Inspection report

Blossom Day Nursery
Day Care of Children
15 b/c Bath Street
Edinburgh    EH15 1EZ

Inspected by:        Diane Stewart
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection:  Unannounced

Inspection completed on:  5 September 2007
Service Number
CS2003012071

Service name
Blossom Day Nursery

Service address
15 b/c Bath Street
Edinburgh    EH15 1EZ

Provider Number
SP2003002966

Provider Name
Blossom Day Nursery

Inspected By
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Care Commission Officer

Inspection Type
Unannounced

Inspection Completed
5 September 2007

Period since last inspection
1 year

Local Office Address
SE Region
Stuart House
Eskmills
Musselburgh
EH21 7PB
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Introduction

Blossom Day Nursery occupied the lower floor of a residence in Edinburgh. The nursery can care for 22 children with a maximum of 9 children aged 0 - 2 years. Offering full and part time places, the nursery currently cares for 44 children. The nursery is operational throughout the year. The nursery transferred registration to the Care Commission on 1st April 2002.

The stated aims and objective of the service includes:
Blossom is a child centred nursery for children up to the age of eight
Provides a secure, relaxed and happy environment designed to nurture and enhance the development of children.
Blossom places the highest value on working in partnership with the parent.
The emphasis is firmly placed on enjoyment, fun and fulfilment.

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.

Views of service users
Five parent response forms were returned to 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 areas and follow up on any recommendations and requirements from previous inspections, complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the inspection process

Staff at inspection
The Provider, Manager and three members of staff were present during the inspection visit.

Evidence
During the inspection, evidence was gathered from a number of sources including the following:
Discussion with the manager, staff and parents,
Observation,
Review of premises, Policies and procedures. All the above information was taken into account during the inspection process and was reported on.

Inspection Focus Areas and associated National Care Standards for 2007/08
The focus areas for 2007/2008 for children’s services are as follows:-

Infection Control
Child Protection
Active Play
SSSC & Staff Training

These focus areas have been reported under the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Child Care up to the age of 16;
3. Health and well-being
5. Quality of experience
12. Confidence in Staff

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 was one requirement made at the last inspection visit which had been addressed satisfactorily by the nursery.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

The service submitted a self evaluation form. This contained information on what the centre thought was done well in the service, and how some things could be improved.

View of Service Users

During the inspection visit there were thirteen children present. The children appeared happy, played actively and interacted well with the staff.

View of Carers
Five parent response forms were returned to the Care Commission. All parents indicated that they were "very happy" with the service. Comments included:

"My child is happy to go to nursery and talks about staff often"
"Blossom is very child centred and follows routines best for individuals"
"Lots of creative activities going on"
"Staff are always approachable and welcome me".
Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

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

Strengths

Not all aspects of this standard were inspected, only those aspects relating to the inspection focus areas. (see basis of report)

Staff displayed an awareness of child protection responsibilities, had a child protection policy and some staff had received child protection training. The Manager was the identified child protection coordinator for the nursery. Parent response forms received by the Care Commission indicated that some parents were aware of the child protection statement.

The nursery had an infection control policy and cleaning procedures in place within the playrooms.

Staff were observed encouraging children to wash their hands and staff have access to information on infectious illnesses. The National Toothbrushing Initiative had been implemented by the nursery.

Areas for Development

It was evidenced that the nursery had not received a copy of the local child protection guidelines, including the "Children's Charter" and "Framework Standards for Child Protection". (See Recommendation 1)

It was evidenced that the nursery's child protection policy needed to be updated to reflect the local guideline and give staff clear guidelines for reporting concerns. (See Recommendation 2)

It was discussed that the Manager should attend child protection training for managers. (See Recommendation 3)

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

Strengths

Not all aspects of this standard were inspected, only those aspects relating to the inspection focus areas. (see basis of report)

Through discussion with staff it was evidenced that children had the opportunity to access
active play. This included indoor, outdoor and local area provision for energetic play. Staff were aware of children's abilities and confidence and offered appropriate support to children.

Staff were aware and had a copy of the best practice guidance "Birth to Three Years".

Staff displayed an awareness of safety procedures and had written risk assessments and safety checklists in place.

Staff were observed interacting effectively with the children.

Areas for Development

One parent commented that she would like to have more feedback from staff regarding her child's day. The Provider agreed to look at purchasing a noticeboard to detail the activities children had experienced during the day.

It was evidenced that children's milestones were identified by the nursery however these were then not used to identify future developmental goals and inform activity planning. (See Recommendation 4)

It was observed that the brick wall within the baby garden area could cause potential injury to babies. (See Recommendation 5)

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

Strengths

Not all aspects of this standard were inspected, only those aspects relating to the inspection focus areas. (see basis of report)

The Manager was aware of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and her responsibilities with regard to registration of staff and the Codes of Practice. There was in place a staff induction and appraisal system.

Staff commented that there was opportunity to further their professional development and the Manager confirmed that a staff training plan was in place.

On the day of the inspection the nursery was operating within the correct staff to child ratio's and the registration certificate was on display.

Areas for Development

The nursery had in place policies and procedures to support the service. It was agreed by the provider to review and update these policies.
It was evidenced that whilst staff had attended training courses there was no evidence of training evaluation and how training had influenced practice. (See Recommendation 6)
**Enforcement**
There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

**Other Information**
None.

**Requirements**
There were no requirements made at this inspection visit.

**Recommendations**

1. It was recommended that the nursery obtains a copy of the local Child Protection guidelines.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 3 - Health & Wellbeing

2. It was recommended that the nursery reviews and updates the Child Protection policy.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 3 - Health & Wellbeing

3. It was recommended that the nursery Manager attends child protection training for managers.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 3 - Health & Wellbeing

4. It was recommended that the nursery develops children's profiles to identify individual children's needs, identify individual developmental goals and use this information to inform activity planning.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 5 - Quality of Experience

5. It was recommended that the brick wall within the baby garden area is padded to prevent any injuries.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 5 - Quality of Experience

6. It was recommended that staff formally evaluate training courses and identifies areas within the nursery to implement this into practice.
   National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare, Standard 12 - Confidence in Staff

**Diane Stewart**
Care Commission Officer