

Inspection report

Wallyford Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

39 Salters Road
Wallyford
Musselburgh EH21 8LB

Inspected by: Donna Conroy
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 13 March 2009

Service Number

CS2003016996

Service name

Wallyford Primary School Nursery

Service address39 Salters Road
Wallyford
Musselburgh EH21 8LB**Provider Number**

SP2003002600

Provider Name

East Lothian Council

Inspected ByDonna Conroy
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

13 March 2009

Period since last inspection

25 months.

Local Office AddressSouth East Region
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Introduction

Wallyford Primary School Nursery is an East Lothian Council resource. It can accommodate a maximum of 30 children at any one session between the ages of 3 and entry into primary school.

The nursery class is situated in the primary school. It has its own entrance and fully enclosed garden for active play.

The service operates between Monday to Thursday 8.50am - 11.55am, Friday 8.50am - 11.50am and Monday to Thursday 12.45pm - 3.05pm.

The Nursery is located in Wallyford Primary School. Children were cared for in a safe, pleasant, stimulating and secure environment. The Nursery was in a good state of decoration and the play equipment was clean and appropriately maintained.

The nursery was registered with the Care Commission on April 1 2002.

Based on the findings of this inspection the service has been awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support - 4 - Good

Quality of Environment - 4 - Good

Quality of Staffing - 4 - Good

Quality of Management and Leadership - 4 - Good

This inspection report and grades represent the Care Commission's assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. Please refer to the care services register on the Care Commission's website (www.carecommission.com) for the most up-to-date grades for this service.

Basis of Report

This report was written following an unannounced inspection visit on the 13/03/09 between the times of 9:00am and 12:00 pm. On the day of inspection there were 20 children attending and 1 child visiting the nursery in the morning.

Before the Inspection

The Annual Return

The service submitted a completed Annual Return as requested by the Care Commission.

The Self-Assessment Form

The service submitted a self-assessment form as requested by the Care Commission

Views of service users

17 Care Standards Questionnaires were issued and 10 questionnaires were returned prior to the inspection visit.

Regulation Support Assessment

The inspection plan for this service was decided after a Regulation Support Assessment (RSA) was carried out to determine the intensity of inspection necessary. The RSA is an assessment undertaken by the Care Commission Officer (CCO) which considers complaints

activity, changes in the provision of the service, nature of notifications made to the Care Commission by the service (such as absence of a manager) and action taken upon requirements. The CCO will also have considered how the service responded to situations and issues as part of the RSA.

This assessment resulted in this service receiving a low RSA score and so a low intensity inspection was required. The inspection was based on the relevant Inspection Focus Areas and associated National Care Standards, recommendations and requirements from previous inspections and complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the inspection process

Staff at inspection

The inspection was carried out by CCO Donna Conroy

Evidence

During the inspection evidence was gathered from a number of sources including:

A review of a range of policies, procedures and records including the following

- Evidence from the self assessment
- Aims and objectives
- Policies and procedures including child protection
- Parents' questionnaires
- Newsletters
- Information for parents
- Planning policy for East Lothian Council, the Local Authority.

Discussion took place between the head teacher, staff and children

Observation of the staff's practice with the children

Examination of the environment and equipment

Inspection Focus Areas and links to Quality Themes and Statements for 2008/09

Details of the inspection focus and associated Quality Themes to be used in inspecting each type of care service in 2008/09 and supporting inspection guidance, can be found at:

<http://www.carecommission.com/>

Findings are reported on under the relevant Quality Theme in conjunction with the National Care Standards for Early Education and childcare up to the age of 16 and the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and associated regulations. The inspection Focus Areas of Child Protection and Notifications are reported on under statements 1.3 and 4.4.

Each Quality Theme has associated statements, not all statements were inspected.

Fire Safety Issues

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Further advice on your responsibilities is available at www.infoscotland.com/firelaw

Action taken on requirements since last Inspection

There were no requirements made in this inspection report.

