Lasswade School
Day Care of Children

7A Pendreich Drive
Bonnyrigg
EH19 2DU

Telephone: 131 271 4615

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
7 September 2018

Service provided by:
Midlothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002602

Service no:
CS2003016400

About the service

Lasswade Primary School is part of Midlothian Council early years provision. The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 34 children at any one time between the ages of three years and entry into primary school.

The service is part of Lasswade Primary School. The service consists of a classroom with a kitchen and toilets. An adjoining play area opens directly from the garden allowing free flowing play between the two area throughout the session. Children also have timetabled access to the school sports hall and supervised access to the wider play area and orchard.

The aims and objectives of he service include the following:

"Continue to progress through working together and aiming high."

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke to a number of children on the day of the inspection. They were happy to talk to us, many of the children were curious to know who we were and why we were in the nursery. Representative comments from the children included the following:

"I like playing with my friends, we do lots of things, we wash our hands and we play outside."
"Watch me with the hoola hoop, Ms X (Staff name) says if I practice I'll keep getting better."
"I've been collecting plums and I've got apple seeds to plant. You know they're ready to plant because they're brown."
"Did you know that I can write my name do you want to see me doing it."
"We learn about sharing, because that's how you be kind to your friends."

Before the inspection took place we sent twenty Care Standards questionnaires to the service for distribution to families using the service. Seven of these were returned to us before the inspection took place. All of the respondents told us they strongly agreed with the statement "Overall I am satisfied with the quality of care my child receives in this service.

In addition we spoke to parents as they picked up their children. The following representative comments were received from both sources.

"Staff have a real understanding of each child and their individual needs. They have been great with my child who took a few months to settle in but now loves it!"

"Excellent nursery, extremely supportive and encouraging staff. My child really enjoys nursery and I feel confident in leaving them. I can see progress in all aspects of my child's development since going. I would highly recommend this nursery."

"We are very happy with the nursery, the staff are very kind and caring. Staff are good at letting me know what my child has been doing."

"This is the second of my children to attend the nursery. Both have really enjoyed it and I've always had complete trust in staff to look after my children well."

"My child sometimes asks if they can go at the weekend they enjoy being there so much. I think that says it all."

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan.This 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Experienced and enthusiastic staff created a nurturing and supportive environment for the children in their care. Staffs indepth knowledge of children's needs and interests and their commitment to share skills through effective team work helped ensure that children experienced consistent respectful interaction. We saw the impact of this in the way children took ownership of their environment moving freely between the indoor and outdoor playspace and approaching staff confidently when they needed assistance.

Staff's understanding of children and their ability support them as individuals was evident in the high quality of planning and written observations. We saw clear links between staffs written observations of children's interests and the next steps identified for supporting their development.

Staff worked confidently with children who required additional support very well, focusing on encouraging them to reach their potential. Staff were skilled in the use of communication tools such as sign-a-long and shared their skills to benefit children. These strategies enabled children to develop their confidence, communication, and self-esteem. Regular child planning meetings involving staff, parents and other professionals resulted in children receiving consistent planned support tailored to their individual needs.

Staff understood the importance of supporting children as they made the transition from home to nursery and on into primary school. Strategies included a book staff had developed about starting nursery, opportunities to visit, role play, and an openness to talk about feeling around these key points in children's lives. The impact of this was that children settled quickly to their chosen activities, this created calm and purposeful environment for learning.

The nursery environment provided children with an interesting and challenging environment both inside and in the outdoor play area. High quality resources and the abundant use of loose parts and natural materials supported children's imagination and creativity. Children were engrossed in their play which included the making of cars, diggers and shops. Others created physical challenges testing their bodies by creating climbing and jumping opportunities.

With staff's support children were learning to work together to share, negotiate and problem solve. A group worked intensely together building a house from cardboard boxes. We saw them discuss solutions on for example, to make a door that would open and a sloping roof. From time to time they asked staff for help. This was given in an enabling manner, staff understood the value to children's development of offering suggestions, rather than solutions and asking questions which supported their problem solving skills. This showed trust and confidence in children's ability resulting in children who were proud of their achievements.

What the service could do better

The service were in the process of auditing their resources. We discussed some areas where further improvement could be made. They included continuing the development of the home corner by introducing more natural and real life materials. Reviewing the large story corner in order to make it a cozier more restful space for children. Moving the water source nearer to the mud kitchen to make it easier for some of the younger children to make full use of this well laid out area. The service were happy to take our suggestions on board as part of their audit and review.

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 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment	5 - Very good 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good
1 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
9 Mar 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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