Greengables Nursery School
Day Care of Children

8a Niddrie House Gardens
Edinburgh
EH16 4UF

Telephone: 0131 669 9083

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 January 2019

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Service no:
CS2003015855

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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.

Greengables Nursery School is a service provided by City of Edinburgh Council. The nursery is registered to care for 50 children at any one time aged between three years and primary school age, and in the crèche, children aged birth to primary school age in numbers that conform to the space standards for non domestic premises stated in the National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare, Annex A.

The nursery offers early education and childcare to children aged between three and five years and operates during term time only.

Greengables Nursery and Family Centre are two separate buildings separated by a path on the same plot. The premises are in the residential area of Niddrie on the outskirts of Edinburgh. The Family Centre is managed by the head teacher of the nursery and is used for a range of community and nursery projects. The single level building provides a large open meeting or play space, crèche, sensory room, kitchen and meeting room space. There is a garden to the rear of the building used by the crèche and parents. The nursery is on one level providing two interlinking playrooms and an additional space for dance, drama, music and group work. The nursery have a kitchen and large natural garden area to the rear of the building.

The service have clearly defined aims and objectives for the service which are shared with parents and children. Aims and objectives include:

'At Greengables, we want our children and families to be happy, caring, creative and valued. We provide a safe and stimulating environment where our children and adult learners can feel secure and nurtured and where they have the freedom to make choices, develop independence and take a lead role in their own learning. We create opportunities for play and learning which inspire and support the imagination and enable our children and families to explore, create and have fun.
We are committed to:
- excellence, through raising attainment and enabling all children to develop their capabilities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.
- achieving equity, ensuring that all children thrive and have the best opportunity to succeed regardless of their social circumstances or additional needs.
Our Aims
At Greengables we aim:
- To create a welcoming atmosphere for children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community, where everyone is valued and respected.
- To promote a culture of tolerance, inclusion, diversity, equality, fairness and opportunity.
- To communicate effectively and be genuine, open, honest and sincere.
- To develop strong links with our families and local community.
- To work in partnership with parents/carers and outside agencies for the benefit of all our children and families.
- To support the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of our learners.
- To consult our learners and support them to follow their interests.
- To value the importance of learning through play.
- To teach our children to appreciate and respect the natural environment, to take care of resources and to develop their understanding of the importance of reducing, re-using and recycling with the support of our parents/carers and local community.
- To reflect on our work and promote an ethos of continuing professional development for all staff.'

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

We spoke to several children during our visit. Some children were able to talk to us about nursery and told us what they did during the day. Children showed us their garden and described the wide range of things they could choose to do out there showing a sense of pride in their nursery. Children went easily to staff for guidance and reassurance through out their day and were relaxed, confident and having fun in nursery.

We issued a care standard questionnaire to parents as part of the inspection process. Nine parents responded to us. All made very positive comments about the nursery and all strongly agreed that they were overall, happy with the quality of care and support their child received in the nursery. Comments included:
'It is a wonderful environment. The garden is outstanding. The staff caring and nurturing. I feel very comfortable with the holistic culture.'
'Lovely nursery with very friendly and welcoming staff. Parents are involved in nursery life. Stimulating and interesting environment. Children enjoy the outdoor activities every day, the garden is beautiful. The family centre helps families enjoy parenthood, providing a range of groups and classes for parents and children. Very happy that my child can grow and learn in Greengables 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. Self evaluation was carried out to a very high standard involving staff, children and parents.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Since our last visit to the nursery the service had continued to use high quality self evaluation and reflective practice to maintain excellent care and support outcomes for children.

As a result of self evaluation the head teacher and staff identified that support for children and their families could be further strengthened by improving transition to the nursery from home. This had been achieved by improving the keyworker system to ensure the purpose of the keyworker was clear and consistent. Home visits were focussed and undertaken to gather information about the child and wider family. This helped staff to begin

the process of forging a positive working relationship with parents, developing a personal plan and agreeing the settling in process for individual children. The keyworker held overall responsibility for recording children's progress and meeting regularly with the head teacher to identify next steps and assess development. This provided an excellent overview of each child and their progress, which was routinely shared with parents.

The nursery had, since our last visit, moved to providing an extended day for each child. The session now ran from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Staff had continually assessed the pace of the day to ensure that it provided children with a valuable and varied learning experience over the whole day. Changes had been made to lunch time routine to value it as a social and reflective part of the day. Children sat in small keyworker groups, well supported by adults who ate food with them. Discussions were held about the child's day or their wider experiences. Children could make food choices and opportunities to build on self help skills and independence were provided. Short group sessions at key points of the day were used to 'check in' with children and provide opportunities for staff to assess if children needed further support throughout the session. Areas for quiet play and group activities were available and access to the excellent outdoor garden area was provided all day. As a result of this excellent practice we observed children who were actively engaged in their activities and able to sustain their learning, with skilled adult support, throughout the day.

The staff group were a significant strength in the nursery and an increase in opportunities for professional development and professional discussions had resulted in an excellent workforce.

We spoke to staff who were motivated and knowledgeable about how to achieve and what evidenced positive outcomes for children. They had as a group undertaken a significant amount of professional development and we could clearly see the discussion and research they carried out being pulled through to practice in the nursery. Some staff were at different stages in their professional career and we could see that the whole staff team took responsibility for offering support, encouragement and mentoring to less experienced colleagues.

The deployment of staff had been given careful consideration to make the most of skills and experience. We spoke to staff who had a very clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the nursery. We noted a very strong team working ethic and a sharing of responsibility and accountability for the quality of the service provided to children and their families.

What the service could do better

The head teacher and staff group had carried out an extensive amount of self evaluation and reflective assessment of their service. They had a culture of continuous improvement and we identified that this was effectively used to achieve excellent outcomes for children.

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	
13 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
16 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent
27 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
3 Dec 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent

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