

Burntisland Playgroup Day Care of Children

Toll Centre
Kirkcaldy Road
Burntisland
KY3 9HA

Telephone: 01592 872854

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

27 August 2019

Service provided by:

Burntisland Playgroup Management
Committee

Service provider number:

SP2003001676

Service no:

CS2003007684

About the service

Burntisland Playgroup operates from the Toll Community Centre in the Fife town of Burntisland. The playgroup is open for morning sessions from Monday to Friday. The service is run by a qualified staff team and a committee of parents. At the time of the inspection the staff team was being led by a temporary manager. The recruitment of a new manager was being planned.

They are registered to offer a care service to a maximum of 24 children aged from two years 10 months up to those of an age to attend school. The playgroup is in partnership with Fife Council to provide funded places to children from the age of three.

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2011. On the day of the inspection there were 10 children using the service along with three staff.

The aims of the service are :

- To create a safe, happy and stimulating environment where children can develop their social, emotional, physical and intellectual skills.
- To provide a broad, balanced curriculum that encourages the all round development of each individual and give a good foundation for successful learning throughout their lives.

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

We received six completed questionnaires in advance of the inspection. All of those who responded told us that strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children in the service. We spoke to more parents during the inspection.

Comments from parents were positive, and they told us:

- "playgroup has been a nurturing and positive experience for our child"
- "staff are welcoming and always ready to help with any problems"
- "the room always has lots of activities going on with a choice for children"
- "it's great my child loves it"
- "staff really know the children well. We had lots of visits before the summer"
- "this is a brilliant playgroup"

The children were happy to tell us what they enjoyed doing, and they said:

- "I've got a big digger. I'm dig, dig in the sand"
- "my favourite thing is the rocking horse"
- "I had apples for snack but I don't like crackers"
- "I can climb over this tunnel. It's quite easy to get into the box".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan. This demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Burntisland Playgroup offered a very good nurturing and learning environment for children. On the day of the inspection most of the children had attended for less than a week but already they were seen to be happy and settled as they explored the activities and resources.

Staff were quietly encouraging the children through the playgroup routines. They were supporting them to develop their independence and self-help skills. We saw confident children who were becoming familiar with their new surroundings. Staff were just getting to know the children and were using this knowledge to meet the care needs of each individual.

The playroom was bright and spacious with a very good variety of areas, activities and resources which were selected to provide learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum. Staff were very knowledgeable about early education theory and were using this effectively to provide interesting learning contexts for the children.

Staff were committed to their own training and learning and used their knowledge to regularly review learning opportunities in the playroom. Lots of natural resources gave the opportunity for problem solving and enquiry. The children had access directly from the playroom to the well resourced garden area. They were seen to be enjoying their active play out in the fresh air.

Staff were good at listening to children and used their observations to plan activities. They made good use of photographs and displays on the wall and in floor books to engage children and their parents. Information about individual learning was recorded in learning journals.

Regular meetings with parents meant that this was shared and parents could suggest possible next steps for their child. Staff protected the health and wellbeing of the children attending. They had a robust approach to managing medication and any food allergies. They offered healthy options during the morning snack. They had training in child protection and were confident in their role and responsibility to keep children safe.

We saw that staff worked as an effective team. They were all committed to the playgroup. At the time of the inspection they were awaiting the recruitment of a new manager. Staff were working together to ensure that this had no negative impact on the experiences of the children or families attending. The temporary manager was a strong leader with a clear view of how to manage and lead the team. Communication across the staff team was regular and effective.

The staff team were held in high regard by parents. Parents appreciated the quality of information shared and the opportunities their children had to participate in activities out in the local community. The staff were well supported by the committee of parents.

What the service could do better

During the inspection we identified some areas where we considered the service could improve. We asked to see the 'All About Me' information that had been collected to allow staff to get to know the children. In some cases these had not been returned by parents. We asked that the staff ensure that they have received these on the day that the children start. This would ensure that staff have all the necessary information.

We looked at the individual learning journeys for each of the children. We considered that these could be further improved by more clearly demonstrating how children were learning and making progress through the curriculum. Next steps in learning for children should be identified and revisited to ensure that children are making progress. Staff should consider how to evaluate learning rather than describe activities.

We acknowledged that staff had very regular, informal opportunities for discussion and planning. We asked that they look at how they could find time for some more formal meetings which would have minutes and points for action. This would support their improvement work and demonstrate who was taking responsibility for each of the improvement targets.

To support their improvement agenda we asked them to consider how they could involve parents and children in the self-evaluation of the service. They should investigate ways to gather their views and use these in their improvement plan. A display of their plan would engage the interest of parents and visitors. It would demonstrate how they were making progress towards meeting their targets.

From our discussions with the temporary manager and staff we were confident that the service had the capacity to continue to improve and develop.

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.

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

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

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

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings								
5 Sep 2017	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	Not assessed	Management and leadership	Not assessed
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Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	Not assessed									
Management and leadership	Not assessed									
11 Jan 2016	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
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Date	Type	Gradings
11 Feb 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
22 Sep 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
4 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
6 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Feb 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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