

Care service inspection report

Stockbridge Primary School Nursery

Day Care of Children

17 Hamilton Place

Stockbridge

Edinburgh

EH3 5BA

Telephone: 0131 332 6109

Inspected by: Donna Conroy

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 18 January 2012



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Service provided by:

City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002576

Care service number:

CS2003017060

Contact details for the inspector who inspected this service:

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Summary

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change after this inspection following other regulatory activity. For example, if we have to take enforcement action to make the service improve, or if we investigate and agree with a complaint someone makes about the service.

We gave the service these grades

Quality of Care and Support	6	Excellent
Quality of Environment	6	Excellent
Quality of Staffing		N/A
Quality of Management and Leadership		N/A

What the service does well

The staff at Stockbridge Primary School Nursery work well together as a team. They have a calm, nurturing and encouraging manner with the children.

The nursery environment, indoors and out provides the children with an excellent learning environment that allows them to be creative in their play.

What the service could do better

Stockbridge Primary School nursery should continue with the excellent practice they carry out in line with their aims and objectives.

What the service has done since the last inspection

The nursery garden has been developed with raised beds and willow bridges. The children take an active part in growing organic food.

The staff have worked hard to become an established team with the help and guidance of the head teacher.

The nursery and staff have encouraged parents and carers to become involved in the life of the nursery. Parents now help with fortnightly walks to the Botanic gardens, help with the lending library and on the snack rota.

Conclusion

Stockbridge Primary School Nursery is an excellent community based resource that put the children's best interests at the heart of all they do.

Who did this inspection

Donna Conroy

1 About the service we inspected

Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Care Inspectorate (CI) regulates care service in Scotland. It awards grades for services based on the findings of these inspections. These grades, including any that services were previously awarded by the Care Commission, are available now on www.careinspectorate.com

Before 1 April 2011 this service was registered with the Care Commission. On this date the new scrutiny body, Social Care Social Work Improvement Scotland (Care Inspectorate (CI) took over the work of the Care Commission, including the registration of services. This means that from 1 April 2011 this service continued its registration under the new body SCSWIS (Care Inspectorate (CI) .

Stockbridge Primary Nursery School is set within Stockbridge Primary School. It consists of two large attractive playrooms, a parents room and toilet area. The children can access a fully enclosed nursery garden. The nursery has its own safe entrance door which leads into a bright cloakroom.

The nursery is registered to care for a maximum of 40 children aged 3 years to primary school age.

The nursery operates between the times of 9.00am to 11.35am and 12.30pm to 3.05pm Monday to Friday.

The aims of the nursery are:

- * To create a positive, caring environment where children feel safe, happy and confident and where children, staff, parents and visitors feel valued
- * To deliver a broad, well balanced curriculum where each child is encouraged to fulfil their personal potential
- * To inspire and encourage children to be active participants in their learning, having pride in their work, fostering self-esteem and self-discipline
- * To provide a wide range of teaching and learning opportunities of the highest quality, including developing creative and enterprising approaches
- * To provide equal opportunities for all pupils, recognising individual needs and cultural diversity
- * To continue to develop relevant and integrated school policies, and have resources in place to support these

* To foster in each child a responsible attitude towards his/her own environment and the wider world

* To continue developing our involvement in the community and to encourage the community to share in the life of the school

* To develop professionally and build on the strengths we possess as a team

* To actively promote healthy attitudes and behaviours for the whole school community.

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

Quality of Care and Support - Grade 6 - Excellent

Quality of Environment - Grade 6 - Excellent

Quality of Staffing - N/A

Quality of Management and Leadership - N/A

This report and grades represent our 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. You can find the most up-to-date grades for this service by visiting our website www.scswis.com or by calling us on 0845 600 9527 or visiting one of our offices.

2 How we inspected this service

The level of inspection we carried out

In this service we carried out a low intensity inspection. We carry out these inspections when we are satisfied that services are working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

What we did during the inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection. This inspection was carried out by CI inspector, Donna Conroy. The inspection took place between the hours of 9.30am and 14.00pm on Wednesday 18 January 2012.

As requested by us the provider sent us an annual return. The provider also sent us a self assessment form.

