

Forth Primary School Nursery Class

Day Care of Children

Main Street
Forth
Lanark
ML11 8AE

Telephone: 01555 811205

Type of inspection: Announced
Inspection completed on: 8 June 2017

Service provided by:
South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003481

Care service number:
CS2003015294

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.

Requirements and recommendations:

If we are concerned about some aspect of a service, or think it could do more to improve, we may make a recommendation or requirement.

- A recommendation is a statement that sets out actions the care service provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service, but where failure to do so will not directly result in enforcement.

Recommendations are based on the National Care Standards, relevant codes of practice and recognised good practice.

- A requirement is a statement which sets out what is required of a care service to comply with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and Regulations or Orders made under the Act or a condition of registration. Where there are breaches of Regulations, Orders or Conditions, a requirement must be made. Requirements are legally enforceable at the discretion of the Care Inspectorate.

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 the 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.

Forth Primary School Nursery Class is based within Forth Primary School in the village of Forth, South Lanarkshire and is open during term-time. Up to five children aged two-three years may attend per session and 30 children aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school may attend. The service is provided by South Lanarkshire Council and managed by the head teacher of Forth Primary School.

What people told us

We spoke with eight children during the inspection. We received eight completed questionnaires from parents before the inspection and spoke with three at the inspection.

Children were well settled in the nursery. They confidently accessed the resources available and organised their play with friends. Children benefited from a range of experiences such as planting herbs, imaginative play and arts and craft activities. When using the play dough children said:

'I'm making a man. A very old man'.

'Look at my snake. SSSSSS. I can make a bigger.'

In the 2-3 room children were being supported well to cut up fruit for their snack. One child said 'I love strawberries.'

Parents were generally happy with the service provided. They were satisfied that staff knew their child well and had the skills and experience to support them. They liked that children had access to outdoors whether at nursery or in the community and that there was a suitable range of resources for children to choose from. They liked the improved home link opportunities and one highlight was supporting their children to make a fairy or elf castle as part of their interest at nursery.

Parents' comments included;

'Forth nursery is very good. My daughter love all her teachers which makes me happy to know she is well looked after and enjoys her time there.'

'My child loves going to nursery and settled in well.'

'I am impressed by the parent - teacher communication with email. I work and don't always have time to read posters when dropping my child off. The "what's happening" email keeps me up-to-date. I also find the staff to be very approachable and friendly.'

'This is an excellent nursery school. I have no complaints at all. My grandson is very happy at nursery and he is clearly learning every day.'

'Great nursery. Excellent staff.'

'The outdoor area does at times concern me. It has been explained to us that the reason they have wood and bricks is to teach the children how to handle them correctly, encouraging the importance of health and safety..... I believe safer equipment could be used and the outdoor area could be much better.'

Self assessment

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

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - 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

We saw that staff had created a kind and caring ethos within the service which had a positive impact for children. The warm, safe, nurturing and respectful environment meant that children had developed very good relationships with staff and friendships with the other children. On arrival, they were welcomed into the service and quickly settled at the activities they wanted to do. We therefore saw that children enjoyed their nursery experience, were enthusiastic about the activities offered and eagerly joined in.

Staff had worked hard to develop children's personal plans which were linked to the wellbeing indicators. They had increased parents' involvement in agreeing target areas for children's development. Within children's individual learning books, we saw that staff recorded observations about children's development, identifying next steps to support their progress. We talked to the staff about further developing these systems. For example, recording the outcome from the agreed target areas so there is a clear record of children's progress. It would also be beneficial to record any particular issues discussed or raised by parents as this contributes to the ongoing care and support of the child. All documents should be dated and signed by parents.

Through discussion with staff we were satisfied that they knew children well and had a good understanding of their individual needs. Where children had medical or development needs, they could explain in detail the strategies they were using or the signs and symptoms they had to be aware of. Staff should ensure this information is recorded in children's care plans.

Although the service had appropriate procedures in place for administering medication we found that some records did not contain enough detail about the procedure to be followed by staff. We signposted the service to "Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services" and asked that they review and update the record keeping to ensure they fully complied with best practice guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

To improve children's experiences outdoors we saw that the outdoor area had been further developed. Following consultation with parents and children the following ideas had been added; a mud kitchen, loose parts, stage and planting. These experiences offered children a stimulating outdoor environment to explore and learn in. We saw that children used the area every day and had planted mint.

Children had opportunities to use community resources. We joined them on a visit to the poly tunnel where children were involved in planting pots of flowers which would be used in the gala day. A treasure hunt encouraged them to explore the environment to find items. At the library children confidently chose stories they wanted read to them. Walks in the local area had led to children having an interest in maps. We saw that staff worked well as a team to promote children's safety while out in the community. We asked that they further developed risk assessments in respect of individual children as part of their personal plan.

The nursery environment had been improved since the last inspection. The rooms were well organised so that children could freely access the activities they wanted to do. In the 2-3 room staff had further developed the use of heuristic play for children and would continue to develop this area. While children could lead their play, we talked to the staff about ensuring they were involved in all aspects of an activity so their learning experiences were fully optimised.

