Yetholm Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Yetholm School Nursery
Yetholm
Kelso
TD5 8RD

Telephone: 01573 420 363

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 March 2022

Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001976

Service no:
CS2018372008

About the service

Yetholm Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 23 children at any one time aged from 2 years to not yet attending primary school of whom no more than 5 are under 3 years.

The nursery is self-contained, within Yetholm Primary School and consists of a large open plan playroom with toilet facilities and a kitchen area. Children can access the outdoor play area directly from the playroom. Local parks and amenities are close by.

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on March 28 2022, between 9:30 and 12:45. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection, we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with the manager, staff and children
- looked around the club and areas used for children's play
- observed staff practice and care of 5 children attending the service
- reviewed feedback about the service from parents
- reviewed policies, procedures and records.

What people told us

We observed children at play and spoke to them throughout the inspection. Children were happy and confident within the environment and keen to engage with us. They told us they enjoyed their time at the nursery and had "lots of fun" and "lots to play with". They were supported well by staff who had a good knowledge of their needs. This supported them to feel valued, respected and included.

We received feedback from four parents, they were all very positive about the service.
They felt that staff were both flexible and accommodating in their approach and communicated well. They told us they loved the focus on the "outdoor approach" and it was "a wonderful nursery".

Self assessment

An up to date self assessment was not requested. We reviewed the quality assurance processes in place for the nursery as part of the inspection process.

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

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children were happy and settled in the service and were receiving very good levels of care and support. They were clearly respected and valued by staff and were made to feel included. Staff had built trusting relationships with children who told us that staff were "very nice".

Personal plans contained relevant information that supported meeting children's individual needs, routines and their likes and dislikes. Staff spoke with confidence about the children and knew them well. Information was regularly reviewed with parents to ensure it was current and relevant in supporting children's needs.

Children were offered a range of activities and experiences that encouraged them to follow their interests and lead their own play. This allowed them to make their own choices and engage with activities at their own pace. We saw children having fun and engaged in activities which included "feeding the babies" badminton and "digging up the hole to fix the pipes". Staff were skilled in enabling children to follow their own interests and planned meaningful opportunities to extend children's learning.

Children were included in the planning of activities, and their views and ideas gathered.
These were recorded in floorbooks and were reflected in the activities provided. One example included children's exploration and experimentation of alternatives to paint brushes. Learning journals tracked children's progress and observations and responsive planning identified next steps, These were reviewed by staff and external professionals to ensure opportunities and experiences offered challenge and depth to promote positive outcomes.

Mealtimes were positive experiences for children which were relaxed and unhurried. Staff sat with children and encouraged social conversations which promoted learning opportunities. The menu provided was nutritious, met current guidance and met children's individual dietary needs. Children told us they enjoyed the role of being "helper of the week". This contributed to their independence, confidence and self-esteem. Lunch was served in the school dining hall which provided opportunity to join the school children. This meant that they were able to develop friendships and be part of the whole school experience. This inclusive approach and familiarity supported children to build their confidence and allowed for a smoother transition to school. Children told us they enjoyed being with the school children for lunch.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, we observed children being supported to understand the need for good hygiene and handwashing and there were clear policies and procedures implemented to ensure consistent approaches across the nursery setting. Children told us that "bubble hands keep the germs away".

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children were cared for in a warm and homely environment which was clean, bright and well maintained. There were cosy places for children to relax in and space for collaborative play. Children benefitted from the free flow access to the garden. This meant they had the freedom to choose where and when they wanted to play and engage in periods of sustained and uninterrupted play.

Toys and resources were freely accessible which supported children's interests and helped to develop their ideas and thinking. Children were actively engaged with a range of activities and played co-operatively together in the home corner and the outdoor area "mending pipes" These opportunities supported them to learn through exploration, curiosity, creativity, and problem solving.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported as they had free flow daily access to the outdoors for fresh air and exercise. The outdoor area had been developed and improved on since the nursery opened and provided a range of natural spaces and resources. Children confidently explored the outdoor areas, experimenting with the mud kitchen, "camping area" and playing badminton and ball games.

As well as access to the nursery garden children benefitted from regular involvement in the local community and surrounding area. They regularly accessed the local park, woodland area riverbank, and a community allotment plot to grow their own produce. This supported their wellbeing and sense of belonging. Children told us they "built dens in the woods" and "grow things to eat".

The environment was clean and procedures and practice within the setting supported good infection prevention and control. Staff carried out daily checks of the environment and risk assessed all areas to make sure they were safe for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Staff were enthusiastic, warm and caring towards children. They communicated well as a team, helping to ensure relevant information was shared to meet the needs of children. Staff had a good knowledge of childcare and were motivated and committed to achieving positive outcomes. Staff told us they felt included and their views valued and respected.

Positive relationships had been built with parents and their involvement in the service was encouraged. Learning journals provided a method of communication to share information that supported meeting children's needs. Parents told us that "staff created a safe and warm environment and that that staff were "amazing".

Processes and systems were in place to ensure the professional development of the staff team. Regular team meetings and development opportunities encouraged staff to improve and reflect on practice, Recent staff training in outdoor learning supported staff to challenge children in their learning, including risk taking and resilience.

The impact of training was being tracked by the head teacher as part of the self-evaluation process. Staff were confident reflective practitioners and worked well together to bring about positive changes. They met regularly to evaluate the quality of the service, using best practice guidance to identify improvements needed to support better outcomes for children.

Staff were recruited in line with safer recruitment guidance and all were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). All staff that we spoke to clearly understood their role and responsibilities which led to positive experiences and outcomes for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Staff told us they felt very supported by the head teacher and their ideas and views were listened to and respected. The headteacher was very involved in the nursery and good direction and support for staff was impacting positively on children's experiences.

Staff had developed positive relationships with parents and kept them informed about their child's experience through daily conversations. Use of social media gave parents the opportunity to be involved in their child's day by sharing photographs and information. Parents told us that communication was good and it was "a wonderful nursery".

Children's voices were heard and respected. We saw evidence of this through the interactions with staff, responsive planning, floorbooks and discussions with children. Staff regularly consulted with children to gather their ideas and help with planning for activities.

Quality assurance processes were in place, which helped support the monitoring and development of the service. Staff on a daily basis carried out different aspects of the self evaluation process which was reflected in their responsive and promotional planning. This was having a positive impact on the outcomes for children.

The nursery had its own priorities within the wider school improvement plan. These were being monitored regularly to ensure that improvements were being made and sustained. The improvement plan was underpinned by relevant local and national guidance and legislative frameworks and had been shared with parents.

Children benefited from a culture of continuous improvement which promoted positive outcomes for children and supported very good care.

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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