

Edenside Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Inch Road
Kelso
TD5 7JP

Telephone: 01573 224 264

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 September 2017

Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001976

Care service number:
CS2003016107

About the service

This service has been registered since 2002.

Edenside Primary School Nursery is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 at any one time between the ages of 2 years and entry into primary school, of whom no more than 10 children will be aged between 2 years and 3 years.

The services operates from within Edenside Primary School. They have a secure outdoor play area and use of the school playgrounds, including the 'secret garden'.

Vision and aims of the service include:

"We prepare our learners with skills for whatever path they choose in the future.

We celebrate each other's strengths and work together to support everyone to achieve their best.

Together we are caring and inclusive.

We encourage creativity and independent thinking."

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 (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 children and young people - and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use the indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children. Information on SHANARRI can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What people told us

We observed the children enjoying a variety of activities and experiences available to them both indoors and outdoors. They were confident and content during their play and interactions with each other and staff. Children were keen and happy to chat with us and were able to tell us about what they liked doing at nursery and what they had been doing. For example "playing outside in the castle", "building things outside", "playing with my friends", "everybody's happy here" and "I like the new nursery".

We sent 20 care standards questionnaires to the service for them to give to parents to complete. Sixteen were returned to us. Twelve parents strongly agreed and four agreed with the statement 'overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.

Some of the written comments received through questionnaires included:

"The staff are fantastic. They have helped me with issues at home when I have been unsure on what to do with my child."

"Staff are very informative and always so friendly."

"My child loves their nursery teachers."

"My child has had toilet problems. The staff have worked with me to help them. Nothing was ever a problem and they made me feel comfortable enough to ask for help when needed."

"Edenside Nursery is a fantastic place to send my little one. I feel very fortunate to have such a great nursery on the door step."

"Staff are fantastic and I am thrilled with the social progress my child is making."

"A fantastic nursery which my child has always felt comfortable and safe."

"My child has progressed well and enjoys every day they spend at nursery."

"Fantastic staff who give 100% making sure the children are happy and providing them with the correct level of learning skills. Well done everyone."

"My child is very happy being at Edenside Nursery. Their development and confidence has been amazing."

"My child has thoroughly enjoyed their time in nursery and I have enjoyed watching them flourish in a learning environment."

"The staff have been wonderful in preparing my child for transition to school. I couldn't have wished for a better start to my daughters early years in education."

A parent commented that they would have liked the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at a parents evening. Staff told us that they would be happy to speak to parents at any time about their child's progress as they had an open door policy. We suggested to staff that parents are reminded of this. Another parent thought that fun outings would be good for the children. Staff told us that they are working on this at the moment. Links were being made with the fire service and police. A parent told us that they thought that snack was not always as healthy as they would have liked. We reminded staff to include parents and children in putting together snack menus.

The parents we spoke directly with were all happy with the quality of the service and happy that their child was happy. One parent told us "the staff were born to do this job".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. Prior to the inspection the head teacher sent us a copy of the current nursery development plan. Staff talked to us about the improvements they had planned and the developments that were currently in 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	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The enthusiastic and skilled staff team were focused on creating a fun, happy and stimulating child led learning experience for all the children. Staff had a genuine regard and respect for the children in their care and the relationships between staff and children were friendly, kind and nurturing. We could see that staff knew all the children well and staff were seen to have warm and welcoming relationships with the parents. Strong links between nursery and school ensured smooth transitions for children entering primary class.

Staff were keen to support children in the creation of the spaces in which they played and children were confident in approaching staff if the resource they wanted to play with was not already out. The environment

was rich in numeracy and literacy and was supportive of giving children time to persevere with their thinking and inquiries and to re-visit experiences in order to build up confidence.

By offering children a rich variety of resources from which they could choose meant children were involved in leading and designing their own play, learning and development. We saw many examples of this with the successful promotion of loose parts play in which children were able to create richer learning experiences through use of imagination and creativity. Children were learning about the world around them whilst taking responsibility for caring for plants they were growing and making sure caterpillars and mini beasts were safe.

Independence was encouraged by offering free flow access to the outdoor space and providing children with waterproof outdoor clothing in which they could play out in all weathers should they wish. Offering children opportunities to bake and prepare snack allowed children to learn about healthy lifestyles promoting wellbeing and socialising with their peers.

We saw that staff intervened with children's play only to enable them to extend their play and encourage them to balance any risks with the benefits of their wellbeing and safety. Staff would ask children 'is it good thinking?'. This supported children to take responsibility for their own safety whilst ensuring they had free choice to play how they wanted.

What the service could do better

We saw children's independence was being encouraged throughout their time in nursery however we did see some missed opportunities. For example, children could be more involved in the snack process by cutting their own fruit, washing their dishes or filling the dishwasher.

All about me information was kept for each child along with observations and identified next steps to learning however some aspects of personal care had not been recorded. Staff knew how each child was to be cared for but this had not always been recorded and would be of benefit should staff be absent from work. We suggested a chronological record be kept with current details of for example, toileting issues, and any conversations with parents as to the care of their child. Staff agreed that this would be a good idea.

We found staff could further develop their familiarity with the Playwork Principles. These are a nationally recognised professional and ethical framework for playwork. In the light of this we suggest the service should consider writing a play policy which would be linked to the ethos and aims of the service and have links to other policies and procedures. This would encompass all principles.

Staff shared children's learning with parents on learning trees. These displayed photographs and descriptions of activities children had been taking part in. Links could be made to SHANARRI highlighting how the wellbeing indicators are an integral part of child development.

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	
29 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
8 Oct 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
27 Oct 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
7 Jan 2009	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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