

Oaklands School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Oaklands School
750 Ferry Road
Edinburgh
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Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 October 2016

Service provided by:
City of Edinburgh Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002576

Care service number:
CS2007153489

About the service

Oaklands School Nursery Class is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a daycare service to eight children aged between two and a half years to primary one.

At the time of our visit the nursery class operated full days on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a half day on a Friday. The nursery ran a parent and toddler group on a Monday.

The nursery class is part of Oaklands School in the residential area of West Pilton in Edinburgh. Oaklands is a school for children with a range of complex additional support needs. They offer education from primary through to secondary. The nursery is situated within the school and comprises of a main play area with several smaller rooms off it to support a range of play and therapy experiences. There is office space, a parent/meeting room and outdoor play areas.

Aims for the school are in place and shared with parents through literature and information in the nursery. Aims include:

'We believe that children and young people in Oaklands do best when -

They are able to live safely, happily and in good health within caring family homes with the right kind of support as needed.'

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.

What people told us

There were five children on the register at the time of our visit. We met three of the children. Due to their complex support needs none of the children were able to communicate with us verbally. We observed that children were content in nursery and relaxed and responsive to staff.

We issued care standard questionnaires to families using the nursery. We received five completed questionnaires from the five families using the service. Three agreed and two strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the nursery. Comments included:

'The nursery at Oaklands is fantastic and I cannot praise the staff (head teachers, SLAT, physio, dentist the list goes on...) Enough. My child loves going to nursery and the staff know exactly what he needs to bring him on. I am informed via a diary, newsletters, electronic journal etc. '

Self assessment

The self assessment had been completed prior to the inspection. It was full and gave us a range of information on how the nursery service provided positive outcomes for parents. Staff had completed the assessment with the class teacher. Areas of strength such as the partnership working with health and other professional colleagues were highlighted as were areas where the staff thought the service could continue to improve.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children had detailed an up to date personal plans and the principles of the national strategy Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) had been used to plan children's care reviews. Progress was monitored, reviewed and shared with parents and professionals involved in each child's care plan. This ensured that children's complex physical and developmental needs were met by providing the right support at the right time.

A number of health and therapeutic professionals were based within the school. Nurses provided the link to all health professionals. Therapists worked alongside nursery staff to support the therapy work needed to improve physical and developmental outcomes. Nursery and therapeutic staff made these experiences fun and used observations of children to enhance therapeutic sessions by linking them to the child's interests and motivations.

To track children's progress staff had worked hard to develop child led planning for learning and play activities. This was attractively recorded in the floor books and learning journals and linked to national guidance. Staff commented that parents had engaged very well with the new on-line learning journals and enjoyed being able to see the areas of progress for their child.

Staff had worked hard to create a comfortable and well laid out play areas for children to use. Consideration had been given to the space between resources to enable children to access them in their chairs or walking frames. To improve the environment there had been an increased use of natural materials. Children could choose from a good range of core resources and to promote curiosity and improve the amount of natural light in the main play area staff left doors to the smaller rooms off the main play area open for children to explore.

Children used the school hydrotherapy pool and outdoor play areas to increase their physical activity and make use of all their senses. Opportunities to be included in the local community had been developed by their attendance at Book Bug sessions at the local library, on walks in the local area and a link with a local independent school who had come to play music to children. These opportunities widened children's experience of their world.

What the service could do better

Staff had implemented many of the recommendations made at the last shared inspection with Education Scotland and were continuing to strengthen their link between children's experiences in nursery and national guidance such as the curriculum for excellence. They were continuing to develop the outdoor space to offer children more outdoor opportunities and natural open ended resources.

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
10 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 5 - Very good
16 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
7 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
5 Jun 2008	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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