We issued 17 Questionnaires to the service to give to parents and carers before the inspection. Fourteen completed questionnaires were returned to us.

32 children were present during the morning of our inspection.

In this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources, including the relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documentation, including:

Evidence from the service's most recent self assessment

Evidence from the service's most recent annual return

Certificate of Registration

Certificate of Insurance

Children's Personal Learning Plans (PLPs)

Plans for children's play experiences

Newsletters

Completed Care Standard Questionnaires

Collated information from the nursery's questionnaires

We spoke with:

The Head teacher

The Nursery Teacher

Two nursery staff

Two parents/carers during the inspection visit.

One student on placement

We observed the environment and the interaction between staff, children and parents/carers.

Grading the service against quality themes and statements

We inspect and grade elements of care that we call 'quality themes'. For example, one of the quality themes we might look at is 'Quality of care and support'. Under each quality theme are 'quality statements' which describe what a service should be doing well for that theme. We grade how the service performs against the quality themes and statements.

Details of what we found are in Section 3: The inspection

Inspection Focus Areas (IFAs)

In any year we may decide on specific aspects of care to focus on during our inspections. These are extra checks we make on top of all the normal ones we make during inspection. We do this to gather information about the quality of these aspects of care on a national basis. Where we have examined an inspection focus area we will clearly identify it under the relevant quality statement.

Fire safety issues

We do not regulate fire safety. Local fire and rescue services are responsible for checking services. However, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, we will alert the relevant fire and rescue services so they may consider what action to take. You can find out more about care services' responsibilities for fire safety at www.firelawscotland.org

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at our last inspection

There were no recommendations made in the previous report.

The annual return

Every year all care services must complete an 'annual return' form to make sure the information we hold is up to date. We also use annual returns to decide how we will inspect the service.

Annual Return Received: Yes - Electronic

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

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CI received a completed self assessment document from the service. We were satisfied with the way they had completed this and with the relevant information they had given us for each of the headings that we grade them under. They identified what they thought that they did well and some areas for development and any changes they had planned.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

During the inspection visit we spent time observing, interacting and talking with children. We saw that the children were involved in a range of activities. Relationships between staff and children were observed to be warm and supportive. We concluded that they were very happy, content and sociable individuals who obviously enjoyed their time at nursery.

Taking carers' views into account

We sent out Seventeen parent/carer questionnaires and fourteen were completed and returned to us before our inspection. When we asked about the quality of care their child receives in the service all parents indicated that they were very happy. We also spoke with two parents/carers during our inspection visit. From these discussions we concluded that parents were very happy with the service provided. Some comments have been used in the main body of the report. Other comments include:

Since he has started the nursery, he has emotionally, physically and intellectually blossomed. He looks forward to going to the nursery every morning (including weekends!) and comes back home content and stimulated. Staff are approachable and sensitive and have a good sense of fun. I'm very pleased with the nursery.

The staff are amazing, particularly Mrs O'Koth. We are particularly impressed with the feedback we have had on our little boy which demonstrated how much attention and observation there is of each individual. The only disappointing part of the nursery is the quality of the surface in the outdoor area which is poor for small children.

I could not be happier with the nursery education my child is receiving. Mrs O'Koth is a wonderful educator - my son talks of many 'games' they play - all focused on learning both in the traditional sense and about learning to be a better person. She seems to know exactly what every child needs.

Stockbridge Nursery has changed my child's life. Mrs O'Koth runs a wonderful, loving and disciplined 'ship'.

Stockbridge Primary Nursery provides an excellent educational environment. The staff are kind, thoughtful and engaging. I was particularly impressed with the way in which they dealt with my son's shyness and fears when talking in front of other children... I feel extremely fortunate that my can be part of such a wonderful nursery and where staff are very special indeed - every member offers something different - A great team.

3 The inspection

We looked at how the service performs against the following quality themes and statements. Here are the details of what we found.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Grade awarded for this theme: 6 - Excellent

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

We found that Stockbridge Primary Nursery School had excellent systems in place to ensure the children, parents and carers were involved in assessing and improving the quality of care provided.

