Earlston Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

High Street
Earlston
TD4 6JQ

Telephone: 01896 848851

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 April 2018

Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001976

Care service number:
CS2003016106

About the service

Earlston Primary School Nursery is a local authority nursery provision. The nursery is registered to provide a service to 20 children aged between three and five years. At the time of our inspection the nursery offered a morning session five day per week during term time.

Earlston Primary School is a small rural school in the village of Earlston in the Scottish Borders. The nursery class is within the school. The accommodation includes a reception area, cloakroom, playroom with kitchen area, toilets and access to an outdoor area.
Amongst the aims of the nursery is 'to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children feel happy and secure'

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 Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke to several children as they played about nursery. They told us that they liked nursery. One said 'Outside is really good fun.' two children said they had friends and one said they really liked snack.

We issued twenty care standard questionnaires to parents using the nursery. Eight parents returned the care standard questionnaire.
Some comments are noted below, others were discussed with staff throughout the inspection.
"This nursery is brilliant my child loves it, she talks about her morning. Always excited and thrives when learning here. We started here for her last year of nursery and were made welcome from the get go. All staff are lovely and informative".
"The nursery staff at Earlston are so fantastic with my child and he has grown in confidence and learnt many new skills. I wouldn't want him to be anywhere else".

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	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

Children were happy, involved and having fun during the inspection. We saw that staff knew the children and their families well. We noted a very friendly and caring atmosphere existed where children and parents received a genuine welcome when they arrived. This approach improved families sense of belonging and inclusion within the nursery.

The playroom provided an attractive and stimulating environment for the children. Staff had worked hard to create interesting areas to encourage children's curiosity to investigate and explore. Children were involved in a variety of imaginative and exciting play opportunities and were supported by staff to develop their ideas. Staff were building up loose parts resources for encouraging imagination and problem solving. Children were treated respectfully and staff listened to them, offering additional help with play when this was wanted and needed.
Experiences and learning was planned based on children's needs and interests. A wide variety of activities and experiences ensured children were offered challenge and choice throughout the sessions. Staff were developing how to efficiently track children's next steps. This would help staff to provide additional support and challenge to the children's play and development.

A respectful and nurturing ethos was promoted by staff. Their gentle interactions reminded children to be kind and helpful. This meant that children were becoming more aware of the needs of others.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted by regular free-flow access to the outdoor area. Children were having great fun investigating and exploring outdoors. Children used this area well during the inspection. We saw them enjoying the sunshine and having fun using the bikes, cars and other outdoor resources. Some children were also planting seeds. Snack was healthy and independence promoted as children helped themselves to food and a drink. Safeguarding procedures were in place. Staff were clear on how and where to access additional services for children in their care.

Staff were motivated, enthusiastic and worked well as a team. We saw that they worked hard to promote positive outcomes for children. They told us that they had access to training opportunities that supported and developed their skills, expertise and knowledge. They had been encouraged to take on leadership roles and to develop the play and learning opportunities for children.

The positive relationship between staff and management enabled a supportive appraisal system and a practice monitoring system. Staff had a clear vision and direction for the nursery and this was supported by the head teacher. Staff told us that they felt well supported in their roles.

What the service could do better

Staff knew the needs of the children well and worked very well with other professionals. Personal plans with strategies to support children with additional support needs had been introduced. However we have asked that staff develop the strategies further and evaluate any progress made. This will help meet the individual needs of the children and identify where further support may be required.

Staff were aware of the need for good transitions between the nursery and primary one class. They were working alongside the school to help children feel confident and secure. The head teacher should ensure that these transitions are carefully managed to provide reassurance to the children moving on.

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	
4 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
5 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
9 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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