, the nursery was able to use the local church hall for graduation ceremonies and community coffee mornings. These events brought the whole community together and children had a sense of pride and belonging.

Staff attended continuous development sessions to ensure they felt supported in their role. We observed a motivated staff team using reflection to positively inform practice underpinned by strong consultative relationships between staff, the provider and management. This told us the nursery had good capacity for change and improvement.

To ensure continued improved outcomes for children and families staff were proactive in making good use of best practice guidance. For example, 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' guidance, was discussed and reflected on by staff. This enabled them to reflect and implement their learning to meet the needs of all children.

How good is our staff team?**5 - Very Good**

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.

Quality Indicator 4.3 Staff deployment.

Staffing levels in the nursery ensured there were enough staff to carry out the vision and values of the nursery and keep children safe. We observed a confident and knowledgeable staff team who were respectful and supportive of each other. Staff told us they were very happy working in the nursery. Positive role modelling between staff helped children develop positive and understand supportive relationships.

Very effective arrangements were in place to promote continuity of care across the day which ensured positive transitions. This ensured there was always enough staff to focus on children's needs. Staff breaks were planned to minimise impact on children whilst enabling staff to rest and be refreshed. The provider and manager were supernumerary and worked in the nursery wherever they were needed.

The wellbeing of staff was of great importance to management and there was a positive ethos of attendance within the nursery. This meant staff felt supported and valued and children's experiences across the day were positive.

Professional development was a high priority for staff. Core training, such as first aid and child protection had been undertaken and updates were planned in the training calendar. Staff were encouraged to source specific training which related to leadership roles within the nursery. This meant the differing experiences, knowledge and skills of staff ensured the wellbeing of children.

A very effective keyworker system promoted strong links between home and nursery. Families and children were kept informed of who would be caring for their child and transitions. This meant staff were able to develop positive attachments with children and provide very good levels of individual care and support.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	6 - Excellent
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	6 - Excellent

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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