

Lochaline Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Lochaline Primary School
Lochaline
Morvern
Oban
PA80 5XT

Telephone: 01967 421765

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 November 2016

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Care service number:
CS2014331455

About the service

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 21 October 2015.

Lochaline Primary School Nursery is a daycare of children service and is registered to provide care to a maximum of 10 children aged 3 years to those not attending primary school.

The provider is Highland Council.

The service operates from their own building, in the grounds of the local primary school in Lochaline, on the Morvern peninsula.

The service's aims include:

"To provide a safe and secure environment, which will motivate and arouse curiosity and foster an enjoyment in learning, to help every pupil develop their full potential through the Curriculum for Excellence".

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 (also known as SHANARRI).

What people told us

There were four children present at the time of inspection, aged between 3 and 5 years. During the inspection we observed and spoke with the children individually and also at snack time. We were able to see how much they enjoyed the sensory and creative experiences of their messy art play, and the challenge, excitement and adventure of being outdoors. Staff were warm, caring and attentive in their approach. Children were confident about approaching staff should they need any help.

The three parents/carers we spoke with were very happy with the service their child received. They commented very positively about their child's learning experiences and the opportunities they were being given to develop, learn and flourish.

We also received four Care Standards questionnaires from the six questionnaires we distributed before the inspection. Everyone was very happy overall with the quality of care their child received and felt the service had involved them and their child in developing the service and asking for their ideas and feedback. All of the written comments from parents/carers about the quality of care and support, the environment and staffing were very positive.

Comments we got back included:

"The nursery is excellent. The staff are warm, kind and enthusiastic. The activities the children have access to are fun, stimulating and varied. Where possible the staff give priority to outdoor learning, they clearly put a lot of thought and effort into what these outdoor activities might be"

"The staff have made my [child] feel so comfortable and confident, with their kind and caring ways. They know each individual child and treat them as individuals, bringing out the best in them. They also go the extra mile, keeping us parents updated daily with their activities, [and what] they've done always with photos printed out to view. They also make the most of the beautiful environment we live in, playing and learning outside, whatever the weather"

"Overall we are exceptionally happy with the service received. Staff go above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis. They are very good at adapting planned activities around the weather".

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment document from the service provider. They had identified strengths, any changes they had planned and areas where they wanted to improve.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Staff were creating an inclusive, nurturing environment where children and their families felt welcome, listened to, valued and respected. They were flexible and responsive in their approach encouraging children to express their thoughts, views and feelings, make choices and plan their learning, enjoy their successes and share their achievements. Independence was promoted at snack time, with the children being supported to pour their own milk, butter their crackers and discuss and reflect on their learning.

Staff valued and had taken account of parents' knowledge and views of their child's development needs, interests and personality when planning their transition arrangements and gathering the information they needed to develop and review each child's personal plans with their parents. This was helping children to form positive relationships with trusted adults and feel valued, safe and secure.

Staff were working hard to embed the GIRFEC national practice model in their work with children and their families. For example, working collaboratively with everyone that may be involved in a child's care and support, and using the My World triangle to gather and share the information they needed to support positive outcomes for children. Staff spoke sensitively and knowledgeably about children's individual care, learning and development needs. Parents spoke positively about staff's support and understanding of their child's needs.

Staff were confident about their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection and keeping children safe. They knew what to do should they have any child protection concerns and who to pass the information onto. They would continue to refresh their knowledge and understanding of this area of their work through training and regular discussion of their practice.

A personalised learning log framework was being used to track children's progress and celebrate their achievements, with a learning journey being regularly shared with their parents. The head teacher agreed they now needed to observe and record more fully what children were learning and achieving, to secure and sustain their progress over time. Parents could then be more involved in evaluating and reflecting with their child on their play and learning, and to plan their progression pathways together. We discussed how each child could also create their own floorbook as part of their learning journey and progression pathway with their parents.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children had access to and were enjoying a variety of sensory, imaginative and outdoor play experiences and activities. Staff knew the importance of giving children the time and space to develop their ideas and use their imagination to create a dynamic and enabling environment both inside and outdoors. Work was already underway to create a more enabling environment indoors to meet children's individual learning and development needs.

Staff knew the importance of managing risk positively to promote children's independence and empower them to make safe decisions, develop their knowledge and self-awareness, as well as provide opportunities for them to contribute more of their ideas and experiences to their learning. We were able to see children safely negotiating their outdoor space and confidently making choices and decisions about their play and learning from a range of different materials, tools, natural and sensory resources. For example, they were enjoying playing with the water, measuring and discovering its properties as well as practising their balancing skills on the small obstacle course they had built.

Staff spoke enthusiastically about their plans to further develop their outdoor play space, where children could use their imagination to explore, discover and experiment with a wider range of organic materials, tools, natural and sensory resources, messy and muddy play. We also discussed our best practice publication 'My World Outdoors' and how this could be used to help further develop their practice and support positive outcomes for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff were committed and enthusiastic in their work. They had started to embed the key principles of the rights of the child, relationships, responsive care and respect into their practice, as well as link the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and the Scottish Government's National Practice Guidance: Building the Ambition to the Curriculum for Excellence framework. This was to ensure they achieved positive outcomes for children and their families.

They were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and taking responsibility for their own continued professional development. They had access to a range of training to build on and sustain their practice. This was helping them to meet national registration requirements with the Scottish Social Services Council. Staff learning contributed to children's health and wellbeing, for example, training in first aid and intimate care ensured risks were assessed and managed well. We discussed how they should continue to reflect on their work and include the impact that training has had on their practice when recording in their post registration learning and achievement records for the SSSC. The head teacher agreed staff training should be linked to meet children's individual needs as well as the development of play initiatives within the nursery. This had the potential to support leadership opportunities and build capacity within the team.

The head teacher confirmed, as part of their programme of staff development, support and appraisal, individual support and supervision sessions would be introduced for staff to support them with their continued professional and personal development. This would ensure a range of training opportunities are identified and made available to staff linked to their strengths and personal development areas as well as the service's wider improvement planning goals.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

They were establishing a good approach to monitoring and evaluation and checking and reviewing how well they were doing. For example, they were incorporating the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators into their procedures along with the guidance document 'Building the Ambition' to measure and assess positive outcomes for children and their families. They planned to implement the recently published self evaluation document 'How good is our Early Learning and Childcare' into their processes and procedures as well as establish regular meetings to enable everyone to plan, assess and carefully monitor and evaluate their work.

They were committed to improvement. The vision, values and aims of the service were clearly outlined in their most recent Standards and Quality Report. They were about to update their improvement plan with specific targets for the nursery using contributions from children and their families. Priorities identified would also be outcome focussed and linked to appropriate local and national priorities.

We discussed how the self assessment they completed for us could be more outcome focussed and reflect the views of children and families more fully. The head teacher agreed it should be a dynamic document and form a key feature of their quality assurance processes and procedures.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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