

Lochinver Early Learning Centre Day Care of Children

Lochinver Early Learning Centre
Lochinver Primary School
Lochinver
Lairg
IV27 4LR

Telephone: 01571 822242

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

29 April 2019

Service provided by:

CALA Direct Management Services

Service provider number:

SP2010011106

Service no:

CS2010271600

About the service

This service has been registered since 2011.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Lochinver Early Learning Centre is a Day Care of Children service registered for a maximum of 20 children aged from two years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates Monday to Friday from a building adjacent to the local primary school. The playroom opened directly onto a fully enclosed play area which was accessed on a daily basis by the children. The service also made use of other local resources for outdoor play and physical activities.

What people told us

All the children present during each session were observed as being very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. There was a very good rapport between the children and staff which allowed for natural and open communication. The children enthusiastically told us about the different things they enjoyed doing at nursery. On the day of the inspection, all the children enjoyed being able to spend much of the session outdoors.

During the inspection we spoke with four parents and carers, and four parents and carers gave us feedback through our questionnaires. They were all very positive in their comments about the quality of the service provided.

Comments made included:

'There are not enough words to describe the excellence of the care, quality and support that are given to each child.'

'For such a small village we are so lucky to have a fantastic team to run the centre'.

'My daughter is extremely happy in pre-school.'

'The range of activities and experiences she seems to have in the time she is there are excellent.'

'We are especially delighted that maximum use is made of the outdoors and special attention seems to be paid to learning about the outdoor environment.'

'It is our view that Lochinver ELC is an exemplary facility. The atmosphere when we have attended is calm and nurturing. The children are happy, independent and stimulated.'

'It is very helpful to us that staff display plans on the noticeboard. This gives us a clear insight into what they are doing so that we can consolidate at home.'

'They are great with communicating with parents and even offer helpful advice for home if I ask for it.'

'We are confident that the staff know and understand our daughter well and this is evident through both verbal and feedback from them and from their observations noted in her learning log.'

'My child loves it there.'

'Lochinver Early Learning Centre has provided both my children with an excellent start to their learning journey.'

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 systems. These demonstrated the service priorities for development, detailing how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service, and a clear schedule for improvements.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

During this inspection, we focussed on how the service encouraged children to develop a healthy lifestyle. Connected to this we looked at the outdoor facilities, opportunities for outdoor play and learning, and promoting risk in play. We found that the service was performing to a very good standard.

From our observations, it was evident that staff had established very good relationships with the families and knew the individual needs of each of the children attending. Staff were very caring and nurturing in their approach. They were very enthusiastic and committed to providing a service of a high standard. The parents and carers we spoke with during the inspection were very complimentary in their comments about the staff, their approachability and professionalism. Comments made included 'They really know the children', 'Staff are so nurturing' and 'The children are all very happy and settled'.

Encouraging the children to develop a healthy lifestyle was a priority in the nursery. The children learned about how healthy food is good for them, looking after their bodies and their teeth, taking part in physical exercise and energetic play, and keeping themselves and others safe.

The manager and staff recognised the importance of risk and challenge in children's outdoor play. As a consequence, the children were being offered the opportunity to take part in activities which involved challenge, learning about risk and taking responsibility for their own safety and that of others. The children were encouraged to be fully involved in risk assessment activities.

The playroom opened directly onto an enclosed outdoor area which was extremely popular with all the children and the staff. The area contained a very good range of resources, including loose parts, which encouraged the children's imaginative play and learning. There were opportunities to take part in planting activities, investigative play, numeracy and literacy, a mud kitchen and various physical activities. During the inspection, the children

spent much of the session in the outdoor area and enjoyed having their snack outside in the sunshine. The children also regularly spent a full session outdoors in the local community.

The parents we spoke with discussed how much they appreciated the amount of outdoor play and learning the children enjoyed and how the children were learning about how to care and look after the environment. The nursery children had been involved in various environmental initiatives including RSPB Birdwatch, Clean Up Scotland as well as eco-schools. They had been very active in helping to clean up their local community and encourage other groups to do the same. The nursery had previously won an award in recognition of their litter picking activities. During the inspection the children were able to talk to us about the importance of reducing waste and told us about the various displays they had made.

What the service could do better

During the inspection, we looked at the personal plans in place for the children attending. Some of the personal plans were limited in their content. We reminded the manager and the staff of the importance of regularly reviewing, and where appropriate updating, personal plans and to include parents and carers in this process. Personal plans should also include the names and contact details for any other professionals involved with individual children.

The service should continue to routinely review and update their policies and procedures to reflect current best practice.

We discussed with the manager and staff how they could continue to increase the range of loose parts and natural resources within the playroom.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
5 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
29 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
12 Dec 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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