We concluded this after we:

- Spoke with staff, parents and the head teacher
- Reviewed policies and procedures
- Observed staff interaction with the children
- Reviewed feedback in our questionnaires

Before using the service, parents completed an 'all about me' form that provided staff with relevant information about each child. This included family details, favourite toy, book and activities. It also asked for examples of food the child liked and disliked, medical information, toileting and if the child could put on their own coat. This meant that staff were fully aware of each child's needs, development to date and family background.

Each child had a personal learning plan (PLP). From the sample we looked at we saw these were successful in celebrating children's achievements and keeping written and pictorial notes of activities. A parent commented in a returned CI questionnaire that "We are particularly impressed with the feedback we have on our child which demonstrated how much attention and observation there is of each individual".

Children had the opportunity to have their say in the care and support they received from the the nursery. We observed staff working in ways that made the children feel

secure in the knowledge that their contributions would be valued. This included circle time, key worker group time and responsive planning.

Parents were valued and encouraged to become part of the nursery. They were asked to help with regular trips to the Botanic gardens and if they can help with cooking or art activities. On the day of inspection two parents were helping the children to choose library books to take home. This allowed parents the opportunity to share the experience of the nursery with their child.

The nursery provided parents with questionnaires. It asked for feedback on the quality of care and support, communication and environment. The information from the questionnaires was collated and fed back to parents by a letter. Any issues that were identified in the questionnaires were responded to and solutions given.

Some of the comments included:

- Lots of opportunities for children and parents to take part in excursions
- The enthusiasm shown by all staff for sharing in my child's learning is very apparent and consequently he feels confident and safe within these relationships
- Email communication has been very helpful

Parents were invited to join the nursery parents action group. The head teacher told us that the group had been very successful this year. It had been responsible for making changes in the nursery particularly the outside area. The nursery also had representation at the whole school parent council meetings.

In our questionnaire, all fourteen parents confirmed that: Overall they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service.

Areas for improvement

Stockbridge Primary Nursery School should continue to maintain and develop the exceptional practice they already carry out in relation to this statement.

Grade awarded for this statement: 6 - Excellent

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 3

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

Service strengths

We found that Stockbridge Primary School Nursery was very good at meeting the children's health and wellbeing needs.

We heard regular use of praise and encouragement from the staff. They were skilled in their interaction with the children. The staff used open ended questioning to encourage and support the children to make decisions and direct their play, learning and development. Children were observed to be happy and confident. Acknowledgement of the children's efforts and behaviour was recognised by the staff. There were appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of the children. This included child protection, confidentiality, risk assessments and positive behaviour. Staff had an understanding of their roles and responsibilities in reporting child protection concerns. Accident and incident forms were completed with relevant information.

The planning of play experiences demonstrated that staff had an understanding of the children's needs and interests. Staff followed best practice document, Curriculum for Excellence and this was reflected in the planning for children's play.

The outdoor area had been developed to include raised beds, which allowed the children to grow a range of fruit and vegetables. The children have access to a healthy snack that included fruit or vegetables. Parents are encouraged to visit the nursery and help prepare the snack with the children. All staff have food hygiene training. This ensures that the staff all have up to date knowledge in the safe preparation, storage and serving of food. The children have access to water or milk at snack time.

The outdoor area provided children with positive opportunities for physical play. The nursery had access to its own fully enclosed area. Children were able to experience outdoor play regularly. The nursery had a range of outdoor resources that promoted the children's development.

In our questionnaire, all parents confirmed:

- Their child regularly got access to fresh air and energetic physical play.
- The service is safe, secure, hygienic, smoke free, pleasant and a stimulating environment
- Parents were confident that staff would protect their child from harm, abuse, bullying and neglect.

Some of the comments in the returned nursery questionnaires included:

- My child feels safe and happy
- This is a lovely nursery with caring and approachable staff and lots of varied activities
- I have found the nursery to be a tremendously rich environment for my child

- I am grateful for the amount of time the staff get the children to spend outside.

Areas for improvement

In their self assessment the nursery told us they intended to:

- Further involvement of health professionals in the nursery eg visits by the school nurse, dentist etc.
- Further development of the toothbrushing routine with the afternoon children.

