Mount Cameron Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children
Blacklaw Drive
St Leonards
East Kilbride  G74 2EX

Inspected by: Linda Hanlin
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Announced

Inspection completed on: 8 September 2005
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Introduction
Mount Cameron Primary School provides two Nursery sessions which operate from the same classroom. The Gaelic Nursery offers five morning sessions and the Mainstream Nursery offers five afternoon sessions for the children. The nursery operates during term time only and provides a service for up to 20 children each session.

The accommodation consists of one playroom, cloakroom and shared toilet facilities. The nursery has its own secured entrance to the school. The outdoor play area is accessed directly from the playroom. The school gymnasium is available to the nursery twice weekly where children are provided with further opportunities for physical and energetic play.

The nursery aims to provide a caring, safe and stimulating environment which offers a flexible service to families and the local community. The Statement of Aims and Objectives is shared with parents.

Basis of Report
This report was written following an announced visit to the Mainstream Nursery by one Care Commission Officer which took place between 12.45pm and 4.45pm on Thursday 8th September 2005.

During the visit the Care Commission Officer spoke with:

The Head Teacher, members of staff and children.

The Care Commission Officer looked at a range of policies, procedures and records including the following:

- Health and Safety
- Child Protection policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Promoting positive behaviour
- Attendance register
- Complaints procedure
- Admissions
- Parental information
- Curriculum planning documents and development plans.

The Care Commission Officer carried out an examination of the premises and observed staff working with the children.

The Care Commission Officer considered all of the above information and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16:

- Standard 3: Health and wellbeing
- Standard 8: Equality and fairness
- Standard 11: Access to resources
- Standard 13: Improving the service
**Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report**
The four recommendations made following the last inspection carried out jointly between Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (H.M.I.E.) and the Care Commission have been addressed.

**Comments on Self-Evaluation**
The self-evaluation was completed and returned prior to the inspection date. A wide range of information was submitted which reflected the strengths of the service and areas identified for development. These were discussed with the Head Teacher during the inspection visit.

**View of Service Users**
The children spoken with indicated that they were happy at nursery, liked the toys and activities and friends they had made. The children were confident in their approach to activities and were observed to be happy and familiar with the routine of the nursery.

**View of Carers**
Thirteen questionnaires were returned by parents of children attending the service. All comments on the service were positive and parents indicated that they were very happy with staff interaction and the personal care provided to their children. Parents also commented positively on the stimulating and challenging activities provided.
Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

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

Strengths

The nursery had developed effective communication through daily contact and discussions between staff, parents and children. Parents are provided with a handbook, regular newsletters and parents meetings. Parentmail (email) has been recently introduced as a further communication system for parents and carers. A wide range of information was also displayed throughout the premises.

Parents were advised of the nursery's settling-in procedures for their children. Welcome meetings for children coming to the nursery were flexible to meet the needs of parents and children. Enrolment forms provided information on each child and parents ensured the nursery was informed of changes. Staff displayed an understanding of child protection issues and were aware of the nursery's child protection policy and recording system. These are revisited on an annual basis. The nursery had a comprehensive set of policies and procedures.

High standards of hygiene were maintained throughout the premises and appropriate procedures for the control of infection were in place. Children were encouraged to adopt good hygiene practices and had opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles through their environment, related topics, themes and visitors to the nursery.

A well-balanced and healthy diet was provided for children. The nursery's snack menus focused on health, nutrition and choice. Children's individual dietary requirements were met and many cultural and religious festivals were celebrated through snack time. Food Handling training has been provided for staff who are involved in the preparation of food.

Regular outdoor play is available within the school play area. The nursery also has access to the school gymnasium twice each week where the children have the opportunity to take part in physical activities.

Appropriate methods are available for the safe storage and recording of medicines administered to children. The nursery has a policy for managing emergencies and contingency arrangements were in place. A suitable range of first aid resources were available and a staff member had trained in first aid procedures. Evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the premises and detailed records were kept of risk assessments and fire drill practice.

Positive relationships between staff, parents and other support services were evident in this service.
Areas for Development

None.

National Care Standard Number 8: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Equality and Fairness

Strengths

The nursery operated an equal opportunities policy for their service. Staff were observed to have developed positive relationships with each other as well as with the children and their parents. Children were treated with respect by staff members and were encouraged to share, support and consider others' feelings. Staff made good use of praise to promote positive behaviour.

Staff worked closely with parents and offered advice and support in relation to children's individual developmental needs.

A range of services visited the nursery and staff ensured parents and children had appropriate advice and opportunities to access relevant supports. A range of information on other services was displayed within the nursery.

Areas for Development

None

National Care Standard Number 11: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Access to Resources

Strengths

The wide range of equipment and materials which support the key aspects of children's development and learning were effectively organised and could be readily accessed by staff and children. All equipment was well maintained and age and stage appropriate. Cleaning schedules were in place and ensured that all equipment was regularly cleaned and maintained.

The nursery offered a range of multi-cultural materials and developed opportunities to link these with nursery topics as well as local and annual events. A flexible and responsive curriculum provides opportunities for children to widen their experiences through the effective use of the skills of staff and visitors to the nursery.

The children's art work was attractively displayed and photographs supported the various topics covered. Staff had created a bright and interesting environment for the children and other service users. The nursery maintained photographic records of previous displays, topics and special events. Children were encouraged to contribute to the planning and preparation of activities.

A wide range of information and communication technology was available to children within the nursery and staff were trained in the use of these resources. The nursery encouraged
staff to develop areas of particular interest which also enhanced learning opportunities for the children.

**Areas for Development**

None

**National Care Standard Number 13: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Improving the Service**

**Strengths**

The Head Teacher and staff worked well together to evaluate the work of the nursery. Parents, children and staff were encouraged to be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the service. Parents are given regular updates which are displayed on the notice board or through regular newsletters.

Staff made good use of Child at the Centre and the National Care Standards to evaluate their performance. Staff's observation and assessments are recorded within the children's profiles and used in the completion of transition records.

Staff have attended a range of training opportunities within the past year. The nursery's development plan and the professional review and development procedures influenced future staff training. The detailed development plan set out clear targets and timescales for achievement.

The staff team was effectively monitored and supported by the Head Teacher.

**Areas for Development**

None.
**Enforcement**
There has been no Enforcement Action taken against this Service.

**Other Information**
None.

**Requirements**
None.

**Recommendations**
None.

Linda Hanlin
Care Commission Officer