St. Mary's Primary School Nursery Class (Haddington)
Day Care of Children

Haddington Joint Campus
Tynebank Road
Haddington
EH41 4DN

Telephone: 01620 825 695

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 October 2019

Service provided by:
East Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002600

Service no:
CS2004059833

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

St. Mary's Primary School Nursery Class is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children aged three years - entry into primary school.

The nursery operates from Haddington Joint Campus. Children were provided with spacious playrooms and there was an outdoor area for active play that had been further developed to provide increased play opportunities outdoors.

The service's aims are stated as:

"To provide a safe and nurturing environment where all children feel happy, secure respected and valued.

To provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum that will encourage the emotional, social, intellectual and creative development of all the children.

To promote effective communication and partnership between home, school and the wider community to create confident children.

To liaise with local schools and other nurseries in order to provide a smooth transition between nursery and school.

To work with other agencies and people within our community to meet the needs of all our children.

To develop respectful relationships based open trust, fairness and equality.

To promote enquiring and enjoyable learning experiences, encouraging children to have a positive and resilient approach to learning."

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 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.

What people told us

We observed children and found them to be confident, relaxed and comfortable in the service. They related well to the staff and positive relationships had developed.

Prior to the inspection we sent out 23 Care Standard Questionnaires (CSQs) for the service to distribute to parents. We received 19 completed CSQs back before we undertook the inspection. We spoke with a further four parents during the inspection visit. Comments from both the CSQs and discussion during the inspection included:

"My child has built strong relationships with the staff. They are always excited to share their achievements and stories about what they have been doing at home with the staff. All the staff are very approachable and always seem to be working very hard to meet the needs of the children in their care."

"My child is in their second year at St. Mary's Nursery and we are more than happy with the care my child receives. The environment is stimulating and engaging and our child experiences a variety of learning opportunities when at the nursery. The staff are caring, kind and clearly hold the child at the centre, however in an environment with so many learning needs, I do feel that at times additional staff would be a welcome addition to work with individuals, so the main body of staff can focus on the main body of children. I would also like it noted, I in no way believe this impacts on the care of our child and I appreciate how budgets work."

"I preferred it when the kids had to change their outdoor shoes and put on gym shoes (inside shoes), just for hygiene this was better."

"The staff have been brilliant with my child. They have been using and learning new 'sign along signs' to help them communicate. They are all very warm and nurturing. The staff also encourage the other children to sign so they can connect with their peers."

"My child settled well into the service due to the staff being very helpful and encouraging. The service is amazing."

"I can not emphasise enough the level of attentiveness and support this nursery has shown my children since day one. So helpful and on the ball."

"St. Mary's nursery is outstanding. My child loves it and all the staff. The staff always make my child feel equal and involved in everything. There is an ASN staff member whom is invaluable, they guide and help my child to get the very most out of their time at nursery. The nursery endeavours all children to learn and use sign language and they use PECS with my child. They are all wonderful, this is an outstanding nursery and the children are very happy."

"Our child has just started their anti pre school year at St. Mary's and the staff could not have been more welcoming or reassuring. Settling in arrangements were clear and well organised. There is a wealth of activities on offer both indoors and outdoors. Our child could not be more delighted! Routines and systems are clear, and parents are kept abreast into news via the boards and staff interaction."

"There has been a lot of change in the nursery over the last year and the ladies have managed to keep everything running smoothly over this period. I do not agree with the council taking the nursery teachers from nursery, but the original staff have managed to keep the nursery running smoothly."

"A thoroughly welcoming and supportive environment. Dedicated and caring warm staff, ensure that my children are receiving high standards of care, values and experiences at St Mary's Nursery. Each child's differing needs have been met and the children have flourished in this environment."

"My child receives a high standard of care from all the staff at St. Mary's nursery. There are great links between the nursery provision and the school provision which will help the transition from nursery next year. Staff are always friendly and very positive with the children. My child loves role play and when the nursery schoolteachers are acting out we can tell very quickly how encouraging and supportive they are, as our child will use their phrases and tone. Beautiful and amazing to watch!"

"Although the service provided is still very good quality, the feedback in person is not the same since nursery teachers were removed from the setting."

