

Clyde Valley Kindergarten Day Care of Children

Stonebyres
Kirkfieldbank
Lanark
ML11 9UP

Telephone: 01555 660123

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 12 June 2017

Service provided by:
Clyde Valley Kindergarten Limited

Service provider number:
SP2009010231

Care service number:
CS2008186187

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

We carried out a quality themed inspection. This targeted approach meant that we looked at, identified aspects focusing on children's experiences under two quality themes - care and support and environment.

Clyde Valley Kindergarten is registered to provide day care to a maximum of 49 children aged from six weeks to those not yet attending primary school. The service also operates an after school care and holiday care service for children of school age. The nursery provides full and part time day care between 8am and 6.30pm, Monday to Friday throughout the year.

The nursery operated from a purpose built single storey building in Kirkfieldbank near Lanark. There was an enclosed entrance and cloakroom area, kitchen, toilets, office, staff room and basement store room. The nursery accommodation was on one level and all playrooms had clear views of the surrounding countryside. The service was set in a rural location and offered a range of outdoor facilities within a natural environment which provided a wide range of outdoor experiences for the children. The accommodation consisted of an area for babies, a play room for children aged one to three years and a play room for children aged three years and over. There was also an IT area, a creative area, an imaginative area and a decked veranda which was directly off the under three playroom.

The nursery was in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council to provide pre-school education and offered part time commissioned places for children aged three to five years.

The service's aims and objectives had been reviewed in March 2017 with the staff team and were as follows:

- To build close relationships with parents/carers and families
- To involve parents/carers and families in all aspects of the kindergarten
- To promote inclusion and equality within the kindergarten
- To provide regular up to date training to staff and service users when necessary
- To comply with local and national policy and legislative duties
- To involve all stakeholders in our recruitment process.

A full statement of the service's aims and objectives was available to people who used the service.

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 (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. GIRFEC supports children and their parents 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 issued 25 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents and carers. We received 17 completed questionnaires before the inspection with 11 having additional comments. Parental comments were as follows:

- "We initially came to the nursery as we were stuck for childcare for one day. However this is now our child's main day care as we are so happy with his development and care."
- "I cannot speak highly enough of the service, care and support Clyde Valley give my child."
- "I am very confident in leaving my son at nursery knowing he is well looked after, nurtured and encouraged."
- "My child loves going to nursery and looks forward to it every week."
- "The staff are all very friendly, knowledgeable and amazing at what they do."
- "Great environment for the children. Overall fantastic and very impressed with the support and care my child has received."
- "Recently given access to on line learning journal and have found this to be very useful."
- "Excellent service and have great confidence in all staff who support my child."
- "My child enjoys his time at nursery and has settled well and has built good relationships with the staff and other children."
- "Pleased with all aspects of the nursery. I feel my child is happy and safe and all staff are very professional."
- "My child has come on leaps and bounds since attending and I am also pleased with the activities they take part in and especially the outdoor play."
- "My child's interests have always been supported and identified by the staff."
- "I had planned to move my daughter to her school nursery for her pre school year but she is so happy and settled at the kindergarten she will continue to attend until she starts school."

We issued six staff questionnaires before the inspection visit and six were returned with four having comments as follows:

- "I have worked in the kindergarten for a year and I feel that the policies and procedures are followed to a high standard in order to keep children, staff and visitors safe."
- "I feel that children's individual needs are supported by key persons who know children's likes and dislikes and their personal needs."
- "I have worked here for 17 years and enjoy each day. I am keen to learn and feel supported with any training I do. Over the 17 years I have gained lots of qualifications and I feel valued and appreciated at Clyde Valley Kindergarten."
- "After working within the service for a few months I have been very happy within my job role."
- "The kindergarten is a very warm and welcoming place to work."
- "The management are very supportive and have offered opportunities to provide any training I require."
- "All staff are warm, welcoming and very caring towards the children. They work closely together as a team to ensure the highest quality of care and learning for the children."
- "Management listen to our ideas, opinions and include us very much in the day to day planning and running of the nursery."
- "Since being promoted to senior within my room I have been encouraged, supported and praised immensely. I have enjoyed experiencing further training including paediatric first aid course, literacy course, child protection and 'Building the Ambition' training."

We spent time in the nursery playrooms and observed children who were happy, settled and enjoying a variety of play experiences. The interactions between staff and children were friendly and nurturing which created a positive environment.