At drop off and pick up times we noted that the entrance could become congested. We asked staff to review this so that children's safety was not compromised. Although they discussed any issues that arose, we reminded staff to complete incident records following any events. We also sent them a copy of Records that all services (except childminding) must keep and guidance on notification reporting.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff felt they had developed as a team since the last inspection. Roles and responsibilities had been clearly defined which had helped clarify what was expected of individual staff members.

They were keen to take on areas of responsibility which had helped develop and improve the nursery experience for children. We talked about areas they had developed such as the outdoors, children's rights, literacy and transition for children going to school. Parents and children ideas and suggestions had been used to make the improvements which promoted partnership working.

Throughout the inspection we observed that staff interacted very well with children and supported them in their play. Praise and encouragement were used effectively to promote children's learning, developing relationships and celebrate their achievements. We saw that as children felt valued and included in all aspects of the nursery they responded positively to staff and other children.

Through discussion we found that staff knew children very well and worked well as a team to support them. As all staff were familiar with strategies in place for children, we saw they supported each other well which meant that children's individual needs were met.

We were able to identify a range of ways that staff were supported in their roles. Regular team meetings took place and appraisals had been started. These opportunities enabled staff to discuss their practice and the service they provided for families. By attending a meeting we confirmed that staff identified areas they needed to develop and agreed plans of action to address them. Staff will continue to develop these systems to fully embed them into practice. We suggested that senior staff may benefit from leadership training which will help them develop their skills.

Staff had used training opportunities, research and visits to other services to develop their skills and knowledge. We saw how they had evaluated what they had learned and identified ways it would help their practice. For example, the nursery layout had been improved with resources stored so children could select what they wanted to do. There were plans in place to continue visiting other services to share practice.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Changes to the management team had had a positive impact on the development of the service. With the leadership of a temporary head teacher, the nursery had produced and followed an improvement plan which had developed key areas within the service. For example, clarification about their roles and responsibilities had helped the staff team have a clearer understanding about what was expected of them. This had enabled individual staff to take the lead for particular areas which had improved children's experiences. The provider had now appointed a permanent head teacher and supported a transition period when she took up her post in the service. This ensured she had a good understanding of the developments that had taken place and would continue to build on the achievements.

We found that there was a range of formal and informal ways that the service evaluated their work. This involved consulting with staff, parents and children. As everyone knew what the service was trying to achieve it enabled effective partnership working which saw the development of the outdoor area and better transition arrangements for children going to school. Parents particularly liked the monthly email from the head teacher which kept them well informed about what was happening in the nursery.

The management team had a clear vision for the continued development of the service and recognised the importance of involving all staff, parents and children in this process. The improvements that had been achieved, has given the service a good basis to continue making progress and embed newer systems into practice.

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

Requirement 1

The nursery must after consultation with each service user's parent or carer introduce personal plans for each child in their care. These should show how the children's health, welfare and safety needs are to be met and must be reviewed at least once every six months.

This is in order to comply with regulation 5 of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011 No. 210).

Timescale: within 28 days of the date a child starts using the service.

This requirement was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous requirement

The staff had developed personal plans for children in consultation with parents. We talked to the service about further developing them and ensuring they recorded outcomes for children.

Met - outwith timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

Forth Primary School Nursery Class should improve transition procedures for nursery children's move to P1.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standards 6: support and development.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service had produced a booklet with information about transition into primary one. They had also developed events that children could take part in so they established links with children in primary 1 and their buddies.

This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 2

Forth Primary School Nursery Class should expand 'Heuristic play' opportunities for the children in the nursery, including expanding the range of natural resources available to children.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 3: health and wellbeing and standard 4: engaging with children.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff had increased the opportunities for children to access heuristic play and use natural resources within the nursery. They will continue to build on this.

This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 3

Forth Primary School Nursery Class should develop their outdoor play area to provide a rich natural play space that supports the children's outdoor learning opportunities.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 3: health and wellbeing and standard 5: quality of experience.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

In consultation with parents the outdoor environment had been developed to provide children with a range of stimulating opportunities which enhanced their learning.

This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 4

The provider should conduct professional review and development for all staff. These should be used to ensure it is clearly identified what actions and supports will be given to support staff development and training needs.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standards 14: well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

All staff had undertaken a professional development and review. They had identified what they did well and areas for their continued development. The head teacher will continue to embed this system in practice.

This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 5

Forth Primary School Nursery Class should develop a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the nursery provision.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 14: well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The manager and staff had developed the monitoring system for the nursery which had helped them evaluate the service and staff practice. An action plan had been compiled to help make improvements.

This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 6

Forth Primary School Nursery Class should ensure that the service uses robust quality assurance systems to enable them to measure and evaluate the quality of their service.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 14: well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service had used a range of best practice guidance to implement quality assurance systems that enabled them to assess the service they had provided. They will continue to embed this practice.

This recommendation has been met.

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

Date	Type	Gradings	
29 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
5 Dec 2014	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Date	Type	Gradings	
22 Jun 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
27 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.