

Eyemouth Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Eyemouth Primary School
Coldingham Road
Eyemouth
TD14 5DE

Telephone: 01890 750 692

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

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Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

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CS2003017369

About the service

Eyemouth Primary School Nursery, referred to as the nursery in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time aged from two years to not yet attending primary school of whom no more than 10 are under 3 years. Wrap around care may be provided to a maximum of 24 children between the ages of three years and entry into primary school and children in their first term of primary 1.

The nursery provides early learning and childcare over term time and holiday periods for children who are eligible for funded education places. The nursery also provides a number of placements for children who meet the eligible twos criteria.

The nursery is situated within Eyemouth Primary School in the coastal town of Eyemouth, in the Scottish Borders. The premises includes three play spaces and direct access to a large outdoor area. The nursery is also close to local green spaces and community areas which nursery children use regularly.

Aims for the nursery had been redeveloped and were shared with parents. Aims and vision for the nursery were summarised as:

'Together in a safe learning environment we respect each other and achieve success.'

An inspector from the Care Inspectorate undertook an on-site visit to the service. The views and comments of parents were sought, and the management team provided a range of supporting documentation for the purpose of evidence gathering.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

What people told us

We observed busy children engaged in their play and learning during our visit. Children had forged good relationships with each other and went readily to staff for assistance, advice or just to be with them. This confidence and security in their surroundings made children inquisitive and keen to tell us about their nursery.

To gather the views of parents we asked the nursery to issue an e-mail on our behalf. One parent responded to our request. They indicated that they were happy with the range of information they had received from the nursery throughout Covid-19 and acknowledged the difficulties of passing on information about their child's day with social distancing and Covid -19 procedures being in place.

The nursery also shared with us the responses they had received from parents over the past months. These had been gathered as part of their self-evaluation processes.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

5 - Very Good

5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during Covid-19.

We found the service to be operating to a very good level in this area.

Personal plans are the tools used to gather and use individual information to promote positive outcomes for children. Since our last visit to the nursery a significant improvement had been made to the completion of these documents, this was underpinned by staffs understanding of the information which should be held within them. Where children needed support through individualised strategies these had been developed with parents and shared with the staff team caring for that child.

To ensure children's security and safety child protection procedures had been shared with all staff with clear at a glance guidance provided. Child protection and safeguarding training for staff had been regularly updated and supported by discussions at team meetings. Improved pastoral procedures ensured that information and updates were shared with the senior team to develop an effective overview of children's wellbeing and safety.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic the nursery had communicated regularly with parents to share information about the necessary changes to the service. Staff had provided a range of online play and learning resources and provided a virtual tour of the nursery environment for parents and children to keep up the connection with nursery. Staff had called parents regularly to share information about their child and used tools such as the weekly blog and Seesaw to share what was going on in the nursery.

The staff team understood the value of attachment and had developed nurturing relationships with children. They chatted to children as they played and were interested in what children were doing and learning. Staff had used stories and activities to help children make sense of the changes to their life due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The procedures children needed to follow during this time, to keep everyone safe, were embedded but did not overwhelm the pace of the session.

Staff understood the value of outdoor play during the period of Covid-19. Children could access the outdoor area freely and it had been developed to offer children a rich learning environment. The use of loose and real-life resources was well embedded and the value of these items as learning resources was well understood by staff. The indoor environment was well ventilated, attractively laid out and resourced to engage children in a wide range of learning opportunities. Children were very busy and engaged in their play both indoors and outdoors.

5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

During Covid-19, the application of strict infection control procedures are important to keep people safe. We found the service was operating to a very good level in this area of practice. Procedures were in place to ensure the potential risk of infection was minimised and that national guidance was fully implemented.

To ensure that areas were clean and well-maintained procedures were in place for thorough cleaning of the indoor environment and outdoor resources. Staff carried out procedures to ensure that where necessary resources were quarantined. Touch points and areas of the playrooms were regularly cleaned. Time had

been allocated to enable staff to carry out these additional tasks and we could see that environments were clean and well maintained.

Children were very familiar with the routines in nursery. Handwashing was carried out at key points of the day. Where necessary staff supported younger children well with their hand washing. Snack procedures took account of healthy eating and infection control measures but still provided children with good social opportunities.

The procedures for parents dropping off or collecting children had been well organised to ensure that physical distancing could be maintained. Staff still understood that there were times when parents may need to speak to staff, and procedures had been developed to enable this safely.

A comprehensive Covid-19 risk assessment had been developed and was routinely updated as guidance and good practice changed. Staff had a quick referral list of the Covid-19 mitigations needed to limit the spread of infection. Risk assessments included occupational health assessments to ensure that vulnerable staff were suitably protected in the nursery.

Staff maintained a safe physical distance from each other and wore face coverings at the times indicated in national guidance. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) was used while performing tasks within the nursery. Good ventilation was maintained within the large playroom which provided children with a safe play space indoors.

Quality indicator 5.3: Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during.

We found the service to be operating to a very good level in this area.

Staff had been well supported by the senior team during the Covid-19 pandemic. Work arrangements during the main lockdown periods had been arranged to ensure that work was distributed. Regular meetings had sought to ensure that staff wellbeing was supported. Staff who had come back to work after absence said they felt well supported by colleagues and the senior team.

Work to improve the quality of the nursery and outcomes for children had continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Procedures for self-evaluation involved the whole staff team and were well supported and driven by the senior staff team. Self-evaluation procedures were well embedded and took account of national guidance, the views of parents and experiences of children. The involvement of all staff in these processes had resulted in a team which was invested in the work of the nursery. Support from senior staff and the local authority had enabled the staff team to achieve positive outcomes for children through the development of action plans which enabled improvements to be tracked and evidenced.

A wide range of training, including infection prevention and control, had been provided for staff to ensure that the staff team continued to develop their professional skills. Staff had also carried out self-directed learning in subjects which they were particularly interested in. This had a positive impact on the diversity and skill of the staff group.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

To ensure that the medical needs of children are met the provider must by January 30 2020: Ensure that comprehensive medical care plans are in place for those who need them Where medication is brought to the nursery this must be signed in and recorded as per the service medication procedure.

This is in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210. Regulation 4. (1)(a) - make proper provision for the health and safety of service users.

This requirement was made on 13 November 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

The procedures for personal planning, which included medical care plans, had been improved significantly. Effective measures were in place to record the administration of medication in the nursery.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To evidence the impact of support provided by the service staff should improve the recording of strategies in place to support children. To inform chronologies staff should ensure that significant information about a child or their family is recorded.

This is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards. Standard 1.15 - My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met.

This area for improvement was made on 13 November 2019.

Action taken since then

Personal planning had been improved to ensure that support strategies were clear and recorded. Information held on individual children was up to date. Senior staff had an improved overview of each child to enable them to evaluate the support offered to children. This recommendation was met.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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