

St. Nicholas Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

189b West Main Street
Broxburn
EH52 5LH

Telephone: 01506 853509

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

28 February 2019

Service provided by:

West Lothian Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002601

Service no:

CS2003016158

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.

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 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.

The service is provided by West Lothian Council. The headteacher is the designated manager and is supported by a depute and two early years officers who have day-to-day responsibility for the management of the nursery.

The nursery is based within the primary school. The children can access other parts of the premises for specific activities and also have access to good outdoor facilities.

The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 50 preschool children, from the age of three years upwards who are not yet attending primary school. Morning and afternoon sessions are available as well as full day places.

Parents had been involved in developing the service's aims which includes their commitment to:

- provide a safe, happy and caring environment for our children
- work together with parents as partners to ensure the best outcomes for our children.
- equip children with the skills for life and for the future.
- to work in partnership with the school and wider community
- to support children's wellbeing, build their resilience and help them to have a growth mindset.

What people told us

We saw that children and parents were warmly welcomed into the service. It was evident that close relationships with families were well established as they chatted comfortably and shared information about children. Children settled quickly on arrival choosing what they wanted to do. Through their play they told us;

'I like outside'.

'I'm going to flip it over'.

'He wants to be left alone in there'.

'I'm a ghost'.

'I want to build a castle'.

When one child was asked what they had got a sticker for they said 'Being wibbly wobbly. I was very good'.

Parents were extremely complimentary about the service and staff. They told us that staff often 'went above and beyond the call of duty' to help and support them and their children. They were impressed with staff skills and experience and confident they would keep their children safe. They were particularly impressed with the way all staff met children's individual needs. One parent told us 'Staff always gave me so much time and understanding on the phone. The staff have no idea how much I appreciated all their reassurance and their patience with (child's name)'.

Parents told us that staff regularly assessed their children's learning and shared information with them. They confirmed that there was a range of activities that children could choose from.

One parent was unsure if their child could sleep if they needed to and we asked the service to let parents know how they would support this if needed.

Comments included:

'I find the nursery staff wonderful, caring and educate my child really well. It is the same teachers who took care of my 1st child who had additional needs. Without their help he wouldn't have a place at the school he's in now. They had brilliant resources'.

'Excellent service provision by experienced, dedicated and caring staff'.

'Staff are engaging, proactive and enthusiastic in involving children and parents to design activities for children to create an educational environment'.

'Everyone within the nursery is so very friendly. My son loves going and is always excited to tell me all about his day. I have seen a massive difference in him, he has come on so much since joining'.

'The nursery offers a warm, nurturing and caring environment. The staff are professional and it is clear that the welfare and care of the children comes first at all times'.

'We have recently started participating in the Family Connect sessions run by the nursery on a Thursday afternoon. I really value the opportunity to spend quality time with my son in this way learning skills that will help us support our son as he grows through the school system. The nursery team have been very accommodating, taking my son in for one hour before the session begins, enabling me to participate in the session more fully'.

'(child's name) teacher at nursery was great to him and helped him pronounce other kids names better and practiced his sounds. I am grateful this was picked up before (child's name) started school.

'The nursery staff collectively are wonderful, not only are they fantastic with the children, but with parents also. St. Nicholas offers such a warm, caring and friendly environment with nothing but the children's health and happiness in mind'.

Self assessment

We did not request a self assessment from the service prior to this inspection. We looked at the service's improvement plan and talked to the management and staff about progress from the last inspection and future plans for continued development.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

Children received excellent quality care and support in this service. Staff had created a very positive, inclusive, nurturing ethos with children and families placed at the heart of everything they do. Children were safe, happy and content. They had fun and clearly enjoyed their nursery experience.

We found that the staff team fully embraced the values and ethos of the service which resulted in an excellent approach to supporting children's individual needs. To do this effectively, they recognised the importance of working with the whole family and were skilled at building positive relationships with them, which led to effective partnership working.

From first contact, staff ensured parents and other professionals were involved as they gathered information about children's individual needs. Parents valued this opportunity to talk about their child's needs and confirmed this information was used to develop highly effective individual plans for their child. It also enabled everyone to implement agreed strategies so that children experienced being supported in a consistent way.

The manager and staff played a pivotal role in the team around the child (TAC). Their sound knowledge of child development, GIRFEC, the well-being indicators and strong inter-agency working resulted in children receiving support when they needed it. Early intervention and on-going assessment of children's development was therefore, firmly embedded into practice.

The flexible, child led approach ensured children experienced being nurtured and supported by skilled staff which led to positive experiences within the service. Children's voice was extremely well supported by staff which meant children led their own learning. We saw children fully engaged in their play. They confidently problem solved and when a small group of children successfully completed a game they celebrated their achievement by laughing and praising with each other.

Families benefitted from attending a well established parent group. This was now facilitated by a parent and had led to a deeper understanding of each others views and prospective. This had contributed to the success of the group through mutual respect and established a positive foundation for families attending St. Nicholas.

The staff team were pro-active and passionate about providing a quality service for children and families. They described in detail how they used training to develop the service for children. They had forged links with other community groups which enhanced learning opportunities for children. As a team they regularly evaluated their work and compiled improvement plans which enabled the continuous development of the service.

What the service could do better

The staff team would continue to embed the initiatives that provide positive outcomes for children and families. Everyone were familiar with the priorities in the improvement plan and their individual responsibilities. There were plans in place to reorganise parts of the environment which would better support free-flow play between in and outdoors. Where their practice and expertise is shared with others, it would be useful to get feedback from other services about the impact it has had in the wider learning community.

We asked staff if they administer medication on an 'as when needed' basis to record why they give it, as the form they use does not have a column for this. This issue will be raised with the Local Authority. We suggested that audits of the systems in place will help identify they are effectively used.

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.

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

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

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

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
23 Jun 2010	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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