Arniston Playgroup - Gorebridge
Day Care of Children

Stobhill Primary School
1 Bonnybank Road
Gorebridge
EH23 4DT

Telephone: 07544386845

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
15 January 2020

Service provided by:
The Committee of Arniston Playgroup

Service provider number:
SP2003003058

Service no:
CS2007151087

About the service

The service has been registered since 2008.

Arniston Playgroup is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 16 children per session aged 2 - 5 years. The service offers funded places for eligible two year old children.

The service is delivered from within Stobhill Primary School in Gorebridge, Midlothian. It has a dedicated playroom, kitchen area and toilets. The outdoor play space and the secure entrance area are shared with the school nursery.

The aims of the service include:

"Provide a safe and stimulating environment to children, parents and staff.
Promote and enhance holistic development of children.
Promote personal hygiene and wellbeing by providing nutritional snacks and supporting the Childsmile programme.
Provide educational opportunities to children.
Have an inclusive setting, sharing information with parents and other relevant bodies."

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 and included.

What people told us

We sent fourteen care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents. Eight were returned to us. Seven parents strongly agreed and one agreed with the statement 'overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.'

Comments from parents included:

"The care my child receives at Arniston playgroup is fabulous. As a parent the most difficult thing is entrusting your child to care givers. With the group of staff at Arniston Playgroup I have no reservations about leaving them. I have every faith in their abilities."

"Overall, a great environment with brilliant staff who treat me and my child with respect."

"My child loves going to playgroup and always seems very happy and tired when I pick them up."

"The staff always give me a quick update of what my child has been doing which I really like."

"It is a nice, small environment for very young children."

"The staff are very good at creating new play zones indoors to keep it more exciting and stimulating for the children."

"Plenty of outdoor space and toys for fresh air and exercise."

"Staff are really friendly and my child has settled in well."

The parents we spoke with during the inspection were supportive of the service and the care given to their child. A parent told us they found this to be an "inclusive service".

We observed children enjoying the variety of activities and experiences available to them. The home corner, outdoor play and dinosaurs were all favourites on the days we visited. Children were confident in asking staff for resources which were not already out for them. Staff responded kindly to them. We saw children were content and busy and enjoying the company of their peers and staff. Children were happy for us to join in their play and their conversations. They told us they liked playing "outside", "in the water", "with dollies" and with the "dinosaurs".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. On the days we visited the service we listened to staff telling us about the improvements and developments they had made in the service and what they had planned for the future. This included 'developing a shared vision, values and aims of the Early Learning and Childcare setting' and 'starting to link direct observations of children to evaluation'.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were happy and having fun on the days we visited the service. They were able to choose their activities freely and were well supported as necessary by staff. Children could choose to play indoors or outdoors.

Staff knew children well and responded kindly and sensitively to children who needed reassurance, support and/or a cuddle. Children were encouraged to be kind to their peers and we saw them being respectful and helpful to each other. Children were encouraged to recognise their emotions and show willingness to resolve any minor conflicts between themselves. By making friendships, developing independence and building on their self-esteem the young children were learning to self regulate and manage their emotions and behaviour in different situations.

My Playgroup Journals allowed staff, children and parents to give an account of the learning being done and identify possible developmental next steps for individual children. Personal planning included information about children's care needs. It was evident staff knew the children very well and were able to not only support them, but their wider family. Wellbeing and pastoral logs highlighted conversations staff had with parents, gave details

of any planned next steps in development and identified possible strategies staff might use to provide extra support. A parent told us "I have had my child's hearing checked as a direct result of a conversation with staff."

Lunch and snack times were seen to be unhurried and supportive of children becoming independent and comfortable with different food stuffs. These were social times where we could see that children enjoyed the company of their friends and the staff. Staff sat with the children and talked with them about their food choices as well as general chat.

Throughout our visits it was evident staff valued what children had to say to them. They listened with keen interest and acted upon views and suggestions of how they wanted to play. For example, home corner play was extended to support a children's wish to feed "her babies".

Children's achievements were recognised and celebrated through daily praise, written observations of their learning and acknowledgements in the 'floor book'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were playing the way they wanted to as staff supported them to make choices about where and who they wanted to play with. The large outdoor space, which they shared with the school nursery, was well used by the children. They enjoyed having the freedom to run around in the fresh air and either play on their own or with friends. We saw that all the children played well together, whether they were from the school nursery or the playgroup.

