

Ballumbie Early Years Day Care of Children

Ballumbie Primary and Early Years
70 Lothian Crescent
Dundee
DD4 0HU

Telephone: 01382 438644

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

7 March 2019

Service provided by:

Dundee City Council

Service provider number:

SP2003004034

Service no:

CS2003015797

About the service

The service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since April 2011 and is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 118 children age from two years to 12 years of whom a maximum of 25 children age two years may be cared for at any one time.

Ballumbie Early Years operates a flexible day care of children service provided by Dundee City Council, and is situated in the Whitfield area of Dundee. The service is managed by a designated manager and a wider management team including the school head teacher. The nursery is situated within the school building. Children had direct access to an inviting outdoor play area adjacent to the nursery.

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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

All of the children had fun playing and were actively involved in their learning. We saw they were very confident as they used the resource and outdoor spaces well.

We spoke with a large number of the children present throughout the day. We had comments about the nursery and activities they were involved in from more than 20 children. Their comments included:

"It's good at nursery; I've got my friends to play with".

"I like going on the bikes, I can ride the bike myself".

"I like to play outside and ride the bikes".

"I've been at nursery for ages".

"When I'm in primary five, I will be 10".

"I go on the climbing frame outside".

"I'm the leader and he's the follower".

"It's fun, there's things to do like go to the soft play".

"I'm going to help with snack, we're going to make pancakes".

"This is for spinning, you have to make it fit and then you can spin it".

"I'm building a ramp, I can roll stuff down it".

"Do you like my den, I built it myself."

"We're meant to share".

"I always wash my hands before snack, see they're clean".

"Come and play with us, I can wash your hair".

"Paint, paint, paint".

"This is the daddy monkey and the baby monkey".

"Look, the water's going through".

We spoke with seven parents and carers during the inspection who all highly praised the level of care provided to their children, how they were all included within the nursery family and the relationships they had established with the nursery staff. They particularly liked how their children had fun as they gained in confidence and were cared for by caring and non-judgemental staff. As part of the discussions, we spoke with a group of parents who were participating in a Solihull programme.

We received six completed questionnaires from parents and carers, who all told us they agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the service their children receive. Comments from the questionnaires and face to face discussions included:

"I think the nursery is ran very well and the staff are amazing".

"Excellent staff all round".

"Staff are amazing".

"I'm not judged".

"It's respectful".

"It's changed how we act with our child and we can see the impact of this".

"It's helped and changed how we think and do things".

"We made up the group rules, we've got ownership of it".

"We have built relationships within the group, there's trust".

"Can speak to Morag anytime".

"She (Morag) is amazing, always speaks and smile".

"Always has time to meet with us and always makes time for us".

"They pick staff very well, new staff slot into the role as if they have always been here".

"There's a stay and play session, information's on the door about it".

"I like the class DoJo, it's been really good to share information. I can use it at home with my child and we can do it together".

"I'm really happy, sometimes it's difficult to get them home because they're having so much fun".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed the service improvement plan and priorities for the year ahead. We also viewed quality assurance information which identified individual development and staff responsibilities.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support and from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as very good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as very good.

Staff provided a welcoming, relaxed and friendly atmosphere for children and their families which enabled them to be included and feel respected as they entered the nursery. We saw very positive and nurturing relationships between the staff and children throughout the inspection, which helped to build children's confidence and build trust. Staff knew the children well and showed genuine care and attention towards them and their families; providing individual support to each child and recognising their qualities and needs. This helped to make the nursery an inclusive environment, with children's choices, ideas and wishes being encouraged and supported by responsive and skilled staff.

Children were able to influence flow of the day through regular discussions about what they wanted and we saw how children's interests were supported through their fun play activities. These included activities such as helping to prepare snack, creating an ice-cream shop, working in the hair salon and building ramps and dens.

The children spoke confidently about their activities and learned about real life experiences to help develop their understanding, such as taking a trip to the shop to buy ingredients for making their own ice-cream. We found children to be very happy and enjoy a wide range of fun and stimulating activities which provided opportunities for them to use their imaginations and be creative.

Staff supported children to be respectful of their peers, role modelling positive behaviours and encouraging children to be responsible for their own behaviour and resolve disputes. Staff provided encouragement and praise, celebrating children's achievements whilst building their confidence and self-esteem. We found staff to be clear about their roles and responsibilities for keeping children safe and protected.

Parents and carers had opportunities to join the nursery session during stay-and-play days and to be part of a supportive development group using the Solihull approach. These proved to be a particular strength of the service, with parents and carers reflecting very positively about the non-judgmental and trusting relationships they had established and the impact on their whole family. This supports better inclusion for families in a holistic manner and enables them to actively contribute to the development of the nursery.

The environment was secure, safe and well maintained. It was light and welcoming with displays of children's artwork chosen by children presented throughout the nursery. Children had direct access to outdoor play areas with separate direct access from the younger children's room and the pre-school room. Staff supported children well as they enjoyed free flow opportunities. This enabled them to move freely between activities indoors and outside, ensuring children had access to fresh air and more energetic play throughout the day.

The area for youngest children had undergone some significant development and provided a homely, warm and nurturing area decorated in calming neutral colours. This helped provide a relaxing, cosy and safe environment for the youngest children.

Children made good use of 'Loose Parts Play' throughout the nursery. They spoke positively about their play and learning and had many opportunities to extend their creative and imaginary play using a range of natural resources.

Following a recommendation made at the last inspection, the children were well supported to develop a good understanding of personal hygiene and health. Staff reminded children about washing their hands at appropriate times, such as after toileting, playing outdoors and before eating.

What the service could do better

We observed snack and lunch times during the inspection. There were opportunities to further enhance the experiences for children during these times, such as providing more opportunities for children to be independent. We discussed reviewing arrangements at lunch times to make a relaxed and sociable experience for all children. The management team told us that work was in progress to review lunch times and to speak with parents about healthy and nutritious meal and packed lunch options.

Staff and children organised and used the space within the nursery well and regularly review the layout to ensure it best meets the needs of the children attending. The management team told us of their hopes to develop the indoor environment within the pre-school area and we would support this. We discussed the importance of having cosy and comfortable areas for children to rest and sleep if needed. We agreed this should be developed further to provide more opportunities for relaxation, particularly for children who attend the extended hour's provision.

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

Recommendation 1

Staff should continue to extend children's access to books and further enhance early literacy throughout the centre.

National Care Standards: Early Learning and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 5: Quality of Experience and Standard 11: Access to Resources.

This recommendation was made on 17 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We saw children have many opportunities to access books and develop early literacy and creativity through their role play and story telling resources. World Book Day was celebrated and all children were supported to use the books available, visit the library and tell stories to each other. We found this recommendation to be met.

Recommendation 2

Staff must ensure that a robust and consistent approach to hand washing is ensured to support children's health and to minimise risk of illness and infection.

National Care Standards: Early Learning and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 2: A Safe Environment and Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 17 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff supported and reminded children to wash their hands at appropriate times. Children spoke confidently about hand washing and the need to do this before snack and meal times and after using the toilet. We found this recommendation to be met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
19 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
21 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
8 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
15 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed

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