Oxgangs After School Club
Day Care of Children

Oxgangs Primary School
60 Oxgangs Road North
Edinburgh
EH13 9DS

Telephone: 07932 774297

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
6 December 2018

Service provided by:
Oxgangs ASC Management Committee

Service provider number:
SP2003002844

Service no:
CS2003011878

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

Oxgangs After School Club, referred to as the club in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 91 children of primary school age of which four can be of pre-school age. A maximum of 24 children may use the breakfast club.
The club is provided by a parent led committee. The manager and deputy manager of the club are supernumerary. The club operate during term time only.

The club use several rooms within Oxgangs Primary School. There is direct access to the outdoor play area for the younger children and easy access to other areas of the playground and all weather games pitches for older children.

Aims and objectives for the club have been developed and are actively shared with children and parents. Aims include:
'Oxgangs After School Club aims to provide high quality affordable childcare that allows parents to return to or continue employment, training or education with the confidence of knowing that their children are well cared for.'

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

There were 83 children using the service on the day of our visit. Children were very engaged in the range of planned activities and free choice activities. Throughout the time of our visit we observed very positive interactions between staff and children. Children described staff as 'fun' and 'kind'.

As part of the inspection we issued a care standard questionnaire. Twenty out of thirty parents responded. Parents all strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service. Additional comments were very positive and have been shared with the club. Comments include:

'Oxgangs after school club provide a safe, friendly environment. I see how the club continues to develop and improve their service involving the children on activities. I think this makes the children feel part of the club, choosing and shaping what they like at the club. Staff are friendly, approachable and knowledgeable. The consistent staff team, which for me says a lot about how they feel about working at the club, provide great continuity. It is exciting that the children are able to learn about animals and their care and their involvement with Bunty the pony and Peter the rabbit are great additions to the club.'

'The manager and her team provide a fantastic after school club at Oxgangs. The team are all long term staff, therefore know the children and parents well. My child has been there for four years and is very happy with the staff and the range of activities. The highlight this year was the Royal Wedding tea party.'

'We are very happy with the standard of care provided by Oxgangs ASC for our children. We couldn't ask for any more from the staff who are friendly, professional, enthusiastic, dedicated and always seem to have children's best interests at heart. We feel confident that our children are in a safe and caring environment.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork and spoke to the manager and deputy manager about quality assurance. The committee, managers and staff team have carried out a range of quality assurance since our last inspection. They continue to be forward thinking in their practice and reflective about the service they provide to ensure that they continued to achieve positive outcomes for children.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The level of care and support offered to children was excellent. Staff achieved this through the formal and informal information that they gathered on individual children and the relationships that they developed with parents. Information was up to date and relevant to providing an excellent level of care.

Staff knew the children in their care very well. The supernumerary manager and deputy manager had an excellent overview of children who attended the club. They were able to support staff where a child may need a developed strategy as part of their personal plan and had developed very good links with school staff to ensure a joined up approach. Throughout the club there was in context reference to the wellbeing indicators, which go alongside Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and a solid understanding of the United Nations Charter, which underpins the rights of every child.

The staff group had not changed since our last inspection. This consistency enabled staff to build positive relationships with children as they progressed through the age groups in the club. Interactions between staff and children were respectful but also provided an element of fun. Parents commented on the very positive relationships that children had with staff and how their children valued these relationships.

Staff had carried out a significant amount of work to promote children's health and wellbeing. One area which had achieved a significant impact for children was the introduction of two club pets. Staff had carried out an excellent range of research, training and consulted extensively with children about getting the pets. They had also discussed the benefits for children but also the impact on the pet and the need to ensure that their needs were met and carried out a lot of work around pet care, appropriate handling and environment. The club now have a pony and a rabbit, both of whom came to the club regularly and children went with staff to the nearby stables to care for the pony. We spoke to several children about the pets and could clearly see that children were very knowledgeable about their pets, excited about them being in the club and felt very responsible for their wellbeing.

The environment used by children was excellent. Children were grouped roughly according to primary classes. This ensured that age appropriate activities could be provided and that children could interact with their peers. The spaces provided children with very positive outcomes through the thought staff had given to providing interesting and nurturing play spaces. Staff had actively engaged children in deciding how their play environment should look and feel and had successfully used a calming and neutral environment approach whilst maintaining a club 'feel' and using an excellent range of children's art work mixed with information for parents.

The staff team had an excellent understanding of how to ensure that the areas used by children were safe whilst providing children with appropriate risk in their play. An extensive range of policies and procedures were available for parents to read, these helped inform them of the action staff took to ensure that risks were assessed. Older children had been actively involved in making a risk video to outline the safety measures which needed consideration when the club pony, Bunty, came to visit or when children went to visit her.

The format for planning the wide range of play activities was the same across the three play spaces. It was both responsive to children's ideas on the day and provided them with planned activities based around their ideas and suggestions. The range of activities provided for children was extensive and tailored to each age group. Activities included arts and crafts, board games and group games, indoor and outdoor loose parts, messy play, baking, imaginative play and role play. Staff ensured that play experiences were evaluated to make sure that they provided children with engaging, fun and positive experiences.

All of the above demonstrated that participation was meaningful in fully including children in their care. Children's rights were actively promoted and supported. Staff and management worked hard to ensure that children were safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What the service could do better

The club manager and staff should continue to develop their service using the reflective practices already in place.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
20 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent
23 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent
29 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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