Comments on Self Assessment

A fully completed self-assessment document was submitted by the service. This gave relevant information for each of the Quality Themes and Statements. The service identified its strengths and some areas for future development and gave good evidence of service user involvement and how they planned to implement these changes.

View of Service Users

The children present during the inspection visit were observed to be happy in the surroundings and responded well to the adult interaction. Some children chatted confidently with the Officer.

View of Carers

17 Care Standards Questionnaires were issued and 10 questionnaires were returned prior to the inspection visit.

Some of the comments included:

"My children love nursery and school and I see them improving all the time. I would recommend this school to anyone. It's a school to be proud of for their excellence in learning and their caring attitude towards the children."

"My daughter has really come out of her shell since joining Wallyford Nursery. I can't thank the staff enough for their support."

"My child looks forward to going to nursery everyday. He has a great relationship with the nursery teachers and friends. I couldn't ask for a better nursery experience for my child."

"Wallyford do a fantastic job. The teachers are amazing and you are always welcome in the nursery and my son can't wait to get there in the morning."

A parent/carer commented on the opening times of the nursery and the toileting of the children. This was discussed with staff at the inspection.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service Strengths

This section takes into account Quality Statement 1.1 and 1.3

The nursery class provided good opportunities for the children and parents/carers to participate in assessing and improving the quality of care and support provided by the service.

Planning for the children was effective and responsive to the children's interests. This influenced daily and long term plans.

The nursery class issued its own newsletter updating parents/carers on up and coming events and themes. The school newsletter was also available for the parents/carers.

The staff spoke to the parents/carers on an informal daily basis and consultation nights were held twice a year. This allowed parents/carers the opportunity to discuss their child's development and progress on a more formal basis.

Learning stories were updated regularly with photographs and observations. Children and their parents/carers had the opportunity to access these at any time throughout the year.

The nursery had issued a questionnaire to allow parents/carers the opportunity to comment on the quality of care provided by the nursery class. The returns were positive. The head teacher stated at inspection that the information would be collated and fed back to parents/carers by the nursery newsletter.

A parent/carer commented in the returned care standard questionnaires that they were very pleased with the service provided and have spoken to other parents who agree.

Areas for Development

The nursery should continue with the good practice of obtaining parents/carers views and use this information to identify priorities that would further improve the quality of this provision. This should be fed back to parents/carers in a timely fashion.
(see Recommendation 1)

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: We ensure that service user's health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service Strengths

A very good service was provided to meet the health and wellbeing of the service users.

The nursery had clear aims and objectives in place. These were available for the parents/carers in the nursery's handbook.

There were policies and procedures in place that insured the health and safety of the children. These included risk assessments for outings and trips and a daily check list for hazards identified within the playroom and garden area.

The nursery had a child protection policy in place that included all the relevant information. All staff stated they had read and understood the procedures to follow if they had a concern regarding a child in their care. All staff had up to date child protection training. The head teacher was the identified child protection officer.

On the day of inspection the children were involved in celebrating "Red Nose" day, and were decorating cakes for snack. Snack also included fruit and milk and water to drink. The nursery teacher had used the 'Nutritional Guidance for Early Year's to influence the snack choices.

The nursery accessed outside specialist to support children and parents/carers.

Areas for Development

The staff should ensure that they wear an apron when preparing snack.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the service.

Service Strengths

This section takes into account Quality Statements 2.1 and 2.3

The comments made in Quality Statement 1.1 also apply to this statement.

The majority of returned Care Standard questionnaires indicated that the nursery class was safe, secure and hygienic.

Areas for Development

The nursery should continue with the good practice of obtaining parents/carers views and use this information to identify priorities that would further improve the quality of this provision. This should be fed back to parents/carers in a timely fashion.
(see Recommendation 1)

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: The environment allows service users to have as positive a quality of life as possible.

Service Strengths

The nursery class is contained in two large rooms with appropriate lighting, ventilation and heating. It had direct access into an enclosed garden area.

