

Inspection report

Pinocchio Nursery Day Care of Children

Mr & Mrs Koulis
Newbattle Road
Eskbank EH22 3AE

Inspected by: Niki Cooney
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Announced

Inspection completed on: 7 December 2005

Service Number

CS2003011827

Service name

Pinocchio Nursery

Service address

Mr & Mrs Koulis
Newbattle Road
Eskbank EH22 3AE

Provider Number

SP2003002984

Provider Name

Mr & Mrs Koulis

Inspected By

Niki Cooney
Care Commission Officer

Inspection Type

Announced

Inspection Completed

7 December 2005

Period since last inspection

12 Months.

Local Office Address

Stuart House
Eskmills
Musselburgh
EH21 7PB

Introduction

Pinocchios Children's Nursery was registered with the Care Commission in April 2002.

Mr Stratos Koulis and Mrs Lewissa Koulis are joint owners of the nursery.

The nursery is registered to accommodate a maximum of 70 children between the ages of 3 months - five years.

Currently there are 115 children on the register.

On the day of the inspection there were 58 children and 17 staff present.

The children were accommodated in four rooms within the nursery.

The baby room (approx 3-18months) was divided into two areas for mobile and less mobile children and there was an adjacent sleep area to the larger area. This room was bright and well decorated with the children's artwork. On the day of the inspection the staff opened the windows to allow fresh air into the room. The baby changing area was available next to the main room.

The toddler room (approx 18 months - 2 years) was bright and well ventilated. They shared the changing facilities with the baby room.

The Junior room (approx 2 - 3 years) was well equipped allowing children to choose freely. This room was attractively decorated and had the use of their own bathroom.

The pre-school room (3-5 years) was bright, well ventilated and heated and was attractively decorated. The door was left open to enable children to move freely to the outdoor garden with adult supervision.

All areas within the nursery environment appeared fit for purpose.

The children also had access to a large enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The nursery had updated their Mission Statement which was as follows:

"Pinocchios nursery offers a high quality service to both children and parents. We offer a wide range of activities to encourage children to learn through play in a happy, caring environment with both group and adult led activities. Pinocchios philosophy is to prepare your child for life and school in a fun and stimulating environment".

Pinocchio's nursery is in partnership with Midlothian Council to provide funded places for children in their ante pre-school and pre-school years.

Basis of Report

This report was written following an announced inspection visit, which took place on Wednesday 7th December 2004.

The inspection focused on the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Child Care up to the age of 16:

2.- A safe environment

4.- Engaging with children

- 5. - Quality of experience
- 6.- Support and development
- 14.- Well managed service

In conjunction with the regulation of care (Scotland) Act 2001 and associated Regulations.

The inspection report is also informed by:

Discussion with the Mrs Bridgeman, manager and Mr & Mrs Koulis, owners.

Discussion with staff, children and parents.

Direct observation of the playrooms.

Inspection of records and associated materials.

Review of indoor and outdoor accommodation.

The Pre-Inspection Return.

The Self-Evaluation document.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

There were no requirements arising from the previous inspection.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

The self evaluation document was returned prior to the inspection and the Manager identified a number of areas for development.

View of Service Users

Overall the children appeared happy and content in the care of staff. Most children were purposefully occupied throughout the inspection visit.

View of Carers

8 parent/guardian questionnaires were returned to the Care Commission prior to the inspection visit.

Overall the comments were supportive of the service provided which included the following:

"My major concern is the lack of a qualified teacher working with the pre-school staff together with some of the more experienced staff"

"I have been very happy with the baby room and my has come on leaps and bounds since being there"

"Generally very secure but i still feel that there can be a tendency for "tail gating" provided by the main door".

Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 2: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Safe Environment

Strengths

The nursery had a secure intercom system.

The areas used were well heated, bright clean and provided space for the children to play by themselves or with others.

The garden was easily accessible and provided children with opportunities for energetic physical play.

A good range of outdoor equipment was available to support children's learning.

The manager and staff attended regular training sessions on Health and Safety.

Children were observed following good hygiene practises through washing hands and toothbrushing.

Toys and equipment were cleaned regularly and a cleaning rota was displayed.

A system for recording accidents and incidents was in place.

First Aid boxes were available in each room.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the nursery themselves in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area: "To update the health and safety policy and risk assessment"

National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children

Strengths

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of child development.

Good interaction was observed between the staff and children.

The nursery provided a warm, friendly and stimulating environment for children.

Children were praised and encouraged to continue with tasks and to share with others.

Information about the children was shared with parents through "daily slips" and white boards were displayed in each room.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the nursery themselves in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:
" The Birth to three document has newly been introduced to staff. Ongoing review of this document will help the smooth implementation"
"The newly appointed quality assurance officer will support preschool planning"

National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

Strengths

Individual care plans were used and observations of the children were kept in these.

A balanced range of equipment and activities were provided.

The planned activities were recorded and evaluated to meet the different stages of each child's development.

Children were able to influence activities and make choices.

Children were encouraged to share and play cooperatively.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the nursery themselves in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:
" Due to the difficulty in appointing a pre school teacher by Midlothian Council and the nursery, we are aware of the areas that need support. This is now being addressed by the Quality Assurance Officer"

National Care Standard Number 6: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development

Strengths

Staff were aware of the importance of working in partnership with parents.

Children with special needs were recognised and the appropriate support was given.

The Quality Assurance officer visits the nursery on a regular basis.

All the staff within the nursery were working towards a qualification in child care to meet the

Scottish Social Services Council requirements.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the nursery themselves in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:

" To gain more information on support systems for children with English as second language."

"Continue to become efficient at devising I.E.P programmes with support from appropriate agencies and Midlothian Council Quality assurance Officer."

National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service

Strengths

Staff were given an induction program by the manager when first joining the service.

The nursery have recently updated their staff manual and policies and procedures. A copy of these have been given to all parents.

An appraisal system was in place for all staff which is ongoing throughout the year.

The manager is available for staff and parents on a daily basis.

Areas for Development

The Care Commission Officer identified no areas for development in relation to this standard however the nursery themselves in their self evaluation booklet identified the following area:

"Manager and deputy manager are currently undertaking an SVQ 4 in Childcare and Playwork to keep up to date with required qualifications in nursery management."

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action taken against this service by the Care Commission in the last year.

Other Information

The manager discussed the issue of the lack of a teacher in the pre-school room. She had advised the officer that they are having difficulties in employing a teacher. This is being addressed and the nursery are in the process of advertising for the post.

The nursery were aware of the Scottish Social Services Council codes of practise and are currently taking measures to meet these.

During the visit the nursery did not have the "prevention of infection" policy included in the information pack. The manager stated they will add this in as soon as possible.

Requirements

There were no requirements following this inspection visit.

Recommendations

There were no recommendations following this inspection visit.

Niki Cooney

Care Commission Officer