

Great Western Pre-School @ Broomhill Day Care of Children

323 Broomhill Road
Aberdeen
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Telephone: 01224 319530

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 12 July 2017

Service provided by:
Lorndale Aberdeen Limited

Service provider number:
SP2013012192

Care service number:
CS2013321321

About the service

The nursery operated from a house which had been adapted and extended to create two main areas for children. The upper floor provided an open plan playroom for babies and toddlers up to the age of two years. This floor also had a small kitchen, toilets and nappy changing room, plus a sleep room with cots.

The ground floor had two entrance areas and consisted of three playrooms leading off each other, children's toilets and nappy changing area, an office, kitchen and staff room. The nursery had a separate decked outdoor area for the babies, as well as a varied and interesting outdoor garden for use by the 2 - 5 year old children.

The service was registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 48 children at any one time who were not yet attending school. The service operates between the hours of 7.30am - 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

What people told us

On the day of the inspection all the children were seen to be happy with the wide variety of activities which were available. They were keen to engage with staff and the other children. Children were pleased to talk about their activities and often said they liked coming to play with their friends. They were proud of their obstacle course and those that found it challenging sought support to complete it.

The 16 parents who responded to the Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) were all happy with the service and agreed that their child appeared happy and confident with staff. They felt that staff had the skills and experience to care for their child and help their learning and development. They all agreed there was enough space, equipment and activities for their child, though six did not know if their child's views were taken into account in planning future activities. All agreed they were kept informed and 14 thought their ideas and feedback had been taken into account in developing the service.

Parents comments included:

- "All staff are always friendly, cheerful and willing to offer any assistance required. They always provide full information about how our child has been through the day. The nursery is excellent at making sure the children spend plenty of time outside in the fresh air".
- "I am very positive about the way the nursery has handled my child's food allergies".
- "I feel the staff know my son extremely well and take excellent care of him. I receive feedback on his activities and interactions daily".
- "Daily communication could be more consistent and with more detail. The staff are an asset to the nursery and my child loves them, they show great care and attention. This is very much appreciated as a parent".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance processes. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

The nursery had been created from a house and the scale and layout of the rooms still gave a home like feel to the premises. They provided a safe and pleasant environment for the children with ample choice of activities, especially on the ground floor for the 2 - 5 year olds, who had access to a large and well resourced outside area. Children were very active in this varied outdoor space and staff respected their ideas and encouraged them to take responsibility for their play. During the day children created obstacle courses, vehicles and forts using tyres, crates and other 'loose parts'. Through this they were learning about working together, taking turns and resolving conflicts within the group. They used art resources to paint pictures, as well as a shed wall. There was a large enclosed role play area with a well equipped mud kitchen and children were seen to be actively using the space and resources with the encouragement of staff. They were learning about science through making ice boats, experimenting with water and balancing objects, supported by staff who had training on play outside and the benefits of using 'Wee Green Spaces'.

Inside the nursery had a variety of learning environments, as well as a quiet, home like area with a sofa where staff were seen to sit with children who needed a cuddle or a story. Children were helping themselves to art and craft materials, using the messy play room with playdough, sand and water, choosing from jigsaws and games, imaginative play or sitting reading.

Throughout the building there were very informative and attractive displays for parents, staff and children. These included displays on GIRFEC and the Shanarri wellbeing indicators, children's activities and themes. A display recognised and celebrated the achievements of staff and children together. Information was also available on the website and Facebook postings.

Floor books on themes suggested by the children showed in-depth challenge and learning as they explored the difference between endangered and extinct species. Activities were age appropriate, there were many real items in use and the children were seen to be motivated and engaged in their learning.

The nursery was one of a well-managed group of nurseries whose quality assurance processes sought regular feedback from parents, children and staff. This was analysed and used to develop an improvement plan, which was shared with staff and parents. Support and training was provided for managers and staff to meet the improvement targets. The organisation had their own training centre and staff were involved in regular training sessions, staff meetings and supervisions.

What the service could do better

The decking area outside for the 0 - 2s was very limited in comparison with the 2 - 5s outside area. There were few natural resources to stimulate the senses, encourage learning or let the children have fun exploring a variety of materials. The nursery was actively seeking views from parents and staff on how they should develop the area and lessons from 'My World Outdoors' should be applied, along with looking at Schemas and how babies learn. The youngest children were not having enough access to the fresh air outside or opportunities to make use of outside resources. On the day of the inspection many were not out until the afternoon. The importance of the process rather than the product must be stressed in planning activities for the youngest children and the lessons from 'Building the Ambition' about fostering creativity, curiosity and inquiry should be taken into account when planning the environment, as well as activities.

Children were all seen to be encouraged to wash their hands before snack and lunch, but staff members did not supervise the queue of children waiting to wash their hands and many of the children failed to wash their hands effectively. Staff need to monitor the children when they are hand washing and remind them of the process, including the need to use soap. **(See recommendation 1.)**

Both staff and children were seen to lift the lid of the pedal bins to dispose of paper towels and other items, which is a possible source of cross infection. It was agreed that the nursery would provide small open bins beside the sinks, for the disposal of paper towels, and remind staff of the importance of using the pedal provided when disposing of other items.

During lunch time the children were encouraged to help themselves to sandwiches, but not offered the plates from the lunch trolley. This resulted in children eating their sandwiches off the table, which was less hygienic and did not re-enforce socially acceptable eating habits. Cutlery and plates should always be provided to encourage good eating habits and staff should sit with children to encourage good manners and a social atmosphere. Children would also learn from having more independence and involvement in food preparation and serving at snack and meal times.

There were attractive and informative displays and floor books, but children's mark making should be further encouraged to add to the photos and information being recorded. This would help to give the children more ownership and a greater sense of achievement in the recording of their work.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The hand washing regime should be reviewed to ensure all staff are aware of and encouraging children to follow the correct hand washing procedures.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare Up to the Age of 16 - 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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Grading	
2 Apr 2015	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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