The resources were appropriate and easily accessible for the children to make informed decisions. The layout of the room supported a variety of play opportunities and children had the choice to play independently or within in small groups.

The outdoor area was appropriately resourced the children had the opportunity to participate in more physical games. On the day of inspection the children were also involved in a planting activity.

The staff were aware of reporting defects and maintenance issues.

Children's work was displayed in the nursery class and topic tables were appropriate to the theme.

The head teacher stated at inspection that there was an inventory of the basic toys and equipment used in the nursery.

The teacher in the nursery also stated that they went for walks to the local library and train station.

Areas for Development

The nursery stated in their self assessment that they would like to further develop the outdoor area. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing in the service.

Service Strengths

This section takes into account Quality Statement 3.1 and 3.3

The comments made in 1.1 also apply to this statement.

The nursery class provided children and parents/carers with good opportunities to participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing within the service.

The questionnaire for parents/carers asked them to comment on the quality of staffing.

Parents/carers had the opportunity to influence the quality of staffing through the school blog and Parent Council.

A parent/carer response in a returned care standard questionnaires stated that staff are first class they are polite, cheerful and helpful and they are always on hand to answer any questions parents/carers may have.

Areas for Development

The nursery should continue with the good practice of obtaining parents/carers views and use this information to identify priorities that would further improve the quality of this provision. This should be fed back to parents/carers in a timely fashion.
(see Recommendation 1)

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

Service Strengths

The nursery staff had very good staff who provided a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operated to the National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

All staff held a relevant teaching or childcare qualification.

Staff take part in regular staff development and review procedures. This review identified any training needs the staff required. There was also a number of in-service days throughout the year that staff used to further their training.

Staff were in the process of being registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

Staff were aware of the Curriculum for Excellence and the National Care Standards were used to inform the planning for the children.

The head teacher spends time in the nursery observing practice and staff interaction with the children.

Parents/carers commented in the returned care standard questionnaires that the staff were amazing with the children and another stated that staff were very helpful and friendly.

Areas for Development

The nursery should continue with the very good practice in regards to this statement.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the management and leadership of the service.

Service Strengths

This section is based on Quality Statements 4.1 and 4.4

The comments made in 1.1 also apply to this statement.

The nursery class had good opportunities for parents/carers to participate in assessing and improving the quality of management and leadership in the nursery.

Parents/carers had the opportunity to assess and influence the management team through the parent council.

The head teacher stated that the parents were welcome to discuss any issues with herself or the nursery teacher.

Areas for Development

The nursery should continue with the good practice of obtaining parents/carers views and use this information to identify priorities that would further improve the quality of this provision. This should be fed back to parents/carers in a timely fashion.
(see Recommendation 1)

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 4: We use quality assurance systems and processes which involve service users, carers, staff and stakeholders to assess the quality of service we provide.

Service Strengths

The nursery class had very good quality assurance systems and procedures in place that involved the parents/carers, children, staff and stakeholders.

The head teacher was aware of her responsibility to notify the SSSC and Care Commission of the dismissal of any staff on the grounds of misconduct. This would be carried out in conjunction with the Council Human Resources Department.

The staff take part in regular staff meetings. The head teacher was responsible for the monitoring and performance of the nursery staff and commented on the planning for play.

The local authority Quality Improvement Officer (QIO) was responsible for carrying out quality assurance in the nursery. The service improvement plan included areas of improvement for the nursery as well as the primary school.

Areas for Development

The nursery should aim is to continually evaluate practice and continually improve the service they provide.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Other Information

The operating times of the nursery did not correspond with the registration certificate. The Care Commission will ensure that a new certificate is issued, however a variation form will have to be returned to the Care Commission to reflect the delivery of the service.

Requirements

There were no requirements made in this inspection report.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that parent/carers and children's views should be used to identify priorities for the improvement of the service. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 13: Improving the Service.

Donna Conroy

Care Commission Officer