Viewforth Early Years Centre
Day Care of Children

18 Viewforth Terrace
Edinburgh
EH10 4LH

Telephone: 0131 229 6667

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 August 2018

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Service no:
CS2003015641

About the service

Viewforth Early Years Centre transferred to the Care Inspectorate when it came into being in April 2011. The centre is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 81 children at any one time aged between birth and primary school entry.

The centre's vision is 'we are committed to having an agreed, shared vision with the children, parents, carers and partner agencies which puts children and families at the heart of our centre. We recognise the importance of learning through play which gives children the essential foundation for successful lifelong learning.

We aim to;
1. Provide a nurturing, caring, secure environment for all who use the centre.
2. Value parents role in their child's learning journey.
3. Continue to build on knowledge and expertise of the staff team through continued development opportunities and self-evaluation'.

The centre provides a range of services to children and their families. This includes group care (placement at the centre), outreach work (a worker visiting the family in their own home to work on specific, mutually identified issues), assessment work eg. Parenting assessments, STEPS (Support Through Encouraging Parenting Skills), Peep and Baby Massage sessions.

The purpose built building consists of three playrooms which all open out onto an enclosed garden. There is also a soft play room, multi purpose rooms, offices, a family room, kitchen and laundry.

What people told us

Throughout the inspection we observed children to be happy and content in the care of staff.

In preparation for this inspection we sent fifteen care standard questionnaires for parents to complete. Six were completed and returned to us. During the inspection we discussed the work of the centre with a number of parents and carers. Without exception, families were extremely appreciative of the centre's work and its positive impact on their lives. They commented:

'The nursery has been a god send for me being a kinship carer to my great-granddaughter. It has been great to allow her to mix with children and develop her independence at her pace'.

'A member of staff from Viewforth was assigned as our key worker to help us with family based relationship problems that had arisen due to unforeseen circumstances. The staff member made weekly visits to our home to work with myself, my husband and our daughter to foster better relationships, to help me relinquish control and to help my husband feel more confident in his role as a father. I cannot praise Viewforth highly enough for their support, advice and the care they took in order to provide the best possible strategies for our family. It made a huge difference and we will be forever grateful'.

'Overall I am very happy with your staff'.

'Friendly atmosphere catering for all needs of myself and my son. There are lots of different activities to help him learn and enjoy nursery'.

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. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

The centre put children and their families' wellbeing at the heart of everything they did. They had successfully established a warm, nurturing and inclusive ethos within the centre. Parents comments to us confirmed that the centre's response to helping those who have particular needs and facing challenges in their lives was prompt and effective.

Procedures to ensure that children were safeguarded were well embedded into practice. Relationships between staff, children and families were trusting and staff knew them very well. Consequently, early identification and prevention of potential risks played an important role in reducing harm to children.

Children who needed additional input and families with English as an additional language received sensitive and responsive care and support from the staff team. From reading records and talking to staff and parents we saw that staff were continually assessing needs to ensure that care and support was targeted to improve the life chances of children and families.

The centre was a safe and secure environment where children's well-being was consistently given the highest priority. Families learned to lead healthy lifestyles through the advice they received, for example, on healthy eating and the benefits of outdoor play. Children benefitted from playing in the fresh air and natural environment to improve their physical and mental health through the continually improving outdoor play areas at the centre.

With an enabling attitude and belief in children's potential, staff provided children with extensive opportunities to be challenged, creative and curious. Open ended and natural resources promoted children's imagination, with skilled staff extending their learning where appropriate. Children very much had ownership of their environment, impacting positively on their experiences and outcomes.

The system for planning for play and individual learning journals demonstrated a responsive approach that clearly took account of children's own experiences, needs and wishes. Home visits and 'Stay and Play' sessions provided children, parents and carers with time to develop their personal and social skills through a variety of activities.

Senior staff monitored and evaluated the work of the centre well. They asked challenging questions and expected high standards. Processes for managing the performance of staff and for their professional

development were used well. The staff team were proud of the role they played in ensuring priorities within improvement plans were achieved. As a result of their approaches and the good outcomes, the centre's capacity for sustained improvement is very good.

What the service could do better

There were no significant areas for improvement identified during this inspection visit. Moving forward, the senior team and staff should continue to work together and are well placed to make further progress on the areas they had identified in their improvement plan.

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	
28 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
18 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
30 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment	5 - Very good 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good
14 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
19 Nov 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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