Inspection report

Eastern Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Whinnybrae
Broughty Ferry
Dundee    DD5 2HW

Inspected by:            Karen Lock
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection:  Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 29 June 2007
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<tr>
<th><strong>Service Number</strong></th>
<th>CS2003015805</th>
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<td><strong>Service name</strong></td>
<td>Eastern Primary School Nursery</td>
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| **Service address** | Whinnybrae  
Broughty Ferry  
Dundee  DD5 2HW |
| **Provider Number** | SP2003004034 |
| **Provider Name**  | Dundee City Council |
| **Inspected By**   | Karen Lock  
Care Commission Officer |
| **Inspection Type** | Unannounced |
| **Inspection Completed** | 29 June 2007 |
| **Period since last inspection** | 12 months |
| **Local Office Address** | Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  DD1 4NY |
Introduction

This nursery class operates within a classroom at Eastern Primary School, run by Dundee City Council Education Department. It offers 2 sessions, morning and afternoon, both running for 2.5 hours for up to 30 children. The service is used by 3 and 4 year old children in their pre-school and ante pre-school years, both groups are mixed with 3 and 4 year old's.

The class is staffed by a nursery teacher and two nursery nurses.

Most of the children's time is spent in the spacious classroom, which is thoughtfully laid out to create a most welcoming and inviting environment. The children's toilet facilities are located within the classroom, enabling the children to access them independently. There is a welcoming entrance area where information is displayed for parents. The nursery is regarded as an integral part of the school, and nursery children regularly use other parts of the school. They also have access to an enclosed outside play area, which is used exclusively by the nursery.

Basis of Report

Before the Inspection

The Annual Return
The service submitted a completed Annual Return as requested by the Care Commission.

The Self-Evaluation Form
The service submitted a self-evaluation form as requested by the Care Commission.

Regulation Support Assessment
This service was inspected after a Regulation Support Assessment (RSA) was carried out to determine the intensity of inspection necessary. The RSA is an assessment undertaken by the Care Commission Officer (CCO) which considers: complaints activity, changes in the provision of the service, nature of notifications made to the Care Commission by the service (such as absence of a manager) and action taken upon requirements. The CCO will also have considered how the service responded to situations and issues as part of the RSA.

This assessment resulted in this service receiving a low RSA score and so a low intensity inspection was required as a result. The inspection was then based upon the relevant inspection focus area(s) and follow up on any recommendations and requirements from previous inspections, complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the inspection process
During the inspection, evidence was gathered from a number of sources including:

A review of a range of policies, procedures, records and other documentation, including the following:
- Attendance register.
- Child protection policy.
- Health and safety policy, including an infection control statement.
- Risk assessments.
- Discussion with nursery staff
The CCO also spent a brief time observing how staff members interacted with the children present and considered the general environment and equipment used in the provision of the service.

The CCO took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:
- Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.
- Standard 5: Quality of Experience.
- Standard 12: Confidence in Staff.

In accordance with Care Commission policy for 2007-8 the focus of the inspection was therefore on key themes relating to:
- Infection Control.
- Child Protection.
- Active Play.
- Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) /staff training and development plans.

The inspection also takes into account the Regulation of Care Act (Scotland) 2001 and the Scottish Statutory Instrument 2002/ 114.

Fire Safety Issues
The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Further advice on your responsibilities is available at www.infoscotland.com/firelaw

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection.

Comments on Self-Evaluation
A fully completed document was returned providing valuable information about the service that was helpful to the inspection process and demonstrated a good understanding of National Care Standards.

View of Service Users
The children were observed to be relaxed, content and confident within this welcoming learning environment. Children were observed playing together cooperatively, actively engaged in a variety of activities and enjoyed their time during the observed freeplay session. Appropriate interaction between children and staff was observed.

View of Carers
There was no direct contact with parents during the course of this inspection. Of the six parents and carers who responded to the Care Commission questionnaires, three indicated that they were 'very happy' with the service provided and three that they were 'happy' with the service. Most of the questions were responded to positively however, only three of the six parents felt that their child found the activities stimulating and challenging. Only two of the six parents were 'very happy' with how often their child's routines were discussed with them.

