Royal Mile Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

86 Canongate
Edinburgh
EH8 8BZ

Telephone: 0131 556 3347

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 January 2019

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Service no:
CS2003017051

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.

Royal Mile Primary School Nursery is provided by the City of Edinburgh Council. It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged from two years up to primary school entry, of whom no more than 20 children will be under the age of three years.

The service is provided from a purpose-built building situated within the grounds of the primary school. There is a secure outdoor area accessible to the children and they have access to areas within the school such as the gym hall and larger playground area.

We carried out an unannounced inspection of this service on Monday 28 January 2019 and the inspection continued on an announced basis on Wednesday 30 January 2019. Feedback was given to the head teacher and principal teacher during and at the end of the inspection.

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 parents(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

During the inspection, children enjoyed a variety of activities and resources including; listening games, arts and crafts, the home corner, and outdoor play. Some children were confident in speaking with us and told us:

"I play in the house corner and with my friends."
"I like to go outside and play with everything."
"I went to Edinburgh to see the statue of Greyfriars Bobby."
" I play in the house corner, with playdough and butterflies."

Parents who spoke with us during our visit were complementary about the service. They spoke highly about the level of care their child received and talked positively about, their child settling into the nursery, the staff and the experiences on offer. Parents comments included:

"I am definitely happy. My child is happy, very happy they love it. Children are always out and about to the park, Dynamic Earth and to visit Greyfriars Bobby. They had a programme where all parents went out on a trip with their children."

"Happy service, my children are happy. They learn a lot of things, speaking English and have good care. The ladies are very nice, very helpful. Children go on many trips, they always keep me informed about what is happening in the nursery."

"Really happy. It was different at the beginning when my child had no English and only spoke their first language. They are happy and I see they have enjoyed their day at nursery, they talk about their friends."

"Really happy service and staff. My child has improved a lot, their language and importantly their development."

"I am very happy and my child is happy. There mood is changing as they are learning more things especially their language."

We sent 13 care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents. Three completed questionnaires were returned to us. All parents confirmed to us that they were 'Overall happy with the quality of care their child receives in the service'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed with the nursery teacher, the improvement plans and quality assurance systems to determine their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision in the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The nursery provided a welcoming and nurturing environment for children.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through daily exercise, healthy eating and personal care. Children in the three to five years playroom were aware of the nursery's routines, including having healthy meals and snacks, washing their hands and being active outdoors in the fresh air. Routines were positive and children were encouraged to carry out good hygiene practices.

Some children were settling into the service and the nursery routines. Staff were gentle and caring in their interactions as they supported children with their transition from home into to the nursery environment. Children were provided with reassurance and given a hug when needed.

All children were prepared for transitions within the nursery as staff gave them advanced notice of upcoming activities, this made them aware of changes ahead before moving on. However we found the transition from the nursery to the lunch hall within the main school building was not effective for some children, in particular the 2-3 year olds and for some older children who found transitions more difficult. The head teacher confirmed to us that Edinburgh City Council had plans to resolve this issue, and they were aware of the urgency needed to carry out the planned work, to build a kitchen and dinning area within the nursery.

We saw the experiences on offer to children after lunch time and found these were not effective for the younger children. We have asked the teacher and staff to review where children go within the nursery and what experiences they have on offer. We have also asked they review staff lunches to support the children's wellbeing and safety at this time.

E-learning journals were used to record and share children's development and learning with parents. We asked the service to consider how they could ensure children were more included in these records. We also asked the service to consider floor books as a means of involving children in planning and reflecting on their learning. This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) (1.15) 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'.

Staff were respectful in their interactions with the children. They supported children to be independent where appropriate through praise and encouragement. We talked to the nursery teacher about further ways to celebrate children's achievements in the nursery. In particular further developing the home school link by sharing and displaying children's achievements. This would helped to develop their confidence and self-esteem. This is consistent with (HSCS 1.6) 'I get the most out of my life because the people and organisation who support and care for me have an enabling attitude and believe in my potential'.

Older children were responsible and encouraged to choose and serve their own snack. Children were encouraged to put on their outdoor clothing and self-select from a range of play experiences available to them.

