Dirleton Playgroup
Day Care of Children

Dirleton Kirk Hall
Manse Road
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North Berwick
EH39 5EL

Telephone: 01620 850 486

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 April 2019

Service provided by:
Dirleton Playgroup a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Service provider number:
SP2016012707

Service no:
CS2016346785

About the service

Dirleton Playgroup is located in a church hall within the village of Dirleton in East Lothian. The accommodation consists of a playroom, kitchen, toilets and outdoor area to the front of the hall.

The playgroup is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children at any one time aged from 2 years to not attending primary school.

The stated aims and objectives of the playgroup include the following:

'To provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment and to provide valuable learning opportunities for all children from ages 2-5.'

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 Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We observed the children as they played with the variety of activities and experiences available to them which included access to outdoor play. Children appeared happy within their environment. They were confident in their interactions with staff and their peers. Some children chatted with us and happily told us what they liked to do whilst they were at playgroup.

We sent 15 Care Inspectorate care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents. We received eight completed questionnaires before the inspection took place. The parents all strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the playgroup. Some parents and carers wrote comments which we discussed with the manager whilst ensuring their anonymity. Representative comments included:

'A well run playgroup with dedicated staff. Amazing outdoor play options in the woods, forward thinking manager who is always looking to improve. I feel lucky to have been able to have both my children benefit from this play experience.'

'We are extremely happy with the service Dirleton Playgroup provides. They are very good at treating the children as individuals and responding to their needs. The staff come across very patient and caring with a real passion for their jobs. It's been an essential part of my daughter's social development and learning and preparing her well for nursery school.'

'Fantastic facility. I can't fault it. The manager and the team are fabulous and my daughter adores the staff and her time at Dirleton Playgroup.'

'We could not be happier with the service offered by Dirleton Playgroup. Our daughter absolutely loves her time there as well as the staff whom we feel are kind and nurturing. The sessions seem to have a lovely structure to them with welcome and goodbye songs, snack time, etc. We also enjoy looking at the journal the staff keep on our daughter's time at playgroup.'

'Such a lovely playgroup! The staff clearly care for all the children and are always a delight. The outdoor play spaces are really special and the walks exploring the local area, watching the changes in nature, are particularly good due to the unique location of the playgroup. My little girl has thrived in this environment with such wonderful staff.'

'All (number) of my children have attended Dirleton Playgroup. The manager and her team are absolutely excellent. They genuinely care for the children. It is such a caring and safe environment. My girls love it there.'

Self assessment

The service has not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These 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	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

Children and families were warmly welcomed into the playgroup by staff who were respectful and nurturing in their interactions with the children. This helped the children to be confident and comfortable within the service. Information was gathered from parents about their child, for example family information, medical and dietary requirements. This along with regular discussions, helped to keep staff informed about children's individual care needs. This information was regularly reviewed with parents and kept up to date.

Planning had been reviewed by staff and a different format was being used. It reflected children's interests and ideas and was evaluated to consider children's progress and learning. Children's views and ideas were valued and respected by staff. Their achievements were celebrated and evidenced in their learning books which resulted in children being supported to achieve through engaging child centred experiences.

The playroom and outdoor area gave children opportunities to choose what type of play they would like be involved in. The pace of the sessions was child led with staff support. Resources and activities were linked to children's interests, offered challenge and supported them to play independently. Staff were skilled at adding resources to extend the children's play and they intervened appropriately knowing when to interact in children's play and when to step back and observe.

Monthly team meetings were held and were recorded. The meetings were used to discuss specific topics such as planning, update children's learning books and to share training experiences.

The staff team worked closely together to identify and implement areas of development within the playgroup and to enhance positive learning outcomes for children. They used documents such as 'Building the Ambition' and the 'Health and Social Care Standards' to carry out self evaluations. The staff team had developed the

playgroup's Improvement Plan which identified priorities for the development of the playgroup. It was updated to show when priorities were met. There were plans to begin using the document 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare' as part of the playgroup's self evaluation. The manager was going on training and would share her learning with the rest of the staff team.

Parents were involved in the life of the playgroup and were given a variety of opportunities to evaluate the service. For example, through daily discussions with staff, emails and attending committee meetings. The playgroup promoted an ethos of respect and valued the views of staff, children and families. This meant the team worked well together and empowered change to benefit the children's experiences.

What the service could do better

Snack time was a social occasion. Staff prepared the daily snack which offered healthy options and included lots of fresh fruit. Children were supported to pour their own drinks. To enable children to have further opportunities to be independent staff should support children to help prepare the snack, serve themselves and tidy away their dishes once they were finished.

To ensure children's next steps for learning and development were being identified and recorded appropriately the staff team should review the methods being used. The manager felt that the new forms being introduced to record staff's observations would ensure this was being carried out. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

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

The manager should ensure that all information held about children attending the service is reviewed and updated with parents at least once every six months. Updated information received verbally from parents should be recorded to allow this to be reviewed in line with legislation.
National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 14: Well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 7 November 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The manager had reviewed the system for reviewing and updating the information held about the children attending the playgroup. This was being carried out at least once every six months or sooner if required. Therefore, this recommendation has been met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
25 Sep 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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