

St. John's Nursery Class Day Care of Children

St. John's Primary School
Mary Street
Port Glasgow
PA14 5AL

Telephone: 01475 715728

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 27 February 2017

Service provided by:
Inverclyde Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000212

Care service number:
CS2015336313

About the service

St John's Nursery Class is based in a wing of St John's Nursery Primary School in Inverclyde. The service has sole use of one playroom and a small reception area. The nursery also shares outdoor play areas and the gym hall with the primary school.

This service has been registered since 12 January 2016. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 children from three years old to those not yet attending primary school age.

The nursery aims include: Providing a nurturing environment for children and develop positive relationships whilst working in partnership with parents, carers and families.

We felt the nursery had developed well since registration. The management team and the staff were fully committed to improving the service and were clear about the development work required to provide a very positive nursery experience for the children.

During the inspection we saw the children enjoyed playing with snow collected from the playground, writing in the "post office", looking for information on the smart board and playing with construction toys. We also saw the children playing a game in the gym hall and playing in the play ground. Some of the children told us about the playroom and the areas they enjoyed playing, they confidently spoke about what they enjoyed doing and that they had and the opportunity to play outdoors regularly.

During snack time staff supported the children well. The children were able to access snacks when they chose. The staff encouraged them to independently access their own food and drinks and sensitively supported them to wash their hands and tidy up after themselves. This was a very pleasant calm time for the children.

The staff were very nurturing towards the children, they were getting to know them well and had worked with their parents to make sure they were meeting the families needs.

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

During our inspection we spoke to eight parents. They told us they felt nursery was very good given it had only been opened for one year. They told us the staff had worked hard to get to know their children and were good at sharing information with them. They particularly liked the settling report they had received feeling that this had helped to reassure them their children were being well cared for and were happy at nursery.

As part of the inspection process we sent out Care Standard Questionnaires for completion before the inspection by parents and carers. Through these parents/carers told us they were very happy with the nursery. Some parent/ carer comments included:

"Great nursery great staff. My children enjoy nursery and talk fondly about the staff".

"The My son has an excellent relationship with all the staff and when you ask him about his day at nursery he talks with excitement and happiness".

"I find the staff at the nursery very welcoming, they have taken time to get to know our child, who her siblings are and our family members. There is always a friendly atmosphere between staff parent and children".

"My daughter previously attended a well established nursery before transferring to the new St Johns's. The transition was seamless and she settled in very quickly thanks to the care and hard work of the staff who created a warm welcoming environment".

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-evaluation before this report was completed.

The management team identified what they thought the service did well and gave examples of improvements. The self-assessment clearly identified some key areas that the provider believed can be improved and showed how the service intended to do this.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection, we focused on child protection and participation with parents and children.

Management and staff worked well with other agencies to protect children and keep them safe. We could see that regular training and reviews of child protection policy and practice ensured staff had the right skills and knowledge to protect children and that they were confident about their role and responsibility regarding this.

We found the service had a good approach to involving children and families in assessing and influencing the quality of care and support provided. There was evidence of service users' participation using a variety of methods for example through settling in reports/ meetings and participation in events for example the Christmas concert.

There was an information boards at the entrance of the nursery. The staff used this very well to share information with parents. Parents were invited to come into the nursery. The parents we spoke with confirmed that this was the case. They told us they always felt welcomed by staff and could talk with them about their children at any time.

Staff spoke with children and gathered information using basic mind maps and big books. The staff and the management team told us they were reviewing and adapting information gathered from children and were developing how they would use this to plan for their learning. During the inspection we saw that the structure of the session for children was waited towards adult led group activities. We felt at times this interfered with children's opportunities to develop their own learning through play please see recommendation 1.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Children should experience and choose from a range of day-to-day activities that are planned, designed, evaluated and put into practice by staff. These should be informed by children's interests flexible and balanced. Staff should use current good practice guidance, for example Building the Ambition, to develop appropriate plans for children.

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

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection we focused on the safety of the environment and the quality of the accommodation and resources.

The staff demonstrated very good practice in relation to maintaining a safe and secure environment for the children. A framework of health and safety policies and procedures and risk assessments supported staff practice for example a dynamic risk assessment was in place.

Staff at points during the inspection encouraged children to be independent. They could develop this further and encourage children to become more involved and confident in assessing and managing risk.

Staff were knowledgeable about creating a welcoming environment for children. They used good practice to guide them to create an environment which was emotionally welcoming, respectful and secure. They reviewed and change the environment to ensure it met the needs of children. Displays around the nursery were attractive and meaningful to the children, for example information on topics, themes and projects and acknowledgement of children's achievements.

The nursery playroom was bright, well maintained, had good quality furniture, and resources. Areas within the nursery were organised to maximise the use of space and allowed children to access resources and activities and encourage children's independent choice during "free play time".

The staff told us they were developing the outdoor area. We saw that they had made a good start at this by providing some resources to encourage children to climb and explore natural materials. We discussed ideas for developing it further and allowing children to access outdoor play more often. The service had looked at My World Outdoors, a Care Inspectorate publication that promotes the benefits of out-door play and learning. They should continue to use this document to develop play outdoors. They should also consider other good practice guidance from other organisations such as Grounds for Learning and Play Scotland.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection, we focused on staff skills, knowledge and training.

During the inspection we saw that the staff team were using their varied skills and knowledge and were committed to providing a good service for children and families.

The nursery class had been registered for one year at the time of inspection. During that time that staff team had changed. This included maternity leave and a new temporary senior member of staff. Some staff members had been there since the nursery opened. All staff had come to the nursery with a variety of skills, knowledge and experience. They all had formal child care qualifications and were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), the body who regulate the quality of staff in care settings.

We saw that staff had access to a range of training opportunities since the nursery had opened. This included 5 to Thrive, Start to Play and Oral Health training and Child Protection training. These opportunities were allowing staff to develop their skills and knowledge. The management team should continue to ensure that good practice gained through training, visits and good practice guidance is implemented in the playroom and is in line with current pre-five practice, particularly around the balance of children's day.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We focused on quality assurance processes and monitoring.

We saw that the management team were full committed to developing the nursery. They were developing their skills and knowledge in current early child care and education practices.

There were regular meetings and systems were in place that allowed all staff to assess the quality of the nursery. This gave staff the opportunity to influence the work of the nursery.

With the support of the management team the staff had begun to use How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare and Building the Ambition (these are self-evaluation tools for the early learning and childcare sector). This approach had the potential to enhance the staff team's ongoing reviews and reflections about developing practice in the nursery to ensure it is of high quality. (Please see recommendation 1)

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The management team should continue to closely monitor the work of the staff members and the service as a whole.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years: Standard 14: Improving the Service.

Grade: 4 - good

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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