"I am extremely happy with all the staff at St. Mary's nursery. They are all very attentive towards my child and work very hard to look after the needs of all the children. There are a lot of children in this group who require extra attention and the staff do an amazing job caring for them all. I do feel the facilities could do with some financial investment, in particular the outdoor space, which is quite run down. More staffing would also help to give the children more curricular learning and education, rather than lots of free play time. Overall I am happy that my child is in a safe, caring environment."

"Since starting the nursery, our child has grown in confidence and built great relationships with both staff and children. They look forward to going each day and come home sharing all the fantastic learning that goes on."

"The nursery is good and my child settled well. The staff are nice. I like that they don't need to change their shoes in the cloak room any longer."

"The nursery has been amazing, The staff have been doing everything they can to communicate with my child, even teaching all the children to sign. They settled well, where they struggled in other places. Such a nurturing and approachable staff team."

"My child is very settled, they started a year ago and the transition went very well. The staff are very friendly, attentive and they care for everyone's needs. This helped me as a mum to be at ease when their transition started. One improvement is not having to wear indoor shoes. We are kept well informed with the white board, it is great. The children have free play and can make their own decisions."

"All very good, generally incredible. So supportive, they encourage, care and enjoy my child! It feels safe and comfortable for me. They have brought me on as a parent, involving me in training for sign language. They are supporting me as a parent."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. We looked at the service's improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated the service's priorities for future development and how they were monitoring the quality of 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

St. Mary's Primary School Nursery Class provided high quality care and support to the children in their care.

The warm, nurturing staff team provided a safe, secure and supportive environment for children. We saw they knew the children well and demonstrated a very good working knowledge of their needs and planned accordingly. Parents confirmed to us their children had settled well into the service, were supported through their transition and received a high level of care and support.

A strength of the nursery, was the way staff supported children's language and communication skills. They used a range of visual aids, sign language and were very good role models. Children benefited from staff working effectively with other professionals to meet the individual needs of children. In addition we saw some staff - child conversations facilitated good questioning and reflection, to develop children's higher order thinking skills.

Children were learning about keeping healthy. They planned and went shopping for healthy food for snack along side staff. We saw they carried out good personal routines, with hand hygiene and tooth brushing. They talked about feelings, emotions and were encouraged to be kind and develop friendships.

The nursery had worked hard to make improvements to the garden since the last inspection, improving on natural materials, loose parts play, literacy and numeracy outdoors. Children had direct access outdoors and explored a range of spaces on different levels confidently. They were learning about keeping safe and were supported by staff in taking risks. There were a variety of resources and play experiences on offer for children to investigate, which we saw supported their physical skills and extended their learning, imagination and creativity. We could see some children preferred to play in the outdoor area and this benefited their wellbeing.

Since the last inspection, there was a more systematic and focused approach to self evaluation in the nursery to support improvement and better outcomes for the children. These involved staff, children and parents.

What the service could do better

Children's personal plans had been further developed, however staff should ensure all children's plans are updated a least a minimum of once every six months.

We discussed with staff the following good practice guidance documents which would support their practice:

'Setting the table' nutritional guidance, which can be found at www.healthscotlad.com
'Food Matters' resource which can be found at www.careinspectorate.com
'Our Creative Journey' available at https://hub.careinspectorate.com

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.

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

Recommendation 1

All accident records should be fully completed and parents should review and sign all recorders relating to their child.
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 14 Well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 29 September 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Accidents records were fully completed, reviewed and signed by parents. **This recommendation was met.**

Recommendation 2

Administration of medication records should be further developed to ensure staff keep an accurate, up to date record of all medicines they administer to children while in their care. The service should review their systems against the Care Inspectorate, Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' www.scswis.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 29 September 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service had further developed and reviewed the systems in place to record any medication administered to children. These systems had been reviewed against the Care Inspectorate, Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services'. We have asked the staff to record the reason why children are given medication. **This recommendation was met.**

Recommendation 3

The headteacher and staff should continue to further review and develop the systems already in place to monitor the quality of the service provided. A more robust approach to self-evaluation and reflective practice will support improvement within the nursery and provide better outcomes for the children.
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 13 Improving the service & 14 Well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 29 September 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

There was a more robust approach to self-evaluation and reflective practice within the nursery to support improvement and better outcomes for the children. For example, the use of the service's improvement plan, a self evaluation floorbook, and ways in which they involved children and their parents in making improvements.
The recommendation was met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
29 Sep 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
21 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
30 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
11 Nov 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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