Although we saw systems were in place for recording medication, systems for recording long term medication were not clear, for example we saw that staff were not recording each dose of medication given to one child. We asked the provider to ensure children's safety and wellbeing by reviewing all administration of medication systems by following the Care Inspectorate's guidance: 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services', which can be found at https://hub.careinspectorate.com We will follow this up at the next inspection

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The environment offered a stimulating space, with playrooms well laid out and offering a variety of learning areas which allowed children to make independent choices. The playrooms had been developed to introduce more natural resources for the children to explore. The staff should continue to further improve the environment with natural resources and materials. In addition they should consider displaying more child's artwork ensuring these are displayed where children can see them.

Children had good opportunities to develop their listening skills and vocabulary through music, listening games and stories. We saw some children engaged well in these activities. The book area was bright and comfortable and children used this area well. Staff joined children and encouraged their interests in books.

Active physical and energetic play was encouraged indoors and outdoors. We saw children in the 2-3 years playroom had physical equipment which allowed them to freely develop their skills and use their energy. For example, soft play, a climbing frame with slide and small ride on toys which were all used well by the children. In the 3-5 years playroom children enjoyed music and movement, they visited the gym hall and were developing their skills using a gym horse, hoops and a trampoline.

The outdoor area was well used by the children. We saw the large climbing large frame, bikes and scooters were popular. They were experimenting with science activities for example, water turning to ice. However the outdoor area was in need of further development, this was an area identified for improvement at the last inspection. The service had plans in place to develop this area but no action had been taken. These improvements would allow children to benefit from more opportunities for 'loose parts play' which would develop their imagination, creativity and help them to problem solve. The provider should use the good practice resource 'My World Outdoors', which can be found at, www.hub.careinspectorate.com and 'Loose Parts Play' which can be found at www.inspiringscotland.org.uk to support improvement in these areas.

Staff were encouraging children in the 2-3 years playroom to be aware of their own safety, whilst climbing down the stairs as they prepared to go outdoors or over to the main school for lunch. Children's safety was encouraged whilst in the soft play area. We saw staff talked to children about being kind, busy and safe. Children were settled and relaxed in their environment.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

There had been some additions to the staff teams with the appointment of a new teacher and three new staff. This had impacted on some staff changes within the nursery playrooms. We found staff were working well to build relationships and were positive about team work. They told us they were supported well by the teacher who had an open door policy. The staff who returned our questionnaires described the recent changes to their working environment as improving team communication. They also stated that parental involvement had increased with more parents taking part in nursery activities and sharing in their children's learning and development.

Some staff had undertaken training to support focused planning, schemas, and undertaking observations of children. Staff had also taken on 'champion' roles for example, running 'Peep' groups - the learning together

programme, for parents/carers and their children, and introducing 'Story Sacks' which help to make reading a more enjoyable experience for children and stimulates language. We spoke to the teacher about staff taking responsibility for other roles for example, championing outdoor play as stated as an area for improvement under quality of environment and creative play. The good practice resource documents 'My world outdoors' and 'Our Creative Journey' would support staff in this role. They can be found at http://hub.careinspectorate.com

We saw staff were aware of and planning experiences to support children's schematic play and learning. Schemas help children to organise their thoughts, actions, feelings and ideas.

We saw staff respected children and parents and they made themselves available to welcome them at the start and end of the day. Parents who returned our questionnaires strongly agreed that "I am confident that staff have the skills and experience to care for my child and support their learning and development." The majority of comments we received from parents we spoke with during our visit were positive about the staff. They told us:

"They are a team of good staff"

"The staff take care of all my child's needs, and my child's language is definitely improving."

"Very happy service, if I have any problems the staff take time to talk."

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found the teacher to be enthusiastic, and motivated in working with the staff team to make positive changes in the service. They had reviewed the nursery's vision, values and aims in consultation with families. They were also in the progress of reviewing the nursery's policies and procedures. In addition, they had introduced new focused planning for children which involved parents.

The nursery teacher worked alongside the staff and this meant they could reflect on staff practice and identify any achievements or issues. Best practice documents and evaluation toolkits were shared with staff to help them assess and improve their practice.

The nursery had outlined key priorities for improvement which were in line with the National Improvement Framework, (the framework which sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish Education). There were systems in place for planning, monitoring and evaluating improvements within the nursery. Through professional dialogue with staff and the nursery teacher, they demonstrated to us that ongoing improvements would continue in order to promote positive outcomes for children and their families.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
1 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
24 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
7 Jun 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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