

Care service inspection report

Belmont House School Nursery

Day Care of Children

Sandringham Avenue

Newton Mearns

Glasgow

G77 5DU

Telephone: 0141 639 2922

Inspected by: Karen Irvine

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 27 October 2011



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Service provided by:

Belmont House School Limited

Service provider number:

SP2003003372

Care service number:

CS2003017001

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	5	Very Good
Quality of Environment	5	Very Good
Quality of Staffing		N/A
Quality of Management and Leadership		N/A

What the service does well

The nursery staff had built good relationships with parents and children and they were continuing to involve them in assessing and developing the service.

What the service could do better

The service should continue with planned initiatives to improve children's Development Profiles to make them more accessible for children. They also intend to develop the nursery garden.

What the service has done since the last inspection

The service had developed the accommodation to provide an interesting and stimulating learning environment for the children.

Conclusion

The service was making very good progress.

Who did this inspection

Karen Irvine

Lay assessor: n/a

1 About the service we inspected

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

Belmont House School Nursery is part of Belmont House School located within the Newton Mearns area of East Renfrewshire, providing a day care service to a maximum of 24 children from 3 years to not yet attending primary school. The nursery works in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council.

The nursery made use of resources within the school and were part of the wider school community, they also made use of local amenities and had access to the school mini bus to enable them to investigate the wider community. The service had a planned programme to develop the nursery garden and use of the school playground.

The service aims and objectives included:

'To cultivate an environment that allows and encourages all pupils to develop personal excellence, to promote a flexible educational experience in which the individual is of paramount importance.

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

Quality of Care and Support - Grade 5 - Very Good

Quality of Environment - Grade 5 - Very Good

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 the report following an unannounced inspection. The inspection was carried out by Inspector Karen Irvine. The inspection was carried out over one day.

As requested by us, the care service sent us an annual return; the service also sent us a self assessment form.

We issued ten questionnaires to families who used the service, two completed questionnaires were returned before the inspection.

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

- Registration certificate
- Insurance certificate
- Aims and objectives
- Accident and incident records
- Plans
- Big books
- Photographs
- Policies and Procedures
- Questionnaires
- Children's Development Profiles
- CPD information for staff
- Improvement plan
- ECO schools information
- Discussion with various people including:
 - Head Teacher
 - Staff
 - Children
 - Parents
- Observation of resources
- Observation of staff at work
- Observation of the environment

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

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.

We received a fully completed self assessment document from the service provider. We were satisfied with the way the service provider had completed this and with the relevant information they had given us for each of the headings that we grade them under.

The service provider identified what they thought they did well, some areas for development and any changes they planned. The service provider told us how the people who used the care service had taken part in the self assessment process.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

Children were engaged in a wide range of play experiences, and they interacted well with their peers and staff.

Taking carers' views into account

Two parents completed the care standard questionnaires and two parents were spoken with during the visit.

Comments included:

'I think it's a wonderful nursery staff are great with my son and most importantly he loves it'

"I think its great value for money"

"Staff spend a lot of time getting to know the children"

"A good range of information supplied before starting"

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that overall they were happy with the quality of care their child receives in the service.

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

Overall grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very 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

The service was continuing to provide very good opportunities to involve parents and children in assessing and developing the service, as highlighted in previous inspection reports.

The service asked for parent's feedback in a variety of ways, verbally on a daily basis through informal chats and formally through the use of questionnaires and report reply pages. The service had tried various methods of gathering feedback such as a suggestion box; however this wasn't often used, although still available to parents. They were continuing to develop new ways of gathering views.

Since the last inspection of the service they had developed a new system for recording children's Development Profiles, Development Profiles include information on children's achievements and next steps in development, this information was to be held online and the service had a plan to share information with parents on a regular basis.

There was very good evidence of children's views and suggestions being used to plan experiences and activities, children's views were recorded using 'Big Books' these allowed the children to plan their own learning, and there was evidence that children had been involved in planning the learning environment, this included deciding on resources and areas. Children were encouraged to be responsible for the playroom by being the 'responsible person' this was a positive initiative and children were proud of their role in the nursery.

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that the service has involved them and their child in developing the service, for example asking for ideas and feedback.

Three parents spoken with during the inspection said that the service were

continually asking them to get involved and they were as involved in the service as they wanted to be. Parents also said that the service were very good at communicating any important information.

Areas for improvement

The service commented within the self assessment that they intend to tighten up regular assessment procedures according to their East Renfrewshire Standards and Quality inspection.

The service were due to be involved in the whole school audit this was last completed March 2009, it is due to be re-evaluated March 2012.

The service should continue to develop and improve the ways that parents and children can become involved in assessing and developing the service.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 5

We respond to service users' care and support needs using person centered values.

Service strengths

Staff knew the children and their needs very well and children were supported by their key workers to access the Curriculum. Staff demonstrated that they interacted well with the children, supporting them in their play, they intervened at appropriate times allowing children to be independent learners.

There were records of children's learning and development which were shared with parents at parents meetings, areas of next steps in development were discussed and agreed with parents. This information was shared with parents each term and used as the basis for assessment. Assessment information was used to plan and extend the activities and experiences for the children, and they were encouraged to contribute to the assessment process. Staff gathered children's views and ideas to plan the activities and children were encouraged to reflect on their play and what they have been learning.

One parent commented that there was a 'good continuity of care for the children' this was evident by the good relationships between staff and children.

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that staff share information about their child's learning and development with them and where appropriate their child.

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that staff regularly assess their child's learning and development and use this to plan their next steps.

Areas for improvement

The service had recently made changes to the format of sharing children's Development Profiles, sharing this information with parents via email and on request. They stated that children will be able to access the profiles online with support from staff. At the time of the inspection the service were collating information including photographs and children's development reports to be part of the Development Profile. This information should be made available to children to allow them to reflect on their achievements and their learning.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very 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

See statement 1.1 for evidence of strengths in this area.

Areas for improvement

See statement 1.1 for area for improvement in this area.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 5

The accommodation and resources are suitable for the needs of the service users.

Service strengths

The nursery playroom was a large spacious room within Belmont House School, this provided a very good learning environment for children with a range of resources to challenge and enhance their learning. Wall displays were bright and stimulating with a range of children's work and achievements displayed. Resources were well organised and children were encouraged to respect their environment and were involved in the school ECO committee. Nursery children were integrated well into the wider school and made use of facilities within the school including the gym hall, ICT suites, Science labs and the music room. Nursery staff could also link up with teaching staff within the school to access their specialist skills to enhance the children's learning. Children from the nursery were also involved in whole school events such as assembly and fundraising events.

Parents commented that the nursery building was 'great' and that there was 'plenty of space to play'.

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that the service has a suitable range of equipment, toys and materials for the children.

Two parents 'strongly agreed' that there is enough space for children to play and get involved in a range of activities.

Areas for improvement

The service had a plan in place to develop the outdoor area at the rear of the nursery building. It had been agreed that funds would be made available to develop raised beds for children to plant seeds.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

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

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

Additional Information

None.

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 - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 5	5 - Very Good
Quality of Environment - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 5	5 - Very Good
Quality of Staffing - Not Assessed	
Quality of Management and Leadership - Not Assessed	

6 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
30 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment 5 - Very Good Staffing 5 - Very Good Management and Leadership 5 - Very Good

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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