The routine of the day was free-flowing meaning that children's play wasn't interrupted allowing them more in-depth learning and fun. There were opportunities for mark making and counting throughout the playroom and outdoor space which were extended by staff during play activities. This promoted children's early literacy and numeracy skills.

Open ended materials were used in all areas which allowed children to develop curiosity, enquiry and imagination. Children were supported to lead their own learning. For example a large selection of dinosaurs were very popular. These were used in counting, naming and recognition from books. Another child was learning about the properties of water. Staff allowed them to experiment and have fun even if it involved getting quite wet.

In their daily play children were learning about 'risk' and about keeping themselves safe. This was evident on the outdoor climbing frame where a young child was gaining confidence in their climbing abilities. Staff agreed to

further involve children in the management of risk, for example by helping to check the outdoor space before play.

Through observations, schematic play was identified and understood by staff. This gave them a better awareness of each child's current interests and ways of thinking. Schemas are repeated patterns of behaviours demonstrated by children, for example transporting, connecting and transforming. They're seen in children as they develop, explore their world and find out how things work, and can be displayed physically, verbally or in drawings. Staff involved parents in helping them to understand the importance of schematic play.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The kind, caring and hard-working staff worked well together to promote the best outcomes for the children. One parent told us "The staff are all really friendly and approachable" and another said, "My child is always very excited when I tell them they are going to playgroup."

The warm and nurturing relationships staff had with the children encouraged them to be comfortable in their setting. Staff provided good role modelling and were consistent in their expectations of manners and behaviour, making children feel secure and happy.

Staff told us of how they valued the support they had within their team. They were aware of each other's strengths and learned from each other as they worked. They welcomed the support of the management committee and from early years staff from the local authority. Staff were aware that some of the recent changes they had made within the setting were in their early developmental stages. For example changes to how they recorded and evaluated activity planning. However, they were sure that they had the capacity to take new ideas forward successfully.

Regular staff and management committee meetings allowed staff to share any learning they had undertaken, discuss practice issues and plan future developments and events. It was evident staff were becoming more reflective in their practice and were able to put their learning into action throughout the setting. As a result staff were confident and relaxed in their roles. Staff acknowledged that they now need to be more proactive in their learning and embed new guidance within the setting. Guidance and information can be found at TheHub@careinspectorate.com. One staff member commented in their staff questionnaire "I have become more confident, not only in my abilities but in the quality of management and the service as a whole".

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

A committed and motivated staff team and management committee provided a positive ethos for families around learning and being involved in the service. The team were able to reflect on their practice and use their learning to provide a good service. This culture meant parents feedback and involvement was encouraged and valued using various methods. For example, being encouraged to be an active management committee member and offering 'stay and play' sessions to parents.

Improvement planning was fluid. All staff, committee and parents were involved in developing ideas and putting new guidance into practice. There was an air of mutual respect for everyone involved.

Systems were in place for staff appraisals and these were seen to be inclusive. Staff told us it gave them the opportunity to review their training and work together with a shared vision.

The service had worked hard to ensure the committee and staff had clearly defined roles within the service.

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

Requirement 1

In order to ensure children are protected from harm, the service is required to carry out safer recruitment checks before persons are employed in the service. Safer recruitment checks are as follows:
- A clear PVG check or scheme update.
- Two references at least one of which is from the previous employer.
- Confirmation of registration with the SSSC. Or confirmation of an application to join the SSSC if this is the individuals first post in a care service.

This requirement is effective from Monday 11 February 2019.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 4.24 which states "I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited" and in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011(2011/210) - regulation 4 Welfare of users and regulation 9 Fitness of employees.

This requirement was made on 27 March 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement
All staff are PVG checked and confirmation from SSSC before taking up employment. Two references are required before starting employment. Recruitment policy had been updated, shared with all staff and committee.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the committee clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each member of the team. they should ensure that they understand their responsibilities as employers in line with SSSC codes of practice and their registration with the Care Inspectorate.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 4.23 which states 'I use a service or an organisation that are well led and managed'.

This recommendation was made on 15 January 2020.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Every member of staff understands their position and every committee member understands their position in the committee and all work as part of a team.

This recommendation had been met.

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	
25 Jan 2019	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate
27 Mar 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate
23 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed 3 - Adequate
18 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing	4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
22 Mar 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
6 Dec 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed
11 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
30 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 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.