Halfmerke Community Nursery
Day Care of Children

Logie Park
East Kilbride
Glasgow
G74 4BU

Telephone: 01355 243156

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 February 2018

Service provided by: South Lanarkshire Council
Service provider number: SP2003003481

Care service number: CS2003015298
About the service

Halfmerke Community Nursery Class is registered to provide day care to a maximum of 103 children age 0 to those not yet attending primary school. The service is based in the same campus as Halfmerke Primary School, in the East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire.

Sessional and full day places are offered year round. The provider is South Lanarkshire Council. The building provides well-resourced playrooms and outdoor areas for the age range of children who attend. In addition, office, cloakroom, kitchen, gym and staff facilities are available. The service is close to shops, local amenities and bus routes. The statement of aims and objectives are available to people who use the service.

What people told us

On the day of our inspection approximately 73 children used the service. We observed the children and saw they enjoyed being there. The children were happy, and well cared for. They described what they had been learning about and showed us what they enjoyed.

Their comments include:

“That’s where we get our snack; I’m eating it like a big girl”.
“Will I show you where we get the water, this is where”.
“I like dressing up”.
“We’re not allowed to touch the bin with our hands”.
“I’ve got food in my bag I will show you, we are going back to our home”.
“I’ve only made potato soup, well it tastes like potatoes, I’m going to have something else for my dinner, but I will make more soup”.
“There is a washing machine, its spins around, you put clothes in it and you need soapy water”.
“We’re not allowed to run in nursery because you might fall over and hurt yourself”.

Carers include parents, guardians and relatives. They do not include care staff. We gathered the view of 16 parents/carers of children using the service. Ten parents/carers’ returned care standard questionnaires and 6 took part in the inspection. Parents told us they were happy with the care and support provided and that their children enjoyed attending.

Parental comments included:

“The staff are great. I chose this nursery and know staff well”.
“I got to know the staff; it was an easy decision to use the service”.
“The children are outside when possible”.
“They’ve walked up to library to find books on castles”.
“I’m more than happy with the service and my child’s development”.
“I’m delighted to get a place, the staff were good when my child was settling in. They are so welcoming and make you feel important”.
“The biggest difference was I felt welcomed and always greeted by staff on arrival”.
“The link between community and nursery is strong, its like a family”.
“I cannot speak highly enough about the nursery. The staff have been supportive, the difference in my child since starting the nursery has been amazing”.
“I would recommend the nursery to anyone”.

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“My child goes into nursery with no issues and comes home happy, clean and fed”.
“My child’s social skills and verbal skills have improved dramatically”.
“The staff are always approachable and welcoming”.
“The nursery has been a godsend to our family, my grandchild is happy and content and has come on leaps and bounds. The staff have been extremely supportive. I wouldn’t have any hesitation in recommending the nursery”.
“My child has been attending for a year and a half and has come on so much”.
“The staff are fantastic with the children and my son loves coming to nursery”.
“The nursery environment is bright and welcoming and I am confident my child will thrive in the preschool year”.
“My child has formed good relationships with the staff and peers”.
“The staff are particularly great and my child adores them. I feel there is a mutual bond”.
“I cannot fault the staff, they are professional, approachable and friendly. The bulk of the staff have been consistent over the years”.
“Halfmerke provides a safe, happy, learning environment for my child to thrive in. The friendly and enthusiastic staff have helped to encourage my child to play and work individually and in groups”.
“I will continually recommend the nursery to other families”.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of care and support</th>
<th>5 - Very Good</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of environment</td>
<td>not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of staffing</td>
<td>4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of management and leadership</td>
<td>not assessed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What the service does well

Particular strengths were the early intervention work with children and families and the responsive care and support provided.

We saw happy, confident children involved in a range of play activities. Free play happened for most of the session meaning a child led approach to early learning and childcare was promoted. Children sought staffs support as required and were comforted well. Staff listened to what children had to say and respected and acted on their views. Children’s success was recognised and celebrated. Staff applied the wellbeing indicators of (SHANARRI) from the national framework ‘getting it right for every child’, and incorporated the language of the wellbeing indicators into everyday activities and experiences. There was a multi-agency approach to meeting children’s needs and staff work with visiting specialists.

In accordance with their development plan, health, wellbeing and safety were given significant importance. Staff encouraged and supported children to be healthy. Children had access to outdoor play and used this area regularly. An eco planet programme, in association with keep Scotland beautiful had been started with local services to enrich children’s development.
The current premises have been in use for a year and security throughout was of a high standard. While the building was attractive, welcoming, clean and hygienic in some rooms the temperature was too high. Although this had been reported and is on-going we have advised that staff demonstrate what action they have taken while the rooms are too hot or cold.

The staff were approachable, professional and friendly. They knew the children well and used a variety of documentation and guidance to describe each child’s learning story. We looked at some of the children’s learning books. They were easy to understand and included links to health and wellbeing, staff observations and next steps. Some did not yet contain parental comments, or were wholly accessible and we discussed how this could be improved.

The head teacher, new in post since the last inspection met with the staff team to discuss children, their needs and how they could be supported to continue to achieve. Although, they were in a period of transition, they management and staff team were aware of strengths and where to make improvements. They understood the aims of the service and were confident in carrying out their role.

**What the service could do better**

Although the amount of free play offered in each session was beneficial, some spaces in the 3-5 room were not used as well as others and some areas would have been better placed elsewhere. The routine in place for the older children meant their play was frequently interrupted to go to gym, the sensory room or at together time.

At the inspection, outdoor play for every age group did not occur and although staff had begun to consider how this could be improved, staff were not stationed here as part of the routine, and children were not yet enabled to go between outdoors and inside freely. See recommendation one.

To enable us to decide which regulatory action to take, all services are required to notify us immediately about specific events or changes:

Staff told us about more than two outbreaks of infectious disease, that we had not been notified about, within the recommended timescale. We did receive electronic notification about these after discussion and during the inspection.

The new manager had been in post for three weeks and we had not yet been notified. We discussed this with the management team and directed them to our guidance. See recommendation two.

**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 2

1. To ensure the environment always provides best outcomes for children and staff the staff team should:

   - Utilise better all areas and space available including outdoors. Staff should be based outdoors as part of the routine and children should use outdoors similar to the way inside is used.
- Ensure the 3-5 space provides more suitable areas for children to experience relaxing and quiet activities.
- Further involve the children in the planning of any changes to the way the space and play areas are situated, set up and used.

National care standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 5: quality of experience and standard 13: improving the service.

2. We should be notified with immediate effect about the change of manager. This would enable us to take the appropriate regulatory action.

National care standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16 standard 14: well managed service.

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>Care and support 6 - Excellent</td>
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<td>Staffing 5 - Very good</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership 3 - Adequate</td>
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