

St. Andrew's Nursery Class Day Care of Children

St. Andrew's Primary School Nursery Class
Eastfield Road
Carrickstone
Cumbernauld
Glasgow
G68 0EB

Telephone: 01236 632 111

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

28 September 2018

Service provided by:

North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000237

Service no:

CS2003020175

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 registered with the care inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

St. Andrew's Nursery Class is part of St. Andrew's Primary School in Cumbernauld. The service is situated in the grounds of the shared campus of St. Andrew's Primary School and Cumbernauld Primary School. The provider is North Lanarkshire Council. The service is registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 50 children at any one time aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school. Children attend a morning or afternoon session, term time, during the hours of 8.40am to 4.10pm.

The service is based across one main playroom with an enclosed garden with a range of play equipment and its own secure entrance. The service can also access the wider school playground and access resources within the school.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection that was carried out by two Inspectors on Thursday 27 September 2018. Feedback was provided to the manager on Friday 28 September 2018.

The aims of the service include:

'To work in partnership with you, the parents to promote positive behaviour in a caring and sensitive manner and to ensure that everyone is treated equally and fairly.'

'To strive for a genuine partnership with parents in an environment of mutual trust and respect and open communication where the parent's role in their development is valued.'

'To encourage the children to have their confidence to express their views and opinions, to raise their self-esteem and promote independence.'

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that 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 the outcomes for children, by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parents 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.

What people told us

We observed children at play and found most were happy and settled. We saw children move around the indoor areas playing with friends. We saw some children playing in the enclosed garden. We observed others on a walk to the forest. Where they worked well together, collecting leaves and twigs for discussion.

Prior to the inspection we sent out 16 Care Standard Questionnaires (CSQs) to the nursery to give to parents. We received 11 completed CSQs. All respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service." Comments included:

"I am very pleased with the care my son receives at nursery. The staff have always been pleasant and attentive."

"My child is extremely happy at St. Andrews nursery and I am happy she enjoys going every day and the teachers are great with her and the other children!"

"I feel as a working parent the communication is not great. Other NLC nursery classes use online profiles, Twitter and Facebook to allow parents opportunities to see what children are doing on a daily/regular basis."

"I do have opportunities to ask how my child got on when I can pick up on occasion, however, seeing progress or activities online would help us to talk about play at home."

"The staff have went above and beyond for my daughter."

"I couldn't ask anymore from the staff."

We shared the above comments with the service. We were satisfied they would consider these and take any actions as required.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. We discussed the improvement plan for the service which demonstrated clear priorities for improving outcomes as well as progress made.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

During our inspection we saw caring relationships and interactions between some staff and children. Staff knew children and seemed to have good relationships with parents. This was evident through our observations during collection times and discussions with staff. Some staff helped to facilitate nice friendships between children. Children seemed happy at the nursery.

We found the playroom was safe and secure. There was a secure door entry system and the nursery playground had a secure gate that was opened for parents by staff at the beginning and end of each session. The children benefited from a large playroom and accessible garden with a range of suitable resources. We saw that very

structured daily routines restricted children's choices and access to outdoor play. We spoke with staff about how they could remove these barriers to enable children to learn through play, develop their own routines and follow their own interests. Staff told us about plans they had for improving the indoor and outdoor environment, for example tyres and loose parts for small world play and a mud kitchen for children to develop their imagination skills. This would help children to access a better variety of play opportunities.

Staff spoke positively about the online learning journals used to record and share children's learning experiences. The journals promoted more parental interaction and focussed observations. We saw that these were at an early stage and could be developed further.

There were good opportunities for children to use their local community and engage in nature. The service provided outdoor forest sessions for all children. Each child had the opportunity to participate in this experience with their key group and a trained member of staff, to the appropriate ratios of children. The sessions took place in the natural forest grounds, a five minute walk from the nursery. We joined a forest walk on the day of inspection and found this to be a good experience for the children. Staff used good open ended questioning whilst the children explored and investigated, collecting leaves and twigs for discussion.

What the service could do better

Whilst children appeared happy there was generally a lack of meaningful play opportunities provided throughout the inspection. Staff should ensure the resources offered create a sense of interest, wonder and challenge for children. This would support children to direct their own play and have improved meaningful experiences. We discussed with staff how they could use best practice documents including Building the Ambition, Our Creative Journey and Applying Nurture a Whole School Approach to support them to develop more positive play opportunities for children. (Recommendation One).

Staff were in the early stages of using online learning journals to record observations of children's development and learning. Whilst observations were meaningful staff did not then identify children's possible next steps, to effectively plan for children's learning and interests. As a result there were missed opportunities to support children to progress and meet their potential. (Recommendation Two).

As there were significant gaps in the information recorded within children's personal plans. Inconsistency within the staff team meant that staff did not have cohesive plans to support children effectively and reflect children's individual needs. This was particularly evident for children who currently required additional support in areas of their learning and wellbeing. We found also that parents were not fully included in reviewing their child's personal plan and plans were not updated regularly in line with legislation. (Recommendation Three).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 3

1. The service should improve how children and young people are able to direct and lead their own play. In order to develop the play experiences provided for children the service should review the resources and experiences

provided so that they stimulate children's natural curiosity, learning and creativity. The service should use best practice guidance to develop the staff team's understanding of play and how to promote positive play experiences for children.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity." (HSCS 2.27)

2. To ensure children are fully supported to achieve their full potential staff should continue to develop the use of observations and assessments to identify and plan for children's learning and development.

This ensures care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which states that I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me. (HSCS 1.27)

3. To promote children's wellbeing and development the service should, after consultation with parents/carers, ensure personal plans are fully completed for each child and that plans are reviewed and updated at least every six months thereafter, or when there is significant change or development. The service should ensure that personal plans reflect children's needs and any strategies are recorded so that they can be effectively implemented and reviewed and support the service to keep their records in line with current legislative requirements.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices. (HSCS 1.15)

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
30 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
3 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment
		4 - Good 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
6 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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