Southdale Nursery
Day Care of Children

Southdale Way
Armadale
Bathgate
EH48 3PR

Telephone: 01506 284300

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
18 June 2019

Service provided by:
West Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002601

Service no:
CS2016347286

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

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 22 August 2016.

Southdale Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 70 children aged two years to those not yet attending primary school with a maximum of 10 children aged two years to under three years at any one time.

Southdale nursery does not currently care for any children under three years old.

The service is located in Armadale, Bathgate within Southdale Primary School. There is a large open plan playroom which includes a kitchen and adjoining toilets. The space also includes a large cloakroom, an adjoining playroom space, used for children to relax and rest and some smaller group activities and large outdoor play area which children can access directly from the room. Children also access the school gym hall and dining hall regularly.

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). Set up by 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 children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of getting it right for every child. They are: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

Ten families returned questionnaires to us before the inspection and we had two focus groups with families using the service during the inspection. The majority of the feedback was very positive. We explored the feedback which highlighted areas where the service could improve through the inspection and our findings are detailed in the report. Some of the comments are recorded below;

"Southdale is a great nursery for my daughter and she loves going."

"My child loves attending nursery, she has a very good relationship with all the nursery teachers and children."

"I feel the nursery has given my child the confidence to carry out any task. She has been involved in the nativity and also the echo group. She has come on leaps and bounds since starting nursery and this has helped her for moving into P1."

"The nursery has excellent facilities and encourage my child's development."

"My daughter is very happy and settled there. The staff are friendly and approachable, my daughter has a positive attachment with them."

"I feel my child's individual needs are being met and she is learning new things daily."

"My child tells me about the group discussions they take part in at nursery and they seem to have lots of opportunities to make friends there."

"My child attends two full days a week, I spoke to staff about them missing out on learning opportunities that arose on the other days- such as trips and assemblies.
They took the feedback on board and I feel they have made a big effort to ensure all the children are included in all opportunities. Such as an outing to the museum to see 'dippy' the dinosaur which linked into the children's interests at nursery."

"I was really pleased with the recent mothers day stay and play which the nursery had. I enjoyed being invited in to see my daughter and play with her in the setting."

"I think they know the children as individuals and my children really enjoys the free flow to outside."
"It would be great if they got more opportunities to go out into the real world and do things in small groups."

"It's a really child led experience and the communication is great."

"They make sure my child get opportunities to do things which are more complex and give them a challenge in their learning."

The children we spoke with throughout the inspection were happy and confident at nursery enjoying exploring the resources and opportunities available. The children told us they liked the staff team and had fun at nursery. The children were building positive relationships with each other supported by the staff team well.

Self assessment

The service were not asked to submit a self-assessment before this inspection. We saw that the management team involved staff, families and children in evaluating the quality of the service throughout the inspection. The service shared their plans for developing the service with the families using the service, for example through displays and regular electronic updates.

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

Children had positive relationships with the staff who were kind caring and respectful in their interactions. We saw that staff supported children to build relationships with each other and make positive choices about their behaviour using praise and encouragement. Where children had additional needs staff were working with other agencies to support children to achieve. Families told us that they felt welcome in the service. We saw that the service asked for their feedback and used this to change and improve the quality of care provided. Children's Learners Journeys shared their achievements and had most had clear next steps to build on children's individual development and helping families feel involved in children's learning.

The children enjoyed regular access to the nursery garden where they were enjoying active play in the fresh air helping them to stay healthy. Parents told us their children were learning new skills in climbing and balancing through their play with large 'loose parts' in the garden area. We saw that the children were also developing negotiating skills and learning how to assess risk for themselves. Staff were available to children when they wanted them but did not interfere where children were managing this well for themselves. This was helping them to feel respected and responsible.

Snack and lunches were relaxed social experiences for children where staff supported children to learn about keeping themselves healthy and to try new foods, for example paw paw, star fruit and dino melon during lunch. The children were encouraged to be independent at snack and lunch, helping to prepare snacks, choosing when to have snacks on most days, serving and tidying up their dishes independently. On Friday morning the children had an 'all together' snack to allow them to have a large group experience which the children who attend on full days had at lunch time. Staff felt that this ensured that the children had similar experiences at nursery.

