

Chatelherault Nursery School

Day Care of Children

Avon Mill Cottage
(over Old Avon Bridge)
Old Avon Road
Hamilton
ML3 7UH

Telephone: 01698 283027

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 May 2017

Service provided by:
Chatelherault Nursery School Limited

Service provider number:
SP2003001437

Care service number:
CS2003006341

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

The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of 30 children aged from birth to those not yet attending primary school. The service offers sessional and full day care between the times of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday throughout the year.

The service operates from a semi-detached property in the Hamilton area of South Lanarkshire. The accommodation is composed of four playrooms. One dedicated for under 2s with the others allowing a free flow of access for children 2-5. There were appropriate toilet facilities, kitchen, staff accommodation and a large outdoor area.

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. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included, also known as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

Overall children who attended the nursery were observed to be happy, relaxed and comfortable in the surroundings. Children in the 0-2 room were settled and had formed nurturing relationships with staff. Children in 2-5 room were mostly confident about what goes on in nursery and responded positively to staff.

We had nine Care Standards Questionnaires completed and returned to us during our inspection. Four staff questionnaires were also returned to us. We spoke with one parent. Overall all parents indicated they were very happy with the quality of care their child received. Some additional comments from parents included: "There is a very friendly and caring ethos at Chatelherault nursery school. My son enjoys nursery and I feel confident that he is getting the best possible care", "Fantastic nursery. I cannot recommend it highly enough" and "They take time to identify my child's specific needs and develop a more individualised nurturing approach to his care". Parents also commented on how happy they were with the nursery and how well they thought their child was developing. They advised us of the verbal day-to-day feedback about their child from staff.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated 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	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	3 - Adequate
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

A supportive and nurturing environment had been created by staff. Children in the 0-2 room were mostly happy and content. They were able to confidently explore the experiences on offer within the room. Children were able to go to staff when they needed some extra care and attention. Within the 2-5 areas most children were confident in exploring the resources within the rooms and engaging with their peers. They had developed good relationships with staff and often sought them out when they wanted to showcase an achievement such as building a car. They had daily access to the large outdoor area which included a space for muddy messy play.

Staff were keen to make improvements and engage in professional dialogue with us. They were keen to be involved in the development of the service. Staff were aware of best practice guidelines and had been involved in discussions as to how these impact on how the service is provided to children. The induction process was seen as a positive experience by the new staff and they felt that this had provided them with a good knowledge of the service and what was expected of them. Safer recruitment procedures were in place and all staff were registered as appropriate with the Scottish Social Services Council.

The management team was in the process of carrying out an audit of staff skills and knowledge. They advised that this was the beginning stages of assessing the staff team individually and as a whole which would identify any training and development needs linked to staff's professional development. Staff had been encouraged to take on areas of responsibility linked to their interest and skill base. Staff practice was monitored informally on the floor. These plans for assessment and monitoring are positive as they would encourage and empower staff to reflect on their practice, plan for improvement and ensure positive outcomes for children.

What the service could do better

The recording format for personal plans meant that some of the information being recorded was not always clear, concise and easy to track (see recommendation 1).

The pace of the day and how it was structured limited children's ability to make meaningful choices about their learning (see recommendation 2).

Children's access to natural, sensory, creative and exploratory experiences were limited throughout the service (see recommendation 3).

The service's safe sleeping procedure was not inline with best practice (see recommendation 4).

We discussed the unexpected changes within the staff team as a whole and the impact this has had on the service. A large number of staff had left the service and whilst the management team had tried to mitigate the impact of the staff turnover, this had a negative impact on the quality of children's experiences (see recommendation 5).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 5

1. The service should review and develop their paperwork relating to personal plans to ensure that the information being recorded is meaningful, clear and allows effective monitoring of children's progress. Following current best practice guidelines.

National Care Standards: 6 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development

2. The provider should review routines for staff to ensure children's needs are met effectively throughout the day. In order to achieve this, the service should consider:

- staggering routines to reduce the number of children needing direct care, for example, at lunchtime and getting ready to go outside
- decreasing the amount of time children are not engaged in play
- introducing a more flexible routine for children to make further choices about their own play and care needs
- increasing the amount of choice children have to play indoors and outdoors.

This will ensure children are achieving and feel respected in the service.

National Care Standards: 5 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

3. The provider should consider the variety of resources used within the nursery to promote children's learning and development. Increased access should be given for creative, imaginative, sensory and natural experiences and those that support schemas for younger children.

National Care Standards: 5 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

4. The provider should follow best practice guidelines regarding safe sleeping arrangements for children. This guidance is available at:

<http://www.scottishcotdeathtrust.org/skyblucms/resources/early-years-guide-31.08.15.pdf>

National Care Standards: 3 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Health and Wellbeing

5. The provider should facilitate and encourage all staff to reflect on their practice in relation to national guidance, in particular:

- Getting it Right for Every Child, specifically the wellbeing indicators (2010)

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/what-is-girfec/children-adult-services/practitioners-info-pack>

- Building the Ambition (2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00458455.pdf>

- Pre-Birth to Three (2010)

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PreBirthToThreeBooklet_tcm4-633448.pdf

- My World Outdoors (2016)

<http://www.hub.careinspectorate.com/media/279348/my-world-outdoors-sharing-good-practice-in-how-early-years-services-can-provide-play-and-learning-wholly-or-partially-outdoors.pdf>

- Loose Parts Play (2016)

<http://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/media/58451/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>

These documents can be used as the starting point for evaluating practice and identifying areas for improvement, for example, the use of open-ended resources, different types of play and the benefits of risky play outdoors. This will help the service to provide richer play experiences for children.

National Care Standards: 13 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Improving the Service

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	
15 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good
30 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	2 - Weak 1 - Unsatisfactory 1 - Unsatisfactory 1 - Unsatisfactory
8 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
6 Mar 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
17 May 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
7 May 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed 1 - Unsatisfactory
11 Nov 2011	Re-grade	Care and support	1 - Unsatisfactory

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed 1 - Unsatisfactory Not assessed
13 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
17 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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