Clifton Hall Nursery School
Day Care of Children

Clifton Hall School
Newbridge
EH28 8LQ

Telephone: 0131 333 1359

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
29 May 2018

Service provided by:
Clifton Hall School Limited

Service provider number:
SP2003003569

Service no:
CS2003016182

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.

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.

Clifton Hall Nursery School has been registered with the Care inspectorate since April 2011. It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children aged three years to entry to primary school. Ratios as stated in the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years must be maintained, with a minimum of two adults be present at all times. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 8:00-18:00.

Clifton Hall Nursery School, referred to as the nursery in this report, is part of Clifton Hall School, an independent school for children aged from three to eighteen, located in the western border of Edinburgh near Newbridge. The nursery opened in November 1989 and joined partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council in 1999. The nursery is located in a refurbished converted bungalow with an enclosed large garden area. The children eat in the school's dining facilities located in the games hall. Other whole school facilities used include the games hall for PE lead by the PE staff, swimming pool, assembly hall and the school's after school club. The nursery uses the woodlands within the school grounds on a weekly basis and frequently uses the school grounds for walks and for physical games and activities.

The nursery's mission statement is: "realising potential in a uniquely caring environment".

What people told us

The nursery was asked to distribute eight care standard questionnaires prior to the inspection. Three were returned and indicated parents were very happy with the service they and their child received.

We also asked parents during the inspection for comments. These included:
"Excellent care: staff are great."
"Staff are fab. They know the children really well. They work with me to help my child. I love them being outside and in the woods."
"The after school club is an excellent service. My children love coming here."
"We get great information so have a good sense of what's going on. They introduce new concepts to my child and he amazes me with new words and understanding. They lead the play with the child's interests. We get asked for suggestions and have opportunities to contribute to the child profile with what we see progressing at home."

Throughout the inspection the children were engaged and busy in their play. They sought out the staff when required. Children told us:
"I can make a bug house and feed it leaves. I leave it here when we go back to nursery."
"My favourite is the sand pit."
"I like everything."

Self assessment

A self assessment was not requested from the nursery prior to inspection. The manager was in the process of carrying out consultations with the parents and staff to create a new improvement plan. Many areas for development have already been identified by the manager and will be planned for within the coming months.

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	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

Children were cared for by warm, nurturing adults who knew their needs and interests well through active listening and good relationships with the parents. This ensured the children had responsive care delivered in a consistent, respectful and dignified way. Progression in children's learning and development was evident as the staff monitored and tracked their needs. This allowed for planning to cater for all children to ensure their needs were met. Children were also supported to assess their own needs and set goals, enhancing self-esteem and respecting views. Children were very much part of the school with many opportunities to aid the transition throughout their time at nursery.

The play experience was self-directed, creative and imaginative with time outdoors being available throughout each day. A range of natural open-ended resources were available for children to use as they wished both indoors and outside. The nursery had identified this as an area for further development which we supported. Children were able to balance, climb, run and hide around the garden, offering opportunities to develop physical skills and dexterity. A base camp in the forest was visited throughout the week where children could explore and use the natural surroundings to be creative, experiment and discover. Children led this play with staff extending and questioning to enhance thinking and investigative skills.

Children worked together, problem solved and made decisions within an enabling and supporting environment. They were trusted to be responsible around assessing their own risk in play; developed independence through helping roles; and were involved in planning and reviewing the service.

Children had their health, safety and welfare needs met by policies which were understood by staff. Healthy snacks and lunches were on offer. Children were encouraged to be responsible through preparing food and clearing away plates.

Medication was stored and administered in line with current best practice and was supported by the school matron. Appropriate safety measures were in place throughout the premises which allowed children to be more independent. Staff were knowledgeable about child protection issues and the procedure they would follow in response to concerns.

Children could access the after school club at the end of their nursery day. They experienced a continuity of care between the settings as staff from nursery accompanied them to the club. Verbal handovers and communication diaries gave staff the information they needed to meet children's needs.

Management ensured staff were fit to practice through using safer recruitment practices and quality assurance systems. Staff were encouraged to share their learning from training; and reflect on their practice in line with current best practice documents. Staff felt supported and enabled to provide quality care and support to the children.

What the service could do better

The service could consider how to enhance the children's autonomy around routines within the nursery. Examples of this would be quiet time and visits to the woodland base, both of which were structured planned activities during the inspection. Whilst we were confident the children had opportunities to engage in different types of quiet time activities, they should have the opportunity to decide what to engage in and when. Similarly with the woodland base; we were confident it was used throughout each week. We would however encourage a more free flow access to the base which would enhance children's outdoor learning. We signposted the nursery to the new Health and Social Care Standards to assist with this, in particular standards 1.9, 1.25 and 1.32.

We saw a behaviour management display which included sunshine to represent acceptable behaviours and clouds for the unacceptable behaviours. Children's names would be moved between the sun and clouds in accordance with their behaviours. We felt this system did not reflect the ethos of the nursery which focused on empowerment, self-esteem and confidence. The manager assured us that the system was most often used for discussion around behaviours and prevention. We would encourage the manager to continue developing the ethos already evident without the aid of the display. This would adhere to Health and Social Care Standards 1.6 which states "I get the most out of life because the people and organisation who support and care for me have an enabling attitude and believe in my potential" and standard 2.6 which states "I am as involved as I can be in agreeing and reviewing any restrictions to my independence, control and choice".

To further extend the quality outcomes within the after school club setting, the manager could consider monitoring and evaluating how they meet children's needs. Being clear about how children's development is progressed through the after school setting would assist the staff to be responsive and flexible in their planning and provision. The manager should consider the impact of her service on children's learning, health and wellbeing.

The manager should review systems to audit staff registration with SSSC. This would ensure annual renewals were addressed in a timely way to adhere to safer recruitment practice.

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	
9 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
9 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
19 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 4 - Good 4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.