Granton Early Years Centre
Day Care of Children

9a Pilton Drive North
Edinburgh
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Telephone: 0131 552 4808

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 February 2019

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Service no:
CS2003015253

About the service

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Granton Early Years Centre moved to a new building in September 2017, based in Pilton Drive North Edinburgh as part of the Early Learning and Childcare expansion. The move extended the service by adding an additional playroom offering Early Learning and Childcare to 3-5 year olds in June 2018.

The centre is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 64 children at any one time aged between six weeks and primary school entry, of whom no more than nine are under the age of two years.

The centre has three playrooms, the Ladybirds, (0-2), Bumblebees (2-3) and the Dragonflies (3-5) years. There are two multi -purpose rooms and a shared office space with North Edinburgh Stepping Stones. There is a large garden which is separated into two areas, one area for children aged 0-2 and the other for 2- 5 years. The garden is accessible from all three playrooms.

The aims of the centre include:

"To create a stimulating, challenging and enjoyable environment that is responsive to each individual child.
To work alongside families to promote wellbeing, independence and resilience.
To give the children who attend the best start in life."

What people told us

During our inspection visits the number of children in attendance varied. Some children were settling into the service and were being supported well by caring staff. Children enjoyed a variety of activities including, arts and crafts, sand and water play, making pizzas for snack and outdoor play.

A parent we spoke with during our visit talked positively about their child's experience. They told us: "It was very hard at first settling my child into the service. The staff were great and the keyworker made them feel at ease, very normal, they were gentle with the other children who had some issues, and were very aware. The settling in period was well planned, staggered with good communication, this made me feel empowered in making decisions together. They are on it with my child's stage of development and their health. A very positive experience for my family, they are all very helpful. I am well informed, there is good communication and my child is happy, that is the main thing."

We issued 15 Care Standard Questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents prior to the inspection taking place. We received five completed questionnaires. All responses from parents were positive. Written comments from parents included;

"I cannot stress enough how amazing this place is for the kids and particularly my child, from the staff to the range of activities and materials they use to teach the children. The involvement of parents in special activities is outstanding."

"The EYC team at Granton are absolutely professional!."

"I am very pleased how the nursery has helped my child to interact and play with other children their age, it has made a noticeable change in my child and their development and learning."

Self assessment

The service has not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These identified the service's priorities for improvement as part of their approach to quality assurance.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

The centre provided a warm and secure environment for children.

We saw children were nurtured by caring and gentle staff, who provided a calm and welcoming atmosphere. Staff interacted well with the children and responded to their individual needs, interests and preferences.

A strength of the service was their approach to children transitioning from home into the centre and onto other playrooms. Identified keyworkers supported the child and their family. They were sensitive and planned transitions to meet each child's individual needs, for example, these took place at the child's pace. Children settling into the centre were hugged and reassured, we saw they were forming positive relationships with caring staff. This supported children to feel safe and emotionally secure in their new environment.

Personal plans were in place for each child and provided staff with relevant information to maintain children's wellbeing and safety. In addition and as necessary, some children requiring additional support had detailed medical and educational plans. We saw the staff worked well with other professionals to provide very good care, support and outcomes for children.

Children's independence was encouraged through daily care routines, for example, selecting their own snack and putting on their outdoor clothing. They carried out good personal hygiene with hand washing and tooth brushing. Staff encouraged children to be kind, share, make friends and care for their environment and they continually praised children for their efforts. Children's 'learning notes' were displayed in the Dragonflies, these celebrated children's achievements and were shared with parents. This helped children to be responsible and to develop their confidence and self esteem.

The indoors and outdoors areas provided stimulating environments and were being used well by the children. They could access the outdoor areas directly from the playrooms. There was a range of experiences for children to explore including, some loose parts play. We observed an interactive session where staff and children were exploring the new fire pit and they were learning about keeping safe. The service promoted children's early literacy and language with the support from a senior Early Years Intervention Officer, who worked closely with staff and children 3-5 years. We saw positive language was used throughout the centre to praise, encourage and to help children develop skills in expressing themselves.

There had been significant changes over the last year for the service with the move to the new centre and the extension of a new 3-5 playroom. This had an effect on staffing with additions to staff teams and an appointment of a new teacher. The service had worked well to make these changes and staff were working to build positive relationships and develop team work. The head of centre had a clear vision for the service and worked closely with the staff team to reflect on their practice and the current self-evaluation systems, in place to support improvement.

Staff were respectful in their daily communication with parents. Regular newsletters and detailed noticeboards kept parents and carers well informed and supported effective communication. A parent's group provided opportunities for informal discussions and for them to be involved in the centre. Staff confidently used their knowledge and skills to 'champion' groups and work in partnership with families. For example, they lead groups for Raising children with confidence, PEEP, the learning together programme, (for parents/carers and their children), Stay and Play sessions and a children's Meditation group. We saw these groups actively supported children and their family's health and emotional wellbeing.

What the service could do better

To ensure children's flow of play is not stopped suddenly we have asked the service to continue to review the way they plan for story time. We are confident that the staff will make these changes to provide a more effective story time for children.

The head of centre - manager of the service, was unaware of the guidance 'making notifications to the Care Inspectorate. We discussed notifications with the manager and the importance of these so that the Care Inspectorate can work in partnership with services to promote and maintain children's safety and wellbeing. We signposted the manager to the document 'Records that all registered care services (except childminding) must keep and guidance on notification reporting', https://hub.careinspectorate.com The manager must familiarise themselves with this document and ensure any events that require notification are submitted timely. We will follow-up on this at the next inspection.

To ensure the service can continually improve and provide positive outcomes to children and their families, they should ensure they audit all evaluations they receive from parents after group sessions, We will follow-up on this at the next inspection.

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.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The provider must review the current risk assessment for the premises to ensure they are safe and fit for use by the children.
This is in order to comply with:
The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011
SSI 2011/210 Regulation 4 (1) (a) Welfare of users
SSI 2011/210 Regulation 10 (1) (a) A provider must not use premises for the provision of a care service unless they are fit to be so used Timescale for implementation: on receipt of this report.

This requirement was made on 18 January 2017.

Action taken on previous requirement
To ensure children's safety, risk assessments had been developed for the new premises and these were reviewed. **This requirement had been met.**

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

Accident and incident forms should be fully completed with all relevant information.
National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16- Standard 14 A well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 18 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation
To ensure children's safety and wellbeing accidents and incidents were completed with all relevant information as necessary. **This recommendation had been met.**

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
29 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
28 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
14 Feb 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
22 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
20 Jan 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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