

# Outdoor Nursery Edinburgh @ Mother Goose Nursery Day Care of Children

50 Howdenhall Road  
Edinburgh  
EH16 6PJ

Telephone: 0131 620 4380

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 7 March 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Joyce Nicoll

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002973

**Care service number:**  
CS2004073689

## About the service

The nursery operates from a converted detached residential property in Edinburgh. The accommodation comprises of playrooms for four age groups, toilets, kitchen, garden to rear and front of the premises. Children also spend time in a nearby woodland area.

The nursery is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 38 children aged birth - five years with a maximum of 12 children under two years of age.

Aims and objectives for the nursery were in place and are displayed in the policies and procedures for the service which are available for parents in the hall of the nursery. Aims include:

'To provide quality care for the child in a safe secure loving environment in which children feel happy and secure.'

'To promote the welfare of children.'

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they have the best start in life are ready to succeed and live longer healthier lives.

We check that service 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 early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, procedure, 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 known as the SHANARRI indicators. We use the indicators at inspection to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

## What people told us

During the inspection we spent time playing with and observing children in the nursery. The children appeared happy and settled in the care of staff. Some children were happy to chat to us about the things they enjoyed including playing in the garden, going to the woods and playing with friends.

Before the inspection took place we sent 30 Care Standard Questionnaires to families using the service . Fifteen of these were returned to us before the inspection took place. Twelve respondents strongly agreed and three agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the care my child receives in this service." We also spoke to a sample of parents during the inspection. Representative comments included :

"I am absolutely delighted with the level of care my child receives . The girls have always made an effort to make them feel welcome in the nursery.

Our children get out as often as possible, they always have great fun and love the indoor activities to."

"I feel the children, particularly the younger ones, do not spend enough time outside in the garden on walks and activities outside the nursery."

"Overall we are very happy but do feel our child doesn't get as much time outdoors as suggested from the way the nursery promotes itself."

"Staff create a friendly homely environment and I can't praise them enough, my child is always coming home with new words and skills."

"My child loves the staff, the meals are excellent and always balanced, things he won't touch at home."

"Settling in was fantastic and staff are amazing. As a first time mum I have no idea of the acceptable standard the nursery has with regard to viruses/illness. I have no view of the planned activities and only receive updates after the fact."

"My child comes home every night tired, happy and full of wonderful stories."

"We love the friendly ethos of the nursery. Our child is thriving there. It was a difficult decision to put our child in nursery but we have no regrets."

"There are not enough quality craft/ painting activities. My child only ever brings scribbles on scrap paper."

"Brilliant staff who clearly enjoy their work and form strong bonds with the children. We love the amount of time they spend outdoors."

Comments were discussed and shared with the provider.

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the provide. The provider identified what it thought the service did well and gave examples of planned improvements.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	4 - Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	4 - Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

The service had developed a number of ways to support communication and information sharing with the nursery and to allow families to express their views on the service they received.

Enthusiastic staff had developed positive nurturing relationships with the children. Many demonstrated a clear understanding of children's needs and how to met them. Children of all ages were encouraged to express their views, this included using prompts to support younger and pre verbal children's ability to make choices. Staff respected children's ideas and interests using them to form the basis of activities which were flexible and did not restrict their ability to initiate new activities.

Experienced, reflective and confident staff used their knowledge of children's individual learning styles and their experience of best practice documents to ensure that activities provided challenge and fun.

All About Me books and personal plans were in place for all of the children. These plans demonstrated confidence in identifying and managing a range of children's needs.

Displaying children's arts, crafts and project work throughout the service helped to create a welcoming environment which valued the contribution of children and helped them to feel a part of the nursery community.

The layout of playrooms and the positioning of toys and resources allowed children to move around freely and confidently choosing what they wanted to play with without adult support. The increased use of heuristic and

natural materials supported creative and imaginative play. Staff in the baby room observed that the increased use of natural materials had led to a calmer and more relaxed environment.

Quiet comfortable areas in the playrooms gave children the opportunity to rest, and to engage in quiet play both individually in small groups.

The well equipped nursery gardens gave all children regular access to active outdoor play. Older children also visited an area of local woodland . Children were enthusiastic about these visits which helped to develop their understanding of the natural world. Staff supported children to think about keeping safe when outdoors and to assess risk. We saw that children were enthusiastic in this task. They were beginning to take risks in their play which supported confidence in the capabilities of their bodies and in decision making.

## What the service could do better

Less experienced staff could benefit from support in using best practice documents to consistently support a quality experience for the children. We made a recommendation about this. (See recommendation 1).

Not all care plans were signed and dated to evidence that they were reviewed on a regular basis. We made a recommendation about this. (See recommendation 2).

We spoke to the provider about the untapped potential in the woodland play area which we felt could be developed . We asked them to plan more carefully for the kind of unique play experiences the children could have in the woodland area and how this could be supported. We made a recommendation about this. (See recommendation 3).

We showed the provider areas of the nursery which were not cleaned to a sufficiently high standard. These were attended to as soon as they were pointed out however more active steps should be taken to ensure the maintenance of a clean and safe environment. We made a recommendation about this. (See recommendation 4).

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 4

1. it is recommended that the provider uses the experience that exists within the staff team to support and develop less experienced staff in the use of best practice documents to further support positive outcomes for children .

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare ( NCS) Standard 12 Confidence in Staff.

2. It is recommended that the provider ensures that reviews of care plans are consistently signed and dated as evidence that they are reviewed at least once every six months.

NCS Standard 14 Well Managed Service.

3. It is recommended that staff consider how they can support children to have an outdoor experience which offers freedom without guidance and which encourages them to use their imaginations and the abundant natural materials in the area.

NCS standard 5 Quality of Experience.

4. The provider should ensure that cleaning procedures in the nursery are regularly monitored to ensure they are always maintained to an acceptable standard. Where staff see areas that need attention they took take appropriate action to deal with it. If necessary the provider should increase the time allocated to cleaning tasks.

NCS Standard 2 A Safe Environment.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
4 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
15 Apr 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
19 Dec 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 2 - Weak Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
3 Dec 2013	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing 1 - Unsatisfactory Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
15 Apr 2013	Announced	Care and support 3 - Adequate

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate
10 Apr 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
18 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate
14 Jul 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 2 - Weak 2 - Weak
14 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 3 - Adequate 4 - Good 4 - Good
3 Jun 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate

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