Stonelaw Preschool Group
Day Care of Children

Stonelaw Church of Scotland
2 Dryburgh Avenue
Rutherglen
Glasgow
G73 3EG

Telephone: 0141 6473777

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 November 2017

Service provided by: Stonelaw Preschool Group
Service provider number: SP2014012287

Care service number: CS2014325167
About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 14 August 2014.

Stonelaw Preschool Group is situated within Stonelaw Church in the Rutherglen area of South Lanarkshire. The service has access to the large hall, two smaller halls and an outdoor area. Stonelaw Preschool Group is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 children aged from 3 to not yet attending primary school.

A full copy of the aims and objectives can be obtained from the provider.

We inspected this service on 1 and 2 November 2017. We looked at how the service promoted nurture and inclusiveness.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included, also known as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

Overall children were observed to be happy, relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings. They responded positively to staff. Children were inquisitive, able to express their needs confidently and ask for support from staff when required.

We had seven Care Standards Questionnaires completed and returned to us during our inspection. One staff questionnaire was returned. We also received feedback from eight parents/carers on the day and by email. Overall parents were mostly happy with their child’s care. A selection of comments from parents included: “Two of my children have attended the nursery and both have thrived. Staff are approachable, professional and very attentive to individual needs of children”, “They not only build a relationship with my son but with the whole family”, “I feel confident that our son is in good, caring hands. He has strived especially since returning in August and thoroughly enjoys going every day. Whilst he chats about what he does each day there is a blog which is updated each night which is a fantastic tool to enable us to ask questions and find out more about his mornings in nursery. The nursery is good at involving the full family by running stay and play sessions which gives us the opportunity to see our children’s work, meet their friends and of course other parents” Parents advised us of the new settling in procedure and how this has had a positive impact on how their children have settled into nursery. One parent advised that she felt that the gate was a barrier to enjoying her child learning experience at pick up time and that the outdoor space could be used more often. We spoke about this with staff who advised that children were involved in outdoor play most days and that they had made improvements to the outdoor environment and to enable them more access throughout the year.
Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were found to be nurtured, supported and valued within the service. Staff had formed positive friendly relationships with children and their families. They were able to tell us of instances when they had supported individual children which had enhanced their learning and development. Children had access to a variety of experiences both indoors and outdoors. They had opportunities to play freely and involve adults in their play if they wished. Praise and encouragement were offered to children by staff who celebrated achievements no matter how small.

The introduction of wellbeing feedback sheets had been seen as a positive tool for both staff and parents. The sheets detailed children’s support needs and how the service would meet them. Parents commented on how useful they had found the blog and the stay and play sessions. The new settling in process was tailored to meet children’s individual needs. Parents felt reassured and were given support and advice by staff.

Personal plans were in place for children and parents were involved in planning their children’s support. When looking at planning records sometimes information from personal plans were not always documented. We discussed how the information should be followed up into planning for learning and development. This would help ensure that children’s specific needs were considered when planning the resources and experiences offered to children (see recommendation 1).

We found the service’s performance was good for this theme.
Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Information from personal plans should feature in planning records for children’s learning and development. National Care Standard: 5 Early Education and Learning up to the age of 16 - Quality of experience

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children had the opportunity to comment at the end of each session about what they had enjoyed. This then had an impact on the plans for setting up the environment by staff. This was good as it showed children’s voices were valued and respected by the service.

The staff made good use of the space they had considering the restrictions due to the use of the building. They had recently purchased new resources and involved children in choosing. A firefighters ladder had been a particular favourite with children. New dividers had also been purchased and the manager had considered their decoration and opted for muted colours to promote a calm and homely environment. We discussed the material, number and variety of the resources available to children including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (S.T.E.M)(see recommendation 1)

The outdoor space had been further developed since our last inspection. They had considered the variety of outdoor learning available for children and provided more experiences for exploration and challenge. Infection control routines were in place and children knew them well. Healthy snacks were enjoyed by children who had opportunities to practice their independent living skills such as pouring drinks and using a knife for spreading.

The requirement regarding the toilet in the small room had been actioned. The toilet had been redecorated and had a heater installed. This meant that the room was at a comfortable temperature for children.