We spoke with eight children and all of them told us that they enjoyed coming to the service. We observed that the children were very settled within the nursery environment and presented as being very confident and enjoying their learning. Comments were as follows:

"This is a big pancake." (playing with play dough)

"Here's a teapot."

"I'm making lunch and coffee."

Self assessment

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

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

We looked at the service's child protection policy and procedures and evidenced that staff received annual child protection training. Staff told us how training had provided more in depth information and highlighted the important role all people play in children's lives in order to better protect them. Staff were also knowledgeable about the procedures to be followed and were confident in their written recordings of concerns when required. They spoke confidently about their roles and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe from harm. We evidenced that all new staff undertook training as part of their induction process. There were no live child protection cases at the time of the inspection visit.

We evidenced that the children received very good support for their health and wellbeing needs from management and staff. Children were observed to be happy and confident in their environment. Resources were easily accessible and labelled to encourage children to be independent when choosing what they wanted to do. We observed staff consulting with children and taking their views and ideas into consideration when planning and adapting their learning environment. A large home corner had been developed in response to children's interests and this provided a wealth of experiences for the children. Promotion of language was very much enhanced by the development of this area as well as the large creative area where we evidenced children enjoying a variety of arts and crafts and imaginative play experiences.

All parents/carers who returned care standards questionnaires told us that staff asked for their child's views about activities and outings and used them in future planning. Observations taken were also used to identify individual preferences. Learning environments had been refreshed, redeveloped and new resources purchased to further stimulate children's learning.

Personal plans using the SHANARRI (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included) wellbeing indicators were regularly reviewed and included targets for achievement and next steps.

These were discussed with parents and children on a regular basis and individual learning goals identified. Staff kept tracking information for each child and we were able to see their individual developmental progression. We also found that staff appropriately took forward additional support plans for individual children when required.

Online learning journals had been introduced and were proving to be popular with staff and parents/carers. These could be accessed at any time from a mobile phone, tablet or computer. Journals had been created with log in details individual to each family. Staff members uploaded observations and photographs of the child's daily learning and on going development. This allowed families to be actively involved in all aspects of their child's time at kindergarten including commenting and adding in achievements and information from home. These journals provided very good links between home and nursery. Parents/carers of younger children could also opt in for an online diary which informed of activities, meals, nappy changing etc. during the child's day in the service.

We observed the snack and lunch procedure and found that children's independence skills were promoted and we observed them clearing away their dishes and cutlery. Water and milk were provided and children had access to drinks throughout the session. The children also had opportunities to learn about healthy living, diet, environmental issues, personal hygiene and tooth brushing. Hand washing procedures were also promoted by the staff.

We observed that the standard of resources and equipment was of a high quality and that all necessary safety features were in place. Staff were continuing to develop the extensive well resourced outdoor area which provided children with free choice taking into account their interests and preferences.

Most children experienced time outdoors during the inspection visit with the outdoor learning environment encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle. Parents/carers told us how well used the outdoor area was in all weathers and how much their children enjoyed spending time outside. We evidenced that the outdoor area included a mud kitchen, garden shed, outdoor classroom, role play area, planting and growing areas, bird feeders, eco garden, large slide and space for wheeled resources. The service had gained its second green flag and we could see that recycling of glass, paper, plastic, tins, litter picking and tidying the garden were on going.

We discussed the recently published early years good practice document 'My World Outdoors' which could aid the continual development of the outdoor area. This guidance highlighted examples of effective practice around the SHANARRI health and wellbeing indicators and provided a good model for assessing and reporting the service's impact on children's outcomes.

Staff were well-trained and very enthusiastic in their individual roles providing positive outcomes for all children. The management team provided skilled support and guidance to staff and service users.

Staff demonstrated that they knew the needs of individual children very well and responded in a caring and professional manner. Strong relationships with parents, children and other agencies had helped staff to develop strategies to support children's early learning. Feedback from parents/carers indicated that they were very happy with the quality of care and support received by their child. Overall, they felt that staff were committed to supporting their child.

What the service could do better

The service should continue to maintain the very high standard of service provided to parents, carers and children.

On going use of the GIRFEC SHANARRI health and wellbeing indicators should be used in all appropriate recordings and displays.

To continue to support new staff with appropriate training and playroom practice.

To continue to monitor on line learning journals with particular attention to how next steps are recorded.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
21 Jul 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
6 Aug 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
11 Aug 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
11 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
14 Jul 2009	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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