

Tip Toes Children's Nursery Ltd

Day Care of Children

Valeview
Stenhousemuir
Larbert
FK5 3BY

Telephone: 01324 551444

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

17 October 2018

Service provided by:

Tip Toes Children's Nursery Ltd

Service provider number:

SP2015012530

Service no:

CS2015338877

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 10 December 2015.

Tip Toes Children's Nursery Ltd is a private nursery located in the village of Stenhousemuir. The nursery is very much part of the local community. Children have access to a welcome area and cloakroom rooms, three large playrooms, designated baby sleep area, toilets and a well planned and resourced outdoor area.

The nursery makes use of a wide variety of natural resources and has a focus on supporting children to learn and enjoy outdoors in a way that is appropriate for their needs and stage of development.

The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 58 children of whom no more than 10 are under 2 years, 16 are aged from 2 years to under 3 years and 32 are aged from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. During school holiday periods, care can be provided to a maximum of 8 children up to the age of 6 years.

The aims of the nursery include the following;

"to provide child-centred quality education in an environment that will support your child's needs and development and to support every child to reach their full potential."

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What people told us

We saw that children were happy and confident within the service. They were able to organise their own play and we observed children, laughing and playing role play games with friends. A particular interest at the moment appeared to be transport in particular aeroplanes. A small group of children enjoyed imaginative play in the mature tree area in the garden (looking for a bear). They were confident, vocal and curious and interacted warmly with staff and each other.

During our visit children told us:

"I think it's a nut, I will see if I can open it".

"I like sausages". (when asked about lunch)

"I'm looking for the bear in the trees".

"Look after the babies, writes stuff, keeps us safe, teaches us". (when asked what do staff do)

We sent out 20 care standards questionnaires for parents and carers prior to our inspection. We received 15 completed questionnaires and 14 were very happy with the service they received, one questionnaire had concerns regarding healthy food options and security system for entry into the service (both of these points were found to be satisfactory on the day of our visit).

They told us:

"Communication with us is excellent and we particularly enjoy reading the online journal entries about what our child has been doing that day. The staff are so caring and friendly, always taking time to chat to us at the drop off/pick up. They seem to know our child so well and our child adores them. We would have absolutely no hesitation recommending to other parents".

"Always been made welcome. All staff say hello in the morning. Child always talks about staff in a happy way like they are friends. Nursery happy to help with extra care if required".

"They are well-informed staff and care very much for the children in their care. They offer a wide range of activities and offer an environment where kids can explore and learn at their own pace. In terms of development I feel my child is advancing well with peers. Nursery are very accommodating to our personal circumstances and are always able to help us where possible".

"We have found the staff to be supportive and caring, not only to our child but our family as a whole. Very supportive with dietary needs and we are very grateful".

"Very happy with every aspect".

"Tip toes is the perfect nursery, the mix of indoor and outdoor play is just at a great level for my child. We picked this nursery because of their ethos and focus on outdoor play. We are happy with the nursery, never once have we worried about our child being there. The staff appear to show him as much care and concern as we do at home".

"The wooden gate with code lock is not sufficient and frequently broken. The food is regularly unhealthy (pizza, ice-cream etc.)".

"I am delighted with the high quality care. Their outdoor ethos permeates throughout the entire environment both indoors and outdoors. The staff are wonderful from those involved in the day-to-day care of my child to the very well led and accommodating management team. I couldn't ask anymore of everyone, wonderful nursery".

"Extremely happy, staff are caring and update me. Brilliant outside area which is consistently being developed. Wide variety of exciting activities to help learn and develop through play".

"The staff are great and we are kept up-to-date on our child's progress".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of this inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. 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

Children were happy, confident and having fun in a nurturing and creative play environment. Staff respected children's play ideas and supported them with timely, respectful interactions which supported deeper thinking, self-worth and helped them to achieve. The flow and pace of the day supported uninterrupted child led explorative play. This expanse of time enabled children to investigate with friends and extend learning through trial and error.

Flexible and well planned transition procedures supported warm and positive relationships and created a very good sense of belonging for children and families. We saw that children were involved in the routines of the day, such as collecting resources for play and setting up for lunch. This inclusion enhanced their life skills and gave them a sense of responsibility.

Imaginative, child led and exciting play activities were provided in a well-planned and resourced outdoor area. Active and risky play allowed them to gain knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe and assess risk in a real life context. This type of play challenged children and promoted their skills in resilience and perseverance.

Each playroom used the voice of the child, photographs and observations to capture learning activities within their group story books. Learning in nature was particularly strong within the group story books. For example we saw that sticks were used to explore different sounds in the woods, children were authors of their own nature poems and babies explored the properties of water by paddling, jumping and poring water. This would give children a sense of wonder about the world around them and promote their skills of observation.

Information about the care and support needed for each child was recorded in personal plans and updated and responded to in a meaningful way. Very good sleeping arrangements respected parents' wishes and were individualised to ensure the sleep routines in the setting were similar to routines at home. Clear to follow systems for managing the administration of medication supported best practice and children's health and wellbeing.

The services on-site cook was aware of and used 'Setting the Table' best practice nutritional guidance document. Through discussions she told us she had developed the menu planner to extend the variety of healthy option foods on offer to children. This would make families confident and reassure them that the service provided positive meal time experiences to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The manager and owner of the service had clear responsibilities, roles and improvement priorities for the service. The manager's wealth of experience and knowledge of early years practice both nationally and internationally provided a good support system for formal and informal staff development and training.

An inclusive, nurturing and reflective leadership style supported all staff to achieve and learn by trial and error. Staff were empowered to take on shared leadership roles and responsibilities through an ongoing culture of honest reflection and support.

Training needs were identified through individualised appraisal systems. Opportunities for networking and creative training were regularly sought for management and staff. These ensured positive changes in practice which enhanced the experiences children were offered.

The forward thinking and reflective management and staff team gave us confidence that improvements would continue to be identified and addressed.

What the service could do better

We suggested ways in which to support the development of the group story book documentation to better track and monitor children's skills, thinking and learning. For example, children would benefit from revisiting and discussing projects more frequently, helping them to deepen their understanding and knowledge. We discussed with staff how they could then see clear progression in thinking, language and knowledge by comparing entries over time. This would allow them to better share and celebrate achievements, learning and skills with children and families.

Effective questioning was used to support children with problem solving and child led learning. The service will continue to reflect on deeper questioning skills to enhance practice and promote a collegiate approach across the team. Staff were keen to adopt our suggestions to develop this further, particularly within the group story book entries.

Although we were happy that children were playing well together within the service we could see inconsistencies in positive behaviour management. We discussed how consistent approaches and language would ensure children were being supported to identify how to solve problems independently. This would help them to be well equipped to manage more complex social and emotional behaviours in the future. Managing behaviours in this way would encourage children to be responsible and would make them feel respected and included in decision-making.

While we found that songs and rhymes were being regularly used to support children's early language development, we asked that staff reflect on a particular instance of the pace and flow of early rhymes and songs. Slowing the pace down would support children to fully participate in body actions, new words and sounds. This would enhance the experience and further support enjoyment and early language development.

We were confident that the management and staff team were committed to continued improvement by further developing their knowledge and skills and reflecting on their practice. Continuing to test out their own service against best practice guidance and partnership working with other professionals will ensure they continue on their learning journey and provide the highest quality outcomes for children and families.

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
24 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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