

Outdoor Nursery Edinburgh (ONE) Day Care of Children

50 Howden Hall Road
Edinburgh
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Telephone: 0131 620 4380

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

6 August 2019

Service provided by:

Outdoor Nursery Edinburgh Ltd

Service provider number:

SP2014012311

Service no:

CS2017361751

About the service

The Outdoor Nursery Edinburgh (one) is situated in the Liberton area of Edinburgh. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 46 children at any one time aged from seven months to not yet attending primary school of whom no more than 12 children are under two years.

The service consists of playrooms, outdoor play space, toilets, a kitchen and office space. There are gardens and outdoor play areas at the front and rear of the building.

We check that services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as 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. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC, they are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

Before the inspection took place we sent fifteen Care Standards questionnaires to the service for distribution to families using the service. Seven of these were returned to us before the inspection took place. All of the respondents told us they strongly agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service." In addition we spoke to some parents as they dropped off and picked up their children. The following representative comments were made:

"Staff at One have been fantastic with my two children. My oldest child has had settling issues. The staff have always been on hand to make suggestions about how we can help them settle or support me in getting them happy with being dropped off."

"A great nursery, well run, friendly helpful staff."

"I am delighted with the level of care and the quality of experiences my children get at One. The outdoor /woods time is fantastic and allows them to learn safety as well as creativity."

"Always someone on hand to talk to me if I need it."

"I'd like to see the babies outside more, they go for walks but I don't often see them in the garden."

"Staff always seem happy to see us when we come in in the morning. This makes a big difference, I go away feeling that my children are cared for."

We chatted to some children, their comments included:

"Your lucky to see me because I'm going to school soon. I've learned quite a lot and I'll be big then."

"My best thing is the garden and the forest. I know a lot of things about the animals that live there."

"I help my friends because that's being kind."

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self assessment. During the inspection we spoke to the manager about the services improvement plan and quality assurance measures."

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We spoke to a sample of staff across the service and found they were able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the developmental stage and interests of the children in their care. Staff had developed positive trusting relationships with children responding to them with warmth and kindness. The impact of this was apparent in the relaxed and confident way children reached out to staff for comfort and reassurance.

Children were encouraged to develop skills in thinking, investigating and problem solving. A balance of free play and organised activities allowed children across the nursery to explore the environment and make choices at their own pace.

Personal plans were in place and were reviewed at least once every six months. This helped ensure that staff had all of the information they needed to meet children's care and support needs. Staff showed their respect for children by ensuring that their interests and ideas were used as the basis of all the activities they took part in. We were able to track this in ways that included written observations, minutes of meetings, information in children's learning journals and floor books.

Staff understood their role in supporting children's developing self esteem. They recognised and celebrated children's efforts and success using praise and encouragement in an appropriate and meaningful way. This resulted in children who were proud of their nursery and their ability to contribute to it through tasks like tidying up, helping with snack and caring for their friends.

We saw from our observations of children's on line journals that many staff were skilled in making observations and linking them to meaningful next steps supporting children's development. We asked the manager to consider how they could use these staff to help less experienced staff to achieve the same standard across the service.

The nursery employed a cook to make healthy, balanced meals which took account of children's dietary needs and allergies. Meal times were social occasions where children sat together sharing conversation and learning social skills. The menu's, based on current nutritional guidance, were displayed in the nursery and made available to families. This helped ensure balance between meals at nursery and at home.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The environment was secure. Visitors were asked to sign in and to wear ID if they carried it. This helped ensure staff knew who was in the building and the purpose of their visit.

Playrooms were welcoming and well laid out so that children were able to access toys and resources without adult help. This supported children's independence allowing them to decide where and what they wanted to play with. The nursery gardens were well equipped with loose parts and natural materials which supported imaginative and risky play.

All children had regular opportunities to play outdoors in the garden and on walks to places of interest further afield. Preschool children spent several sessions a week in a near-by area of woodland which staff had identified as being suitable for their use. It was apparent from children's comments that they enjoyed the freedom this experience offered developing an understanding of nature as they confidently shared their knowledge of different trees and plants. Children were encouraged to take a risk benefits approach to play in the nursery and in the woods and to think for themselves as they explored their environment. Staff told us they felt children's confidence in their skills in climbing, running, jumping and in decision making had increased as a result. On the day of our visit to the woodland the team leader used her own phone as a means of communicating with the nursery. We pointed out the risks associated with this and asked the manager to ensure that staff taking children on outings always used a nursery phone the manager agreed to do this.

Children who needed to sleep and rest were able to do so in comfort. All children slept flat and had their own bedding which was changed regularly. Staff checked sleeping children regularly and used a monitor with a video facility to listen into children. We asked the provider to consider increasing the frequency with which sleeping children were physically checked. They agreed to do so.

One of the children's toilets required attention in order to ensure that it was always maintained to a clean and hygienic standard. The manager immediately contacted the cleaning company and a deep clean of the premises was arranged. However the quality assurance procedures in place to monitor the overall quality of the service had failed to identify concerns (reference: HSCS 5.2). The manager should ensure that quality assurance procedures are followed and that if staff are aware of any concerns they report them appropriately.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We looked at a sample of recently recruited staff. Safer recruitment procedures had been followed. All staff were qualified or in training and had registered or were in the process of registering with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The SSSC is the body that registers staff working in the care sector and decides on the level of qualification required for each post. Staff who are not registered with the SSSC may not be employed in the care sector.

We spoke to some of the most recently recruited staff. They confirmed that they had taken part in a structured induction. They felt that this was a supportive process which built confidence because it helped them to understand their role in the service.

Staff confirmed that they took part in an annual review and regular one-one appraisals of their work. This included looking at their strengths and areas for development. They felt this was a useful process for supporting their professional development by, for example, identifying relevant training courses.

Staff had access to an online training provider and it was clear that they had used this to support their learning in areas including Pre Birth to Three, Schematic Play and Building the Ambition. Staff were confident in describing the key documents supporting their practice and in giving examples of how they used their learning to support children's overall experience. The manager was aware of benefits to staff of attending a range of training courses both internal and external. Staff who attended external courses were expected to share their learning with the staff team.

During the inspection we spoke to a sample of staff about the impact of their learning. We found they were confident in describing how they used key documents to support children by using their interests and skills to form learning plans, support experiences and promote positive outcomes.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The senior management team worked well together and had a strong presence in the playrooms. They played a key role in supporting and mentoring staff recognising and rewarding effort and ambition.

The views of parents and children were valued. Questionnaires invited parents and children to express their views on the service they receive. Parents were invited to join the parents committee where they could share ideas and work together with staff to make improvements. Sharing the services improvement plan with all families helped ensure that they were kept informed of plans for ongoing development of the nursery.

Polices and procedures were reviewed regularly. This helped to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date with best practice.

The complaints policy gave families information on how they could take forward any concerns they might have in relation to the service.

Quality assurance procedures were in place however they were not effective in picking up areas for improvement identified in the report. The manager accepted that this was an area which required consistent monitoring in order to ensure standards were maintained.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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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