We agree that these areas of improvement would further enhance the excellent practice carried out in relation to this quality statement.

Grade awarded for this statement: 6 - Excellent

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Grade awarded for this theme: 6 - Excellent

Statement 1

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

Service strengths

We found that Stockbridge Primary Nursery School had excellent systems in place to ensure that children, parents and carers were involved in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the nursery.

Comments made in Quality Theme 1 Statement 1 apply to this Quality Statement also.

A comment made in the nursery's questionnaire about the cloakroom being too crowded due to pushchairs had been addressed by asking parents to leave prams outside the main door.

The nursery questionnaire asked parents for their feedback on the quality of environment within the nursery.

Parents were regularly involved in the life of the nursery through helping with trips, making snack or helping with the library or craft activities. This gave the opportunity to view the children's work and make comment on the environment.

A comment made in our returned questionnaire stated that "The physical environment goes above and beyond to be visually stimulating and provides rich opportunities for the children to learn through play. The activities in the garden change daily and reflect the commitment and dedication from the staff and their passion for the children's learning in everything they do".

The nursery has a parents action group that is very involved in the development of the nursery. They have been helped improve the nursery garden.

Areas for improvement

A parent commented in our questionnaire "The only disappointing part of the nursery is the quality of the surface in the outdoor area which is poor for small children". The head teacher and staff are very aware of the quality of the outdoor surface and have been looking at ways to improve this.

Grade awarded for this statement: 6 - Excellent

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 2

We make sure that the environment is safe and service users are protected.

Service strengths

We found that the environment was safe and service users were protected.

We found that the nursery was clean, bright and spacious. The layout of the playroom encouraged co-operative and independent play experiences for the children. On the day of inspection the children could participate in a wide range of activities that included: sand and water, painting, dough, drawing table and a book area.

The presentation of the resources allowed for them to be accessed by the children without adult intervention.

The head teacher told us that all staff were aware of the procedure for reporting defects or maintenance issues. We saw that the staff actively encouraged children to care for the toys, equipment and the environment within the nursery.

There was an attractive entrance hall to the nursery where children had their own peg. The parents also had access to a room where they could get information about the nursery, local community or take time to look at their child's PLP.

The displays in the rooms were colourful and appropriate to the themes running in the nursery. Children's art work was on display and had been scribed by staff with the children's own thoughts and feelings. Photographs and posters added to the attractiveness of the playrooms.

The layout, resources and learning experiences on offer to the children when outside provided them with excellent opportunities to explore and experiment in the outdoor environment.

Areas for improvement

In their self assessment the nursery told us they intended to:

- Work with the parent action group to fundraise for the soft surfacing to be installed in the nursery garden
- To further develop composting within the nursery

We agree that these areas of improvement would further enhance the excellent practice carried out in relation to this quality statement.

Grade awarded for this statement: 6 - Excellent

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing - NOT ASSESSED

Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership - NOT ASSESSED

4 Other information

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld or partially upheld about this service since the commencement of the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. Since the service was last inspected there had been no complaints which the Care Commission upheld or partially upheld.

You can find information about complaints that have been upheld or partially upheld on our website www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcements

There has been no enforcement action taken against this service since the commencement of the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Since the service was last inspected there has been no enforcement action which the Care Commission took.

Additional Information

No Additional information.

Action Plan

Failure to submit an appropriate action plan within the required timescale, including any agreed extension, where requirements and recommendations have been made, will result in SCSWIS re-grading the Quality Statement within the Management and Leadership Theme as unsatisfactory (1). This will result in the Quality Theme for Management and Leadership being re-graded as Unsatisfactory (1).

5 Summary of grades

Quality of Care and Support - 6 - Excellent	
Statement 1	6 - Excellent
Statement 3	6 - Excellent
Quality of Environment - 6 - Excellent	
Statement 1	6 - Excellent
Statement 2	6 - Excellent
Quality of Staffing - Not Assessed	
Quality of Management and Leadership - Not Assessed	

6 Inspection and grading history

All inspections and grades before 1 April 2011 are those reported by the former regulator of care services, the Care Commission.

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Translations and alternative formats

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Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

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