

Clentry Nursery School Day Care of Children

Keltyhill Road
Kelty
KY4 0LB

Telephone: 01383 602410

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

26 October 2018

Service provided by:

Fife Council

Service provider number:

SP2004005267

Service no:

CS2003015936

About the service

Clentry Nursery School registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2002. It provides early learning and childcare to a maximum of 120 children who are not yet attending primary school. A maximum of 15 children, under the age of 3, may be cared for at any one time.

Clentry Nursery School is provided by Fife Council and is managed by the head teacher who also has responsibility for another similar service.

The accommodation comprises of four separate playrooms, each of which has its own toilet facilities. In addition, there is an adapted toilet facility which can also be used for nappy changing. There is also a small kitchen and office and staff facilities as well as two rooms which are primarily for the use of parents. The children have direct access to extensive outdoor areas.

Aims of the service include to play an active role in nurturing the children ante their families within a caring, safe, secure and happy environment.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as 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 the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We observed the children happily engaged in play and spoke to approximately ten children during the inspection. Comments included:

"Do you like my painting?"

"I've written daddy's name."

"We made potato soup and we ate it at the woods."

"We played in the mud."

"I'm on the see saw."

We sent out 40 care standards questionnaires and received thirteen completed questionnaires from parents and carers which showed a high level of satisfaction particularly about the staff and the high level of support which gave parents confidence in leaving their children in the care of Clentry nursery.

Comments included:

"I have found all the staff at Clentry Nursery to be very friendly and approachable if needed to be approached. I am always informed about what my son did and ate each day. Leaving your little one at nursery is always daunting but I felt very comfortable and happy leaving him with the knowledge he was safe in his class and well looked after by his PSA and always informed of any updates by management."

"I can not thank Clentry Nursery enough for how much they have helped my son develop. My husband and I were slightly worried about his speech but his key worker was fantastic. She kept us updated and worked to help him become the chatty and happy little boy he is now. All the staff are caring, fun and professional. They are great, role models. There is always activities planned, fantastic structure and amazing to see how they encourage independent learning. The nursery also offer a range of classes which I have attended with my baby boy. Fantastic service, fantastic staff."

"We have had outstanding support from the staff. We can't thank Clentry enough for their support."

We spoke directly to approximately twelve parents and carers on the first day of the inspection and they were mainly very happy with the service and the communication feeling that they were kept well informed about what was happening and the progress their children were making. Comments included:

"We love it."

"It's amazing. No problems."

"Our keyworker keeps us up to date with what the class has been up to."

"The food is healthy and wholesome. I've had some stay and play sessions when they were settling in."

"I love all the natural stuff."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own Standards and Quality Report 2017-18. This 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

Care and support for children and families who attended Clentry was very good. Staff knew children and families very well, and were responsive and respectful to each family and their individual needs. Staff showed a professional approach when consulting with children and families ensuring that children received the care and support they needed.

Staff interacted with the children in a nurturing and responsive way. We saw staff use humour and distraction techniques to help support and settle children happily within the nursery or if they became upset or anxious. We saw that staff offered praise and encouragement for children's achievements and this contributed to children's confidence and self esteem encouraging positive outcomes for children and families.

A motivated and professional management team led the nursery. The new manager was forward thinking and had a clear vision to lead and develop the staff team and the service as a whole.

Staff we spoke to told us that they felt very well supported and encouraged by the management team. They in turn were giving her great support and we saw them moving forward together.

All staff had met with the manager to discuss their own individual roles and interests in taking the service forward and developing the nursery further. Most staff had taken on additional responsibilities with additional staff training for example in PEEP (Parenting Early Education Programme), outdoor learning and baby massage in order to provide further opportunities for parents within the community.

Although some of these initiatives were in the early stages we could see from the commitment of staff that they would impact positively on outcomes for children. Throughout our visit, we observed staff settling and supporting children in their new routines and environments.

Self-evaluation by management and working towards continuous improvement was embedded into the nursery practice. We saw strong evidence that the management team were continuously reflecting on, and measuring the impact of their work, and of the successes within the service. They were beginning to involve staff in the evaluation of the service and had plans to extend this further until all staff were comfortable with critically analysing their peers work in order to improve outcomes for the children in their care. Staff had been involved in setting and identifying the service's priorities for improvement. As a result of this staff felt valued and were motivated to further develop the service, and continuously improve outcomes for children.

Outdoor play and learning was a priority for the nursery and was very popular with all the children. The playrooms opened directly onto interesting and fun outdoor spaces which the children could access throughout the day. The children were able to take part in various planting and harvesting activities and enjoyed weekly visits to the local woods. The staff were all enthusiastic about how this element of the service enriched the children's learning and broadened their experiences. The staff recognised the importance of risk and challenge in children's outdoor play. As a consequence, the children were being offered the opportunity to take part in activities which involved challenge, learning about risk, allowing the children to stretch themselves whilst also taking responsibility for their own safety and that of others.

Active play indoors was also popular with children and we heard that the pre school children enjoyed yogido weekly. The use of the conservatory provided an additional space for active play indoors during extreme weather conditions such as a recent storm when unusually it had been too dangerous to allow children out to play.

We saw that staff recorded their planning in large floor books accessible to children and parents and that the activities were based on children's interests. Learning walls showed that staff took time to discuss with the children their experiences and learning and ensured that staff provided rich and challenging experiences which helped extend the children's knowledge and enquiring minds. Children and parents were thoroughly involved in the learning walls and Staff were particularly good at following up on children's lines of interest which meant that children were learning about what interested them. The floor books used to record the Learning Walls provided a valuable opportunity to revisit the children's learning. Staff were evaluating the children's learning and sharing good practice.

Family learning sessions were well established and provided very good opportunities for families to develop home links and to become involved with the nursery at an early stage. The range continued to be developed and currently included Monday Movers, Clentry Crafters, Book Bugs/Messy Play, Rhyme Time, Bumps to Babies, Yogido, Baby Massage and Sensory Fun. This provided opportunities for parents to build up friendships with other parents and carers and to get to know the staff better and for the children to build their confidence, social skills, speech and language and stimulate their senses.

The continued use of How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare was seen to be supporting continuous improvement. The nursery was working closely with Sunflower Nursery and arranging visits to other centres to share good practice.

A fortnightly staff forum assessing children's learning and the impact on the children and their families had been set up and this helped ensure that all staff were aware of each individual child and their needs. Communication was a key strength within the nursery both between the staff and the children as staff supported them with their language development.

What the service could do better

We noted that although staff knew the children and were responding to, and meeting their individual needs very well, they needed to update and improve the information recorded in their personal profiles. We discussed this at feedback emphasising that children should always have meaningful and measurable Next Steps to work on. The manager told us that she was confident that staff knew much more about children and how they were supporting them to achieve than they had recorded in their personal plans. The manager agreed to work with staff and parents to review and update personal plans. The impact of this should also be recorded.

Management and staff should continue to develop the parents forum listening to what parents want to achieve as part of the staff's commitment to drive to improve the nursery in every aspect.

Accident and incident forms should be audited carefully to ensure that they are being completed correctly. Staff should ensure that full names are being used and not only first names for children and adults alike. Parents/ carers should always be notified when their child has been hurt and they should sign the form to indicate that they have been told of the accident/ incident.

Self evaluation processes and procedures should continue to be developed within the nursery with the continued use of How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare to support continuous improvement.

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	
1 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
5 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
5 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
14 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
1 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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