

St. Elizabeth's Primary School Nursery Class

Day Care of Children

William Drive
Hamilton
ML3 7RQ

Telephone: 01698 285080

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

11 December 2018

Service provided by:

South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003481

Service no:

CS2003015347

About the service

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

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

St. Elizabeth's Primary School Nursery Class is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 80 children, over two years and not yet attending primary school, at any one time.

Of those 80, no more than 20 are aged two to under three and;
No more than 60 are aged three to those not yet attending primary school.

The provider is South Lanarkshire Council.

The service is based in the Eddlewood area of Hamilton, South Lanarkshire. The service is delivered from two playrooms within the primary school for both age groups. Each playroom has a secure entrance and direct access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

The service aims currently include:

'to provide a learning environment for young children aged two to five years by encouraging in every child a desire for learning and the acquisition of skills and knowledge through delivering a balanced curriculum.'

The service are in the process of reviewing the aims for the service in consultation with children, parents and staff.

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 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.

This inspection took place over two days and was carried out by one inspector.

What people told us

We observed the children within both playrooms as they took part in a variety of indoor and outdoor experiences. We spoke to individual and small groups of children as they played. We saw that the children were happy, having fun and engaged in their play. The children's comments included:

'I like outside the best because you can do lots of things, like climbing, painting, running. We go outside lots of times.'

'This is the garden. We can choose anywhere to play, in or out.'

'I painted this for my Mum.'

'Let's pretend it is Christmas. Lie down and wake up and then Santa will have been.' (imaginative play in home corner)

'This is a present for you.' (wrapping gifts)

We sent 20 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to the parents/carers of children who experienced care at the service. Nine of these were completed and returned before the inspection. The majority of responses indicated that parents were very happy with the quality of care and support their children received at the service. We also spoke to four parents/carers over the course of the inspection, who spoke highly of the quality of care and support, staff, management and the varied indoor and outdoor experiences offered to their children. Comments included:

'Staff are excellent with my child. They provide nurture and comfort when required; however, also promote independence and responsibility from a young age, which we as parents really appreciate. Staff are very enthusiastic, patient, knowledgeable and professional. Our child's confidence has grown immensely.'

'My child started nursery during the 30 hours free childcare trial. As this was new, there were teething problems and clear information was not provided before the children started as it was not available to staff. These have now been sorted and a smooth routine has been developed due to the hard work of nursery management and staff.'

'My child loves nursery. They are excited to go and more excited to talk about their day at home. They have developed a close relationship with staff and staff have encouraged them to grow in confidence and develop new skills. I have loved watching my child thrive and cannot fault the nursery environment or staff.'

'I cannot speak highly enough of the whole staff group. Things are now more settled and the children have lots of experiences and activities here. They get to play outside most days, which I really like as that is what my child likes best. They have just had a show where all the parents were welcomed and we are coming back for a Christmas Fayre. They do so much and it is always for the good of the children and us as their parents.'

'Personally, I have had a lot of support from staff for my child. I can talk to them at any time and they will always help in any way. I have nothing but praise for them.'

Self assessment

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

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

There was a warm, happy ethos within the nursery. Children were fully engaged in a wide variety of learning experiences, making choices of where to play and what to play with, both indoors and outdoors over the course of the inspection. The older children were having lots of fun working co-operatively with their friends, while taking part in imaginative play in the home corner and an elves workshop. The younger children particularly enjoyed sensory experiences while playing in the water, with playdough, baking and painting.

Although there had been significant changes in staffing within the last year, staff in both playrooms were knowledgeable about the individual care and support needs, interests and personalities of each of the children in their care and were observed to work well as a team. They were caring and nurturing to all children, speaking calmly and respectfully, promoting children's independence, praising children and providing support as necessary. This contributed to children feeling valued, loved and secure.

All staff accessed child protection training annually and as part of their induction programme, if new to the service. Clear systems were in place to ensure all staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children and relevant information was displayed for parents. This training and information contributed towards all children's health, safety and wellbeing.

Good hand hygiene practices were followed by staff and children when relevant throughout the day. This contributed to a safe and healthy environment. Children's independence and responsibility was promoted at snack times. Children were encouraged to select their own plate, what they wanted to eat and drink and to put their plates and cups in the sink to be washed, when finished. This was a relaxed, sociable and unhurried experience for children. Healthy eating was promoted and all meals and snacks met children's cultural and dietary needs and individual preferences. We acknowledged that management had reviewed the lunchtime period to ensure positive outcomes for children. This current arrangement meant that all age groups of children could enjoy their lunch in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible and ensured there was a consistency and continuity of staff in the playrooms after lunch.

Children in both playrooms had access to an enclosed outdoor play area. We saw that all children were given the choice to play indoors or outdoors throughout the day. On the first day of the inspection, the doors to the play area remained open for the children in the three to five playroom. This worked well and meant that the children could independently choose whether to play indoors or outdoors, access a balance of organised and freely chosen activities, including using open ended and natural materials.

We noted that the outdoor play area for the younger children had been extended since the last inspection and plans were in place to create a richer outdoor learning environment which would stimulate children's natural curiosity, learning and creativity. Staff were also keen to provide more opportunities for all children to have access to the natural environment and hoped to begin a forest school programme, where groups of children could regularly explore a local wooded area, extending their experiences, knowledge and skills.

What the service could do better

Although personal plans were in place for all children and staff knew each child's care and support needs, not all information was clear and concise to reflect the child's current care and support needs and how these needs would be met in the service. This included if/how long the individual child should sleep for. Not all personal plans had been reviewed with parents in line with legislation.

(see recommendation 1)

Although parental consent for medication forms and administration for medication forms were in place, not all required sections had been completed to ensure accurate records were maintained. This is to contribute to children's health and safety when medication is required while at nursery.
(see recommendation 2)

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The manager and staff should review the format of personal plans to ensure that each child's personal plan clearly shows their current care and support needs and how these needs will be met within the service. The 'all about me' sheets should be reviewed for the younger children to include if, when and for how long the child should sleep. All personal plans should be reviewed with parents once every six months, or sooner if required or requested, in line with legislation.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: '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)

2. The manager and staff should ensure that the medication forms and procedures are in line with current good practice guidance 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services.' They should ensure that:

- the updated parental consent forms for medication and administration of medication forms are used consistently throughout the nursery
- all required sections of the forms are completed
- the signs and symptoms of children's conditions are recorded
- the parent/carer has signed to confirm they are aware their child has received medication at the service when they collect the child
- a record is kept of when a child has refused medication or when medication could not be given, with the reasons and the actions taken by the nursery.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11)

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	
8 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
8 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
3 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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