Inspection report

Maxwellton Primary School Nursery Class
Day Care of Children
Maxwellton Avenue
Calderwood
East Kilbride    G74 3DU

Inspected by:          Lorraine Barr
(Care Commission Officer)
Type of inspection:    Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 10 March 2008
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<td>Care Commission Officer</td>
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<td>Princes Gate</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 Castle Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
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Introduction
The nursery is situated within Maxwellton Primary School and is seen as an integral part of the school.

The nursery has its own entrance leading directly from the school grounds and is located in the residential area of East Kilbride. The Nursery area has an entrance area, where information relating to the nursery was very well displayed. Children had access to 2 large playrooms and an enclosed outside play area leading from one of the playrooms.

The nursery can offer up to 40 children at any one time, aged from three years to those not attending primary school.

The nursery was registered with the Care Commission in April 2002 and offers support to families in the local area.

Basis of Report
Before the Inspection

The Annual Return

The service submitted a completed Annual Return as requested by the Care Commission.

The Self-Evaluation Form

The service submitted a self-evaluation form as requested by the Care Commission.

Regulation Support Assessment

This service was inspected after a Regulation Support Assessment (RSA) was carried out to determine the intensity of inspection necessary. The RSA is an assessment undertaken by the Care Commission Officer (CCO) which considers: complaints activity, changes in the provision of the service, nature of notifications made to the Care Commission by the service (such as absence of a manager) and action taken upon requirements. The CCO will also have considered how the service responded to situations and issues as part of the RSA.

This assessment resulted in this service receiving a low RSA score and so a low intensity inspection was required as a result. The inspection was then based upon a low intensity inspection and the relevant inspection focus area(s) and follow up on any recommendations and requirements from previous inspections, complaints or other regulatory activity.

The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2002, Scottish Statutory Instrument 114 and elements of the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing
Standard 5: Quality of Experience
Standard 12: Confidence in Staff
Inspection Focus Areas and associated National Care Standards for 2007/08

Active Play
Infection Control
Child Protection

Evidence looked at included:

- Certificate of registration
- Child protection policy
- Cleaning schedules
- Risk assessments for inside and outside the premises
- Health and hygiene policy
- Attendance register
- Public liability insurance.

Planning/Observation/Evaluation Records

Fire Safety Issues
The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Further advice on your responsibilities is available at www.infoscotland.com/firelaw

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
There were no previous requirements identified in previous inspection report.

Comments on Self-Evaluation
A completed self-evaluation document was submitted by the Manager. It highlighted the strengths of each of the standards associated with the inspection focus areas.

View of Service Users
The nursery was warm and welcoming on the day of inspection. All children moved freely between the experiences offered to them in the playroom.

The two playrooms had been developed into the one large area, with a wide range of resources for the children to access. Staff interacted well with the children when required and to extend their learning and interests.

The children spoken with at the inspection were keen to show the officer their artwork and chatted about their favourite things to do in nursery. These comments included:
"I love everything in Nursery."
"I like playing in the sand."
"He made a music box and I made a tune box."
View of Carers
There were nine questionnaires returned to the care commission, all parents and carers who returned these were overall very happy with the service, some comments included:
“"I am delighted with the staff and choice of activities on offer;”
“"My child is thriving since attending this nursery.”
“There are frequent updates to parents about what is current in nursery and invites to various meetings and events.”
“There staff go out of their way to know each child and I am very happy with the interaction they give.”
Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 3: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Health and Wellbeing

Strengths

This report does not include comments on elements 4 or 6 of standard 3, as the officer assessed that there was no need to look at all aspects of this standard.

There were various ways to inform parents of the activities that take place in the nursery. Information for parents and carers was displayed throughout the nursery entrance. Policies on child protection and emergency procedures contained contact information for making referrals to appropriate agencies. Any child protection issues were discussed regularly at weekly meetings and formal training takes place on an annual basis. Staff were well versed in using the child protection procedures and were confident in these procedures. Through discussion with the child protection co-ordinator it was evident that processes in relation to this subject were well organised and all agencies involved were kept well informed.

A health promoting approach provided children with opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles, relationships and hygiene. Very good standards of hygiene were observed within the nursery and policies and procedures were available to support good practice. The recent Hand washing Initiative produced by the Scottish Parliament was in place and shared with parents. Risk assessments for the indoors and outdoors along with cleaning and maintenance schedules for toys and equipment were in place. Parents were informed of exclusion periods for children with infectious illness.

Children had very good access to resources for active and energetic play. They had access to school gym on a regular basis. The children took part in outdoor play, during the session. The equipment available outdoors included a chute, climbing frame, bikes table and chairs. Good use of space both indoors and out allowed the children to have easy access to a well balanced curriculum.

Areas for Development

The Service should continue with the good practice identified in this standard.

National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

Strengths

This report includes comments on all elements of standard 5.

The centre was bright, colourful and inviting to both adults and children. Both rooms were well presented to maximise children's interests and learning. The service are currently promoting active learning through the nursery and primary one and as result of this, there was a joint visit to Almond Valley. During the inspection the children took part in a singing and music activity to encourage early
numeracy skills. Some of the children took the officer to the board of prompts set up by staff
to let the children know what is happening throughout the session and explained what the
symbols meant. One child told the officer
that the children go outdoors each day and pointed to a box of outdoor clothing that is used
for the children in all weathers.
Photographs evidenced the range of experiences that were offered to the children outdoors,
at different times of the year. The children had recently created a snow project from the
recent snowy weather they had experienced.

Areas for Development

The service should continue with the good practice identified within this standard.

National Care Standard Number 12: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
- Confidence in Staff

Strengths

The overall manager of the nursery was the Head Teacher of Maxwellton Primary School.
Both her and the depute head had a strong vision of how the nursery can continue to be a
key part of the local community.

On the day of inspection staffing complied with the input standards on adult:child ratios and
staff qualifications as in the National Care Standards Annexe A. On the day of inspection the
staff worked well together and provided supportive relationships to each other, the children
and any other adults visiting the building.

Regular Personal Development and Review interviews took place and all staff had a training
plan. Some of the in-house training is taken along with the Primary School staff.

Areas for Development

The service should continue with the good practice identified within this standard.

National Care Standard Number 99: Other Issues Related to National Care Standards
and Regulations

Strengths

The following recommendation identified in the previous inspection report and had now been
actioned.

The Care Commission carried out a sampling exercise of South Lanarkshire Council’s
recruitment practices on 12 June 2007, to follow up on the four recommendations made last
year.

1. A copy of the memo from the Occupational Nurse confirming fitness should always be
2. Two references including one from previous employer should be on file for all new Council employees. The acceptability of the practice of taking up only one reference for internal appointments should be clarified in written procedures. National Care Standards, SSSC – Employer.

3. Records should indicate whether Disclosure Scotland checks were at enhanced level. National Care Standards, SSSC – Employer.

4. Where applicable copies of certificates should be kept on file to verify any qualifications listed on the application form. National Care Standards, SSSC – Employer.

**Areas for Development**

These recommendations have been met.
Enforcement
There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Other Information
The Management Team had quickly embraced the Quality Assurance Framework as laid out by the Care Commission for the inspection process of 2008-2009. They had taken the grading information and shared this with parents and asked them to grade the Service. Information Sessions were offered to parents and carers and this was well received. The responses were collated and an action plan developed. This was distributed to parents and carers along with a summary of what the service currently does well from the parents and carers views.

Requirements

Recommendations

Lorraine Barr
Care Commission Officer