Here are some of the written comments made by parents:

- Staff are very approachable, they listen to my concerns I have about my child, and deal with any problems with discretion and sensitivity. I am kept informed of my child's progress and can speak to any one in private if needed. My child enjoys being with the staff and finds them very approachable too.
- Staff know my child well and know how to encourage him. Staff are very positive about promoting good behaviour and often send my son home with stickers.
- Staff are very warm and caring.
- Healthy snacks are always available with lots of choice.
- Nursery staff are safety conscious when in building, in garden or on outings. Have no worries when I leave my child.
- All policies are readily available but I have never felt the need to access this.
- My child tends to stick to the same activities, but with encouragement from the staff he will try other areas. When I mention interests at home the staff often extend them into the nursery.
- My child has a development delay and feel Eastern Nursery has helped her develop in many ways.
- The nursery encourages help from parents in the nursery outings.
National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 3: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Health and Wellbeing

Strengths

Not all elements of this standard were inspected. On this occasion the focus was infection control and child protection.

Infection Control:
The nursery had effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection.

There was an infection control policy in place.

The overall nursery environment was clean, well maintained and hygienic. The toilets were checked regularly for cleanliness and there were suitable hand washing facilities.

Hygienic practice was observed during the children's snack.

Child Protection:
The nursery had clear Child Protection policies and procedures in place, which included a description of information to be recorded regarding child protection matters.

The child protection policy was updated on a regular basis. The child protection policy was available for parents to view and they were informed of the policy at the first point of contact and through the nursery handbook. A powerpoint presentation containing information about Child Protection was shown at a parents evening.

There was a range of Child protection materials and documentation available to inform staff practice including: Dundee Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines, Scottish Executive Framework for Standards, Scottish Executive Safe and Well, and the Children's Charter. A folder with all relevant Child Protection information was made available to all supply staff working at the nursery.

All nursery staff had received child protection training in the past year.
The nursery had invoked child protection procedures since the last inspection and had used the Local Authority Education Department advisors appropriately to address the concerns.

Staff had a suitable understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children from harm, abuse, bullying and neglect. Staff knew of appropriate agencies to contact, including the need to discuss concerns with the designated Child Protection Officer. Four out of the six parents confirmed in the Care Commission questionnaires that they were aware of the nursery's child protection policy.

To further enhance children's safety and protection at the nursery, staff carried out and recorded risk assessments. Staff were appropriately trained in first aid and food hygiene. Accidents and incidents were recorded and there was a written procedure for the administration of medication. A policy was now in place in the event of a child being absent from the service where no reasons had been given.

Children had good opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles and personal safety. This was reflected within the planned activities which promoted children's health and well-being and all round development.

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

Strengths

Not all elements of this standard were inspected. On this occasion the focus was active play.

Active Play:
Staff demonstrated that they were aware of children's individual interests, developmental stage and needs. Active and energetic play was incorporated into the weekly and daily plan and staff responded appropriately to extend children’s learning. Staff were observed to be engaging appropriately with the children during this inspection visit, they treated the children with respect and used positive and supportive language.

Children were involved in planning and were provided with opportunities to express their views within the daily programme. The children were observed to be confident, independent and enthusiastic in the setting.

Observations of children were carried out regularly, and that information recorded in individual files. Next steps in learning were identified and acted upon.

Planning evidenced that all children were provided with regular opportunities for active and energetic play both inside and out. Staff utilised the space effectively to meet the needs of children attending. Children had regular access to the secure outdoor play area.

Resources for active and energetic play were varied and of good quality.
Children were also encouraged to be active indoors taking part in singing games, dancing and role play. The nursery children had regular access to the school gym hall.

The nursery had effective measures in place to keep children safe whilst taking part in energetic play. Appropriate risk assessments were carried out.

Displays, photographs and the nursery plans informed parents of all aspects of the curriculum, including active and energetic play.

**Areas for Development**

None identified at this inspection.

**National Care Standard Number 12: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Confidence in Staff**

**Strengths**

Not all elements of this standard were inspected. On this occasion the focus was SSSC: staff training and development plans.

**SSSC: Staff Training and Development Plans:**
The school had a policy for staff training and development and an induction policy for new staff. Staff received annual reviews which included reflection on the previous year’s work, identified staff training needs and addressed continued professional development.

The school’s senior management team monitored the nursery on a regular basis and met regularly with the nursery teacher to discuss all aspects of the nursery.

The staff training programme covered a range of topics including child protection, first aid and active play. Staff accessed training on a regular basis.

The nursery was included in the whole school improvement plan which identified their improvement focus areas for the future.

Relevant staff had individual copies of the Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice and were aware of the requirement to register.

**Areas for Development**

None identified at this inspection.
Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Other Information

Requirements

Recommendations

Karen Lock
Care Commission Officer