

West Linton Early Learners and Westies Day Care of Children

St. Andrew's New Church Hall
West Linton
EH46 7ED

Telephone: 07973 501 665

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

9 October 2019

Service provided by:

West Linton Early Learners a Scottish
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Service provider number:

SP2015012567

Service no:

CS2015340628

About the service

The service has been registered since November 2016.

West Linton Early Learners and Westies is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 25 children at any one time aged from two and a half years to entry into secondary school.

School aged children may be cared for at Graham Institute, Lower Green, West Linton. In the event that neither the New Church Hall or the Graham Institute is available the service can be provided from the West Linton Bowling Club. the service must have sole use of the premises during the times of operation.

The service is in partnership with the local authority to provide pre school education.

Aims of the service include:

"Our aims, through play, is to provide fun and learning experiences to children, whilst providing top quality, highly accessible and flexible childcare.

We aim to actively involve all parents and carers in the education and care of their child and encourage the involvement of all adults to the level they feel comfortable.

We aim to work in partnership with all members of our learning community.

To provide challenging activities for children depending on individual needs, capabilities and interests."

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 GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We observed children enjoying a variety of activities and experiences available to them. We saw they were confident and content during their play and their interactions with each other and with staff. Children were comfortable in the setting and staff were kind and supportive to their needs. Children were confident and happy to chat with us and show us the things they had been making. A child was eager to show us their banana book and talked to us about the photographs of what they had learned. They told us "That's me using scissors and that's me and my mum walking to nursery" and "I am brushing my teeth". Another child told us "I like everything because it's fun".

We sent 20 care standards questionnaires to give to parents. Eight were returned to us. All parents strongly agreed with the statement 'overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service'.

Representative comments included:

"West Linton Early Learners is a fantastic place and my child absolutely loves it."

"Kate and her team provide a stimulating, fun environment for my child and respond spontaneously to the children's ideas for play and activities."

"My child is extremely happy in this setting and I am confident that she is well cared for during their time there."

"The staff know my child well."

"Early Learners is an excellent service with very dedicated staff."

"I really like the child-led aspects of play. The ability to den-build in hall and rearrange resources to fit their play."

We spoke with three parents, including the chairperson of the management committee, when we visited the service. They were very supportive of the service and commented:

"I cannot speak highly enough of the staff."

"Like the attitude to learning through play."

"Like that the children get out and about a lot."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. On the day we visited the service we looked at the improvement plan and listened to staff tell us about the improvements and developments that were in progress and what they had planned for the future. For example, they had developed a staff training and development plan.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Children were happy to come to the service. We saw they were comfortable and confident there and staff had warm relationships with them and knew them well. We saw parents and children were included and involved in the service and they were given a warm welcome when they arrived. As staff were flexible in their approach to supporting families very good relationships had been forged.

Children were happy, polite and caring as a result of positive staff role modelling and interactions. They were having fun and learning to self regulate emotions and behaviour within the setting. This was evident in children's shared experiences and how they cared for and looked out for each other.

Children enjoyed telling us about experiences and activities they had taken part in when looking at the floor books with us. Their self-esteem was being promoted as they were proud of their achievements and so were the staff.

Children were building up positive relationships with foods as staff encouraged them to be independent, menu plan, try new foods and give them time and reassurance at snack and lunch times. We found snack and lunch times to be inclusive and supportive. Food shopping and baking activities meant children could get involved and develop life skills.

Children could access physical and energetic play both indoor and outdoor resulting in children being active and developing confidence. The opportunities they were given to explore, be curious and use their imaginations encouraged them to learn about the world around them and develop individual interests.

To keep children safe and secure staff were knowledgeable about child protection and safeguarding. they had very good policies and procedures to follow and had carried out training to further support their understanding.

As children were well supported in creating their own spaces where they wished to play they were developing an awareness of how to manage risk. For example, getting to think about any potential risks and how to deal with them. Experiences were motivating and sometimes challenging which encouraged perseverance and confidence. Children were given opportunities to be outdoors for whole sessions. They could become more familiar with their local community, for example visiting shops, the bank, woods and walking different routes.

A recent activity was to look for different shapes in the wider environment. Children told us that they had enjoyed this and one child had named this activity 'shaping'.

What the service could do better

We noted that after lunch time it would have been beneficial to some of the children to have a more cosy corner if they wished to relax after their busy morning. The manager told us that they had been thinking about this and would look into how this could be managed.

We asked the manager to revisit Setting The Table nutritional guidance and food standards for early years childcare providers in Scotland in order to support the health and wellbeing of young children. This would be to ensure they were taking into account the nutritional requirements of children. Food matters should also be taken into account. The manager agreed to do this.

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	
19 Oct 2017	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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