Athelstaneford Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Athelstaneford
North Berwick
EH39 5BE

Telephone: 01620 880 241

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 November 2019

Service provided by:
East Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002600

Service no:
CS2003015825

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

Athelstaneford Primary School Nursery is located in the rural area of Athelstaneford, and operates from Athelstaneford Primary School. The accommodation consists of a playroom, kitchen and toilet facilities. Children have direct access to an outdoor area.

The service is registered to provide a day care of children service and accommodates a maximum of 20 children at any one session, between the ages of three and entry into primary school.

The aims of the service are:

"To provide a safe environment, where each child can develop their social, physical, emotional, intellectual and language skills, in order to reach his/her potential".

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. 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, included.

What people told us

We observed children and found them to be confident and comfortable in the service. They approached us with ease to chat, some children showed us around the nursery, pointing out what they liked to play with. We saw they related well to the staff and positive relationships had developed. Throughout the inspection we saw children remained relaxed and engaged in their play.

We issued six Care Standard Questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents prior to the inspection taking place. We did not receive any returned questionnaires.

We spoke with two parents during our visit who were positive about the quality of care and support their child received. Their comments included:

"The service is fabulous. My child comes home with information they have picked up during the day. There are many resources and equipment for developing minds. There are plenty of books on offer and my child likes books. I like the open door policy, parents are invited in to talk to the children about their jobs. There is lots going on, for example stay and play sessions. The children recently had an outing to Brunton theatre. It is the outdoor attitude that I like."

"The staff are developing the children in the nursery and provide lots of support and information for parents. Communication is excellent, we receive detailed newsletters and emails from the office. I feel I know what is going on! My child loves the nursery, it is a stimulating environment with a good range of activities. If my child shows an interest in something they encourage and work with them, this can lead on to other things, like art and crafts. The staff are very approachable, there is nothing that I cannot say, when I had an issue they took

control and dealt with it and this put my mind at rest. They tell you daily what your children have been up to. I can give feedback and put my views forward, a very happy nursery."

Self assessment

No self-assessment was requested as part of this inspection. We looked at the service's improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated the service's priorities for future development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

The service was providing very good care and support for the children in their care.

A respectful and supportive ethos was promoted by staff, in a welcoming environment where children were valued and listened to. As a result, children were secure and confident in their environment.

The service promoted children's health and wellbeing. There were very good opportunities for children to be healthy, active and to learn about personal hygiene and safety. Children were involved in the planning and preparation of healthy snacks. The rolling snack offered a positive, relaxed and sociable experience. Children were given responsibility in their personal hygiene routines and their independence was encouraged.

Children had daily opportunities for fresh air and physical exercise. Some children enjoyed being outdoors, in particular using loose parts play and balance bikes. Children wore helmets and were made aware of their own safety and the safety of others. They had opportunities to visit the village hall for weekly gym sessions, where they explored movement. This developed their physical skills, creativity and emotional wellbeing.

Staff were very good role models for children. They used positive strategies' to encourage and support children to be kind and to care for each other. Children were forming positive relationships and friendships with others, and were learning about feelings and emotions.

There had been recent changes to the staffing in the nursery. The new team were enthusiastic and working well together, they had made positive changes in the service and were providing very good outcomes for the children.

Staff were warm, welcoming and respectful to the children. They were aware of the importance and benefits of 'child led play'. We saw children directed their own play within a stimulating environment, which supported their curiosity, independence and active learning. Staff encouraged children's preferences and interests through observation and responsive planning. These preferences guided daily plans, resources and play experiences on offer.

Personal plans were in place for each child and these provided staff with the information required to maintain children's safety and wellbeing. Children set their own learning goals within their learning journals. Their 'wow' moments and achievements were celebrated and this helped to develop their confidence and self esteem.

The staff understood their roles in safeguarding children, keeping them protected and safe from harm. They engaged in professional development and learning, undertaking a range of training to support the needs of the children they cared for. This included: child protection, autism, behaviour strategies, child led play and equity and diversity.

Key priorities were to improve parental participation, and self-evaluation in the service. We saw management encouraged staff, children and their parents to give their feedback and suggestions for developing the nursery. New systems were in place to develop and improve communication and partnership working, for example, questions of the week, detailed newsletters, whiteboards and stay and play sessions for families and self-evaluations floor books. In addition the outdoor area was being developed to improve the provision, outdoor play experiences and learning.

What the service could do better

We discussed children's lunches with management and staff and asked they review these to provide a more calmer environment for children with less distractions. This was agreed during feedback to management.

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

There are no outstanding requirements.

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

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
17 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
30 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good
16 Jan 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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