

# Stepping Stones (North Edinburgh) Day Care of Children

10 Wardieburn Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1LY

Telephone: 0131 551 1632

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 1 November 2016

**Service provided by:**  
Stepping Stones (North Edinburgh)

**Service provider number:**  
SP2008009805

**Care service number:**  
CS2008177088

## About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate in February 2009. They are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 14 children at any one time aged from six months to not yet attending primary school.

The service run two services within a short drive of each other. We inspected this service at Wardieburn Road centre first to observe staff and children during the settling in sessions. We then visited this service which is accommodated in the grounds of Craigroyston Primary School in the Havan project where the core group of Stepping Stones children attend for the afternoon session. The building consists of two main playrooms, toilets, a kitchen, a parents room and children can enjoy outdoor play in the garden.

The centre offer a drop in session for children to attend whose parents are attending a class within the centre.

During the inspection a visit from the Mark McDonald, Minister of Childcare and Early Years was taking place. The visit was organised through Save the Children, who were promoting their service of Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play Grants which provide material goods to families in need. The ESLP grants benefit many of the families and the Minister wanted to hear directly from families about their experiences of accessing services, the support they receive from Stepping Stones, the challenges they face including financial and material needs and any specific challenges with accessing childcare.

The aims of the service are:

- To provide opportunities for local families to make positive choices.
- To reduce isolation and increase parental confidence.
- To support the development of parents and children's self-esteem, confidence and skills.

We carried out a themed inspection. This targeted approach means that we looked at identified aspects focusing on children's experiences in the themes we looked at. These were:

Care and Support.

Environment.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>.

## What people told us

Ten families are on the register at the centre. During the inspection we spoke to two children and five parents who attended the centre together during the morning session. We found that the families were happy whilst at the centre.

Thirteen of the fifteen Care Standards questionnaires we asked the service to give to families were returned to us. All parents told us they were happy with the service.

Additional comments included:

"Excellent service provided. My child is always happy, safe and learning new things."

"Really good service educational and a safe environment."

## 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.

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment document from the provider. We were satisfied with the way the service provider had completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under.

The provider identified what they thought the service did well, some areas for development and any changes they had planned.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

We talked to children, parents and staff and observed the quality of interaction between staff and children.

The centre were very good at meeting children's care and support needs. The settling in process was well planned and tailored to meet each individual child. Staff had used GIRFEC and the SHANARRI indicators described in the introduction to this report to support children's general wellbeing and they were committed to providing the best quality of experience and support for the children in their care. They clearly valued and respected both children and parents and provided various ways for them to be involved in their child's care and development.

The service had worked hard to continue to meet children's needs. The indoor area was very well organised and carefully planned to take account of and reflect the different needs, stages and interests of children attending. This enabled children to take the lead in their learning as they planned and organised their own activities. The

environment allowed the children to be challenged, which enhanced their physical development skills and abilities.

Staff provided a number of opportunities to support families at home such as play at home ideas, cookery books and bed time stories. This helped parents support their children at home.

Staff were fully aware of child protection and how to safeguard children in their care. Speaking to staff highlighted that they had very good knowledge in this area and they understood their responsibility for protecting the children in their care. We found that staff's knowledge and practice contributed to children's safety and security.

We found that although there had been a few changes to the staff team, they continued to be highly motivated, enthusiastic and committed to meeting the needs of the children they cared for. They worked well as a team and were skilled at interacting with children and parents. Staff responded to children's requests for extra resources to develop skills and confidence in a challenging, caring and fun environment. This approach helped build confidence and self esteem which led to positive outcomes.

## What the service could do better

We looked at the allergy lists for children. We saw there were no separate care plans in place for children with specific allergies or children with a medical condition. We discussed this with the nursery staff to advise them that a care plan needed to be put in place to ensure children with a medical condition or specific allergy were supported appropriately. (See recommendation one).

Although children were encouraged to be independent through getting dressed to go outdoors and going to the toilet, they were not organising their own snack. We would expect children of pre school age to be more involved in the preparation of snack so that choice and independence is promoted. This would create regular opportunities for children to learn about healthy eating and preparation skills. (See recommendation two).

Although staff told us that they had reviewed areas of the centre such as the room set up and the provision of snack, there was no formal auditing or monitoring records kept of these. We discussed this with the manager and suggested that it would be helpful to record these regularly to inform discussions and better track progress of the outcomes. (See recommendation three).

Whilst we acknowledge that children were able to play outdoors we discussed the benefits of free flow outdoor play with the team. Effective systems should be put in place to enable the children free-flow play between inside and outside. This should create opportunities for access to fresh air and exercise to promote an active lifestyle. This will be followed up at the next inspection.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 3

1. In order for staff to support children with specific medical needs, we recommend that the nursery should include the following to each care plan:

- Details of the child's allergy or medical condition and how information about this should be shared and managed.
- What measures need to be put in place to prevent an allergic reaction or address a medical need.
- What action staff should take in the event of a reaction or the child becoming unwell.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.

2. In order for children to become more independent, we recommend staff provide children with opportunities to help themselves during snack times.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.

3. To ensure the service is rigorous in reviewing all areas within the centre, we recommend formal auditing and monitoring systems should be put in place and all staff are involved to ensure a shared approach. Actions should be recorded and the results should show how this has impacted on the service. This would ensure that any issues are addressed quickly and support continuous improvement.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 11- Improving the service.

Standard 14 - A well-managed service.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
13 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
12 Mar 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
30 Sep 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
9 Dec 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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