St. Boswells Nursery
Day Care of Children

St. Boswells Primary School
Greenside Park
St. Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0AH

Telephone: 01835 823252

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 September 2019

Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001976

Service no:
CS2018363580

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

About the service

The service has been registered since August 2018. This is the first inspection of the service.

St Boswells Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 48 children between the ages of 3 years and entry into primary school.

The service will operate from within St Boswells Primary School. The setting benefits from an enclosed garden and use of the school grounds.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

"We aim to provide experiences which sustain both meaningful engagement and progression in learning through play.
We aim to provide stimulating learning environments that are matched to the child's level of development, interest and need.
We aim to have warm, responsive relationships with the children and interactions that promote curiosity, independence and confidence.
We aim to create an ethos where our children and their families feel valued, welcomed and respected."
We aim to work successfully in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals to achieve the best outcomes for all our children."

We found the aims to reflect the service.

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 observed children enjoying a variety of activities and experiences available to them. We saw that they were confident and content during their play and their interactions with each other and with staff. Children were comfortable in the setting and staff were attentive to their needs. Children were confident and happy to chat with us. They shared their learning journeys with us told us about what they liked to do when they came to nursery. For example:

"It's good fun here."

"I like playing outside. We have lots of things to do."

"These are all my friends."

We sent 14 care standards questionnaires to the service to give to parents. Ten were returned to us. All parents strongly agreed with the statement 'overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.

Representative comments included:

"The nursery environment is a happy one and the staff are excellent."

"My husband and I could not be happier."

"They are an outstanding team and go out of their way to help. I cannot praise them enough for their kindness and support they have given to my child."

"The new facility is excellent. The space is great for the children."

"They have helped build my child's confidence while they have been at St Boswells. They learn something new every day and can't wait to go, they even ask if they can go on Saturdays."

My child loves to go to nursery and I believe that this is due to the clean, safe environment and excellent staff. they have flourished."

"The setting is very calm and well thought out space, with lots of natural light and a very comfortable feel to it."

"My child enjoys going to nursery, loves the teachers, activities, snack and other children. They never moan about nursery."

"My child enjoys going and the progress they have made is fantastic. Staff continually assess children and support/enhance their learning appropriately."

"My child loves attending the nursery to play with their friends. They love to play outside every time they are there and loves all the teachers."

We spoke with five parents and carers. All five were very supportive of the service. Parents commented on individual staff members of being a great support to them and their child.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. On the day we visited the service we looked at and listened to staff tell us about the improvements and developments that were in progress and what they had planned for the future. The school improvement plan gave details of how the service planned to move forward.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were happy, confident and having lots of fun on the day of our visit. Children were able to choose their activities freely and were supported as necessary by staff. Children had the freedom to play indoors or outdoors.

Staff knew children very well and responded kindly and sensitively to children who needed reassurance or a cuddle. Children were respectful and encouraged to be kind to each other and were encouraged to resolve conflict themselves where possible which helps children become more resilient.

We reviewed children's personal plans which included information about children's wellbeing and care needs, staff were able to talk about individual children confidently and knew children well. These were reviewed with parents and there was clear recording of parents input. We discussed with staff about extending this further by detailing strategies staff might use with children who need extra support.

A healthy snack was provided during the session and there was a floorbook showing that children were valued and were able to contribute to what happened at nursery. Children were supported to be independent during snack when selecting what they were eating and pouring their own drinks. Snack was healthy, unhurried and sociable. Staff sat with children and talked with them about their foods choices as well as talking about what they had been doing both in and out of nursery.

Throughout the session, we observed children's interests being listened to and extended by staff who provided additional resources. Staff were very responsive to children's interest in animals and used an educational television program to learn more.

Children's achievements were recognised and celebrated through day-to-day praise, observations of their learning and on a display showing children's achievements out of nursery. Parents told us that they valued the amount of communication they received from staff and that staff shared their child's successes with them.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The nursery has a large well-resourced indoor space. The play areas were set out clearly which meant children could make choices about where and who they wanted to play with. The garden area had a large variety of activities on offer and children were able to choose their own resources which encouraged independence.

The routine of the day was free flowing meaning that children's play wasn't interrupted allowing more depth of learning. Children had opportunities for rest in a cosy story corner and staff supported children where needed. There were opportunities for mark making and counting throughout the playroom and garden which were extended by staff during play activities. This promotes children's literacy and numeracy skills.

Open ended and natural materials were used in all areas which allowed children to develop curiosity, enquiry and imagination. Children were encouraged and supported to transfer materials from area to area which allowed children to explore different uses and problem solve.

Children were involved in risk assessing the outdoor space which allowed them to take ownership of the space. This supports children understanding how to keep themselves and others safe. Children were responsible and respectful of the indoor environment and wanted to help with routines such as tidy up time and they asked staff for 'jobs to do'.

Children were supported in learning about how to keep healthy, we observed children washing their hands after being outside and before snack and brushing their teeth after snack. This promotes confidence and independence in personal care routines.

Staff have been assessing the environment regularly. We looked at the improvement plan and it was evident that this was having a positive impact on the experiences on offer for children, for example the quantity and variety of loose parts resources. Staff told us that the garden is to be developed and we discussed the use of best practice guidance to help them plan. We discussed with staff about extending opportunities for children learning in the local community.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The kind, caring and hard-working staff worked very well together in order to promote the best outcomes for children. A parent told us "the lovely, supportive staff truly care about them and their peers". We saw the warm and nurturing relationships staff had with the children. Children were very comfortable in their care as staff listened to and valued what children had to say. Staff provided good role modelling and were consistent in their expectations of manners and behaviour, making children feel secure and happy. A parent told us "The staff are all friendly, approachable and professional and I feel confident that my child is cared for to the highest standard."

Staff told us of how they valued the support they had within their team. They also welcomed the support from management and from Scottish Borders Council. Through regular meetings staff were able to share training,

discuss practice issues and plan future events. It was evident staff were reflective in their practice and put their learning into action throughout the nursery. As a result staff were confident in their roles. A parent commented "they are an outstanding team and go out of their way to help".

Staff understood their role in supporting children's learning and through conversations and effective questioning children were encouraged to be curious and problem solve. Staff demonstrated their knowledge of play types through the experiences and resources offered to children. A parent commented "A fantastic nursery where staff nurture and develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding. Always learning opportunities set up to capture children's imagination and creativity".

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 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 very good service. This culture meant parents feedback and involvement was encouraged and valued using various methods. For example, being encouraged to be an active member of the parent council.

The improvement plan highlighted areas staff were developing in order to promote best outcomes for children. This included the ongoing development of the outdoor space and emerging literacy.

The acting deputy head teacher had recently taken up the remit for the nursery class. They observed staff practice and monitored developments within the setting. They agreed to put a calendar in place in order to evidence how and when monitoring took place. Leadership roles were encouraged amongst the nursery team and staff could be involved in monitoring aspects of the setting.

Staff valued the regular visit from a member of the Early Years Support teaching team from Scottish Borders Council.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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