We found the service’s performance was good for this theme.
**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 1

1. Children should have access to resources that encourage imaginative, explorative and challenging play. Including but not limited to:
   - Additional natural resources indoors
   - Increase the number of the same type of equipment ie blocks
   - Resources for specific support needs ie communication cards
   - Regular access to S.T.E.M experiences

National Care Standard: 5 Early Education and Learning up to the age of 16 - Quality of experience

**Grade:** 4 - good

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**Quality of staffing**

**Findings from the inspection**

Staff had created a caring and supportive environment where children and families were respected and valued. They appeared to be happy in their roles and worked well as a team. Some changes had taken place since the last inspection and staff advised how these had been positive and made a difference to children, particularly the changes they had made to outdoors.

Opportunities were available for staff to access training such as Mindstretcher. They were able to discuss with us how this had impacted on their knowledge and practice. It was not always clear that training accessed by staff had an impact on planning for children’s learning and development and when it was, it was not demonstrated on a regular basis thereby limiting children access to challenging experiences (see recommendation 1). The information recorded by staff within the planning records and personal plans was not always useful or meaningful (see recommendation 2).

Staff were encouraged by the manager to take on more responsibility within the service and to be actively involved in the improvement and development of what was provided. They confidently engaged with the inspection process and were eager to communicate their commitment to the children and their families. They had built positive relationships and parents confirmed this with us. We looked at some staff files and found that the service had followed safer recruitment procedures. Staff were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and were aware of their responsibilities.

We found the services performance was good for this theme.
**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 2

1. Training that staff attend should have an impact on the experiences that are provided for children. Staff have a responsibility to ensure their knowledge and practice is inline with best practice guidelines.
   National Care Standards: 5 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

2. Consideration should be given to staff accessing the Steps into Leadership learning resource by the SSSC to improve and develop their existing skills and improve the quality of information being recorded.
   National Care Standards: 5 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

**Grade:** 4 - good

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**Quality of management and leadership**

**Findings from the inspection**

The management committee had been through changes since the last inspection due to children and parents leaving the service. The manager remained committed to improving the service. She advised of the developments since the last inspection and how she had involved families and staff, through evaluation and feedback. Monitoring and assessment of how the service was provided took place on a regular basis and had led to improvements. We discussed a reviewed auditing tool to monitor how children’s needs were being met. This would help identify any gaps and allow changes to be made in shorter timescales.

The manager had recently completed her level 9 qualification and was able to demonstrate a good understanding of how to meet children’s needs and was able to cascade that learning to the staff. She had regular reviews with staff to discuss their training needs and performance. This enabled the manager to have an overview of the service as a whole and what was needed by staff to take it forward. We found that the system for monitoring staff performance could be improved to promote more creative and innovative ways of working, with staff taking ownership of their practice (see recommendation 1).

Staff spoke positively about the manager and advised that she was approachable and supportive. Staff were encouraged to access best practice guidelines and early years documents. These were shared throughout staff meetings as well as through in-house training days.

We found the services performance was good for this theme.
Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The provider should consider how to encourage, challenge and motivate staff to take on further responsibilities and accountability which would promote aspirational and wider concept thinking.

National Care Standards: 14 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-managed service

Grade: 4 - good

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

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The provider must ensure that the following issues concerning the toilet within the small room are addressed:
- The signs of dampness in the toilet should be investigated and eliminated
- The toilet must be heated to a comfortable temperature
- Upgrading the décor of the room

This is in order to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210), regulation 10(2)(b)(c)(d).

Timescale for meeting this Requirement: 3 months from receipt of this report.

This requirement was made on 23 March 2017.

Action taken on previous requirement
The toilet had been refurbished and redecorated. A new heater had been installed and it was found to be at a suitable temperature.

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

Previous recommendations

**Recommendation 1**

Personal plans and planning for children’s learning and development should include information that is meaningful, reflective of their needs and have planned next steps to achieve.
National Care Standard: 5 Early Education and Learning up to the age of 16 - Quality of experience

This recommendation was made on 23 March 2017.

**Action taken on previous recommendation**

Planning had been reviewed and was a work in progress. Sometimes the information from personal plans did not always flow through to planning records. We will make a new recommendation regarding this process.

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Gradings</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 Jan 2017</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support 4 - Good&lt;br&gt;Environment 3 - Adequate&lt;br&gt;Staffing 4 - Good&lt;br&gt;Management and leadership 4 - Good</td>
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<td>7 Sep 2015</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support 4 - Good&lt;br&gt;Environment 3 - Adequate&lt;br&gt;Staffing 4 - Good&lt;br&gt;Management and leadership 4 - Good</td>
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