Children had opportunities to learn new skills, explore, problem solve and be creative throughout the nursery. The service made good use of the smaller playroom to allow children to have different experiences at nursery, for example providing riskier activities like woodwork with closer staff supervision and providing dens and cosy spaces for children relax and rest.

We saw that experiences were planned for the children based on their interests and floor books showed what new things they learned while exploring their interests. This could help them to discuss their learning and revisit it later.

We saw that transitions were well planned to help children feel safe when starting in the service and confident when moving on. Children accessed different areas in the school regularly throughout their time at nursery helping them to become familiar with the school. We saw the children spend time playing in the early level area which was building their confidence in building relationships with older children and the school staff.

The children were allocated a 'school house' when they started and were included in school activities through this, for example some school assemblies. The children enjoyed working with their 'school buddies' and 'French ambassadors' in the nursery during our inspection.

The entry system was secure and the large cloakroom allowed staff opportunities to see parents for private discussions at drop off and collection times.

Children told us about the different 'jobs' in the nursery which they could volunteer for. For example the children were learning to care for the nursery resources and environment when they were the 'water monitor'.

Children had been on a few trips out with the nursery for example a visit to see 'dippy the dinosaur' at Kelvingrove Gallery and a 'bear hunt' in local woods.

This helps the children to gain experience in the wider world and build new skills. The staff team had been proactive about bringing opportunities into the nursery for example the children had met therapy animals and been visited by the fire service and ambulance staff as some local resources were difficult to access due to the nursery location.

What the service could do better

We spoke about how the service could review the amount of times children's play is disrupted throughout their time at nursery to ensure that they are able to lead their learning more effectively.

The service should continue to review and build upon current auditing systems for children's medication.

We spoke about continuing to develop the use of hand and pictorial signs to enrich the communication in the service for all of the children.

The service could continue to develop systems to communicate with other services who care for children to share achievements and next steps to provide consistency of care where for example children attend a childminder or private nursery.

We spoke about developing the pastoral care notes to show what action has been taken to ensure children's safety where concerns have not reached thresholds for care and welfare concerns to be taken to other agencies. The management team were confident that new on-line records, which would be used from the start of the next school term, would address this fully.

We spoke about continuing to develop the experiences outwith the nursery, for example local community visits and accessing natural environments. We discussed monitoring which children had, for example, visited the shops to buy snack for nursery to ensure that all children had the opportunity to develop the skills built on these experiences.

The staff team told us they planned to further develop the outdoor area to give children a richer variety of experiences, which would benefit the children who choose to play outdoors more often.

The children had free flow access to the garden at set times of the day. During the lunch period children spend the majority of their time sitting and resting. We spoke about extending the free flow access to allow children make choices about where they wanted to play throughout the session and to help them to be active and stay healthy.

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 provider should ensure all information held on children and their care needs is reviewed at least once every six months. This will result in an appropriate personal plan being in place which remains up to date. This is to ensure the service meets current legislation and care and support remains relevant to children's individual needs.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 6 - Support and Development.

This recommendation was made on 22 September 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation
The service had developed their systems to ensure that these were reviewed in line with legislative requirements.

This recommendation is: met.

Recommendation 2

We recommend the provider offers more opportunities for children to experience time in and around the local community. This may include visits to the library, shops and local woodland for example.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5 - Quality of Experience.

This recommendation was made on 22 September 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Since the last inspection the children had accessed local shops and woods and had been on outings to the beach and Kelvingrove Gallery to see 'dippy the dinosaur'. The service had also brought resources from the community into the nursery as they are on the outside of the town and it is challenging to access some resources. This meant children had opportunities to meet therapy animals and emergency staff and climb on emergency vehicles at nursery. Staff told us they planned to continue to develop this aspect of the service.

This recommendation is: met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
30 Aug 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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