Fox Covert Early Years Centre
Day Care of Children

Clerwood Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 8PG

Telephone: 0131 339 3749

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Inspection completed on: 3 May 2018

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Care service number:
CS2014334475

About the service

Fox Covert Early Years Centre is a purpose built premises, situated in the ground of Fox Covert Primary School. The centre consists of three large indoor play spaces and large enclosed garden areas that can be accessed through sliding doors from all playrooms.

The centre is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 85 children at any one time ages 2 years to primary school age entry.

The centre's vision is 'to provide high quality Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), in a natural, nurturing environment that values and respects everyone, ensuring our children are co-creators of their own learning journey'.

Their values are:
- To build and sustain partnerships with families, recognising the individual views, relationships, experiences and needs.
- To value each family without discrimination based on race, culture, religion, gender, sexuality, age, disability or contribution to society.
- Work in partnership with statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies to enhance collaborative practice.

Their aims for children are to:
- Become individuals who care and share.
- feel happy and secure in our environment, developing an enquiring mind and a spirit of curiosity.
- Grow in confidence and build our resilience to become independent.
- Respect each other and celebrate our uniqueness.
- Develop positive growth mind-set.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check that services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by the 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 all children and young people - and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, procedure, strategy and legislation that affect young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are also known as the SHANARRI indicators. We use the indicators at inspection to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

Children were confident and enthusiastic about their own learning. They were engaged with the nurturing staff team who responded quickly to their needs. A sense of fun and laughter was evident throughout the day and children were motivated to achieve. They told us:
'I am rolling the wheel'.
'My baby (doll) is hungry'.
'The water is fun'.

'We make bread for snack'.
'My Daddy is coming to pick me up'.
'Look I'm skating'.

Before the inspection took place we sent out 45 care standard questionnaires. Sixteen were completed and sent back to us. In addition we spoke to a sample of parents as they arrived at the centre. In both these sources, parents showed complete satisfaction with the service provided. Example comments were:

'The staff and management clearly care about the children and their wellbeing. The nursery is an excellent environment for my daughter and she has really developed socially since starting. The staff are also very supportive of me as a parent. I feel fortunate that my daughter is able to attend this nursery'.

'I find the environment warm and welcoming. The staff are wonderful and I am so happy with my child's experience here'.

Fox Covert Early Years Centre is excellent. All the staff are amazing. Both my children attend on ( ) and ( ) which is a fantastic service. IF they didn't offer this service my children could not attend state nursery. The holiday club is fantastic too for working parents and ( ) had really enjoyed this. The nursery keep you very updated with how the children are getting on with their online observations which are so lovely to see. The staff are so encouraging and I can't believe how much ( ) has changed and grown with their help. He is so confident and has leant so much at nursery. ( ) has just started and is already learning so much. I love everything about this nursery. It's fantastic'.

'My son attended the nursery for two full days at first, unfortunately this was too tiring for him. The nursery had no quiet time or quiet area to allow a bit of time out from play. I moved him to 4 am sessions as this time was available. The staff have tried hard to settle him in again and give him a good experience at nursery. He continues to have good days and not so great days. The staff have been very supportive. The weekly newsletters about what the centre is doing is great as the information lets you know what your child is doing and what's going on'.

'My son has settled very well into nursery since starting in January. When he has been a bit anxious the staff have always been there to reassure him. He seems to enjoy playing in the both rooms and outside. I get great feedback about his time and educational development through the portal'.

'My child has had the best two years here. Thanks to all, especially ( ) and ( ). It is an excellent facility in all areas'.

'My daughter really enjoys FCEYC and is happy being dropped off each morning. I recently attended for a stay and play session and it was great to see my daughter in her nursery environment interacting with her friends. I'm very happy with our choice of this EYC'.

'Cannot recommend Fox Covert and its staff highly enough. They are always so friendly, engaging and interested in the children (and parents). Nothing is ever too much trouble and they communicate regularly and clearly. ( ) loves going and we have really seen her flourish and develop in advance of starting school. I will be sad when she leaves'.

'Excellent nursery and very caring and competent staff members. Excellent management also'.

'My son is a visual learner and the staff recognised that. Staff made a book for my child when they were transitioning into the older group and it was great. I like the stay and play sessions and I love getting the emails to have a look at his learning journal'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance systems. These demonstrated the service priorities for development, detailing how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service and reflected their continual improvement cycle approach.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The centre put children and their families' wellbeing at the heart of everything they did. They had successfully established a warm, nurturing and inclusive ethos within the centre. We observed children and parents being welcomed into the centre in a way that was sensitive to their individual needs. This contributed to them feeling safe, secure and respected.

With an enabling attitude and belief in children's potential, staff provided children with extensive opportunities to be challenged, creative and curious. Children confidently explored their environment, and were seen to be thoroughly engaged throughout their day. Open ended and natural resources promoted children's imagination, with skilled staff extending their learning where appropriate. We saw most children choosing to play in the outdoor areas that were available to them all day every day regardless of the weather conditions. The system for planning for play and individual learning journals demonstrated a responsive approach that clearly took account of children's own experiences, needs and wishes. Children very much had ownership of their environment, impacting positively on their experiences and outcomes.

The centre was committed to supporting children to be emotionally resilient and have a strong sense of their own identity and wellbeing. They had developed innovative strategies around self-regulation and mindfulness. Three 'Growth mind set' dinosaurs were used as a method of supporting children to adopt a positive attitude to learning. This reinforced that children's efforts were important, it was good to try our best and it's okay when things do not go the way we thought they would. Parents told us of its success for them and their child in celebrating success with the staff and their peers.

Children who needed additional input and families with English as an additional language received sensitive and responsive care and support from the staff team. From reading records, talking to staff, children and parents we saw that staff were successfully providing children with the care and support that was right for them.

Staff were extremely passionate and had an excellent understanding of what was best for children and recognised that their capacity to learn and develop as professionals was key to providing a high quality service.

Their ability to reflect upon and critically evaluate their practice meant they were continually improving outcomes for children. Each individual member of staff took ownership of their own leadership roles and through excellent communication worked together to deliver the best outcomes for children.

Staff had received training on their language and behaviours to support children to enjoy eating healthy food. Staff told us that the outcome of this was children were trying a wider variety of food, and the overall eating experience was calmer and more enjoyable for both them and the children. This was evident from our observations of mealtimes, snack preparation and baking activities.

Our conversations with staff demonstrated sound knowledge of child development and understanding of effective early learning and childcare practice meant they could plan effectively for the future of the service with aspirational and ambitious goals.

What the service could do better

We shared that in our feedback a parent commented on the lack of updates in their child's learning journals. From the sample we looked at, we did not evidence a lack of information however, the service have told us they will reflect on this comment and be proactive in addressing it.

We found the nursery to be delivering excellent care and outcomes for children. The centre manager and staff demonstrated an understanding of and a commitment to the continuation of providing this high quality care for children.

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	
28 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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