

LASC Childcare Services (Community Nursery) Day Care of Children

Loanhead Centre
George Avenue
Loanhead
EH20 9LA

Telephone: 0131 448 0103

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 December 2019

Service provided by:
LASC Childcare Services Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2003003106

Service no:
CS2003013328

About the service

LASC Childcare Services (Community Nursery), referred to as the nursery in this report, is one of six services provided by LASC who are a voluntary organisation operating in the Midlothian area. The nursery is registered to provide a care service to maximum of 70 children at any one time aged from three months to entry into primary school, of whom no more than 20 are under two years old.

The nursery is in partnership with the local authority as an education provider. The nursery collect children from other local nurseries to provide wrap-around care.

The nursery operates from premises in the Loanhead Community Hub. They have three playrooms, Bumblebee Room, Butterfly Room and Caterpillars Room. They also have additional space, currently used as a dining area and a children's sleep area. The nursery has an outdoor area which wraps around the building and can be accessed by all age groups of children.

Aims for the organisation include:

"We aim to provide a high quality, affordable childcare service to parents and those in further education and training."

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 parents 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

When we visited the nursery we spoke with a number of the children. They were happy to chat with us and tell us what they like to do at nursery. One child told us they liked nursery because their "friends come to nursery too and I like playing with them". Others commented "we do lots of different things and I like to play outside. I like getting muddy" and "I like painting and I am going to take this home to show my daddy".

We issued 40 care standard questionnaires to parents using the nursery. Nineteen were returned to us before the inspection. Comments included:

"Staff have been great at settling my child into nursery."

"There have been a few staff changes."

"My child has additional needs and the nursery has been good at getting information and using it to meet their needs."

"The standard of care is good here."

A parent commented "the learning could be better".

Respecting parent confidentiality, we shared this with management. They told us that not all parents were accessing their child's on-line learning journals and therefore not seeing how their child is progressing at nursery. Staff said that they would take this comment on board and ensure all parents were aware of their child's learning.

We spoke with six parents when we visited the service. All six were positive about the service and happy with the quality of care their child receives.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment prior to this inspection. We spoke to staff about their improvement planning and quality assurance paperwork. This demonstrated key priorities for development, for example 'staff interactions', 'developing the environment' and 'embedding literacy and numeracy within the nursery'.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	3 - Adequate
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children enjoyed a good variety of experiences throughout the inspection visit. Children could choose to play outdoors in the enclosed garden where they benefited from fresh air and exercise. They were learning as they played with a variety of materials through their natural curiosity and creativity. Open-ended materials provided opportunities for children to problem solve and build on their self-esteem. Open-ended materials (also known as loose parts) are materials that can be used in numerous ways indoors and outdoors by babies, toddlers and young children.

Staff knew children and families well and they benefited from warm and respectful relationships. Staff worked with parents to support their child's needs and plan for their care. Children were able to settle in at nursery at their own pace and a parent told us they welcomed this as their child was not used to being in a day care setting. Children were being reassured by staff who supported them with comfort and cuddles.

Children were achieving, included and respected through the opportunities to learn new skills and develop independence. For example, independently dressing for outdoor play and helping out with snack preparation. Children were observed enjoying using their new skills and having fun with their peers. They were observed being engaged in sustained periods of uninterrupted play where they were developing their ideas and being creative. We also observed them being kind and caring towards each other and developing friendships.

Children were benefiting from staff attending training opportunities. Staff discussed and shared their learning with each other in order to promote positive outcomes for children. For example, the attendance at a play conference promoted and influenced responsive planning in order to support children's individual needs.

Staff and management were kind and respectful of the children and each other. This helped to promote a positive and caring ethos in the service. Staff meetings, involvement in improvement planning and daily discussions provided them with an opportunity to share ideas and ensured everyone was aware of children's individual needs and preferences.

We considered that staff were committed to their own learning and to the development and nurture of the children in their care. We saw evidence of staff using their learning from things that did not go so well and using this learning to support on-going improvement.

What the service could do better

Personal planning and health care planning was in place for each child. The wellbeing reviews captured conversations and information relating to individuals needs. Management agreed to review how these were completed.

From observations we saw staff interactions with children were mostly good, however staff skills were varied in engaging with children. This included meal times where staff interaction with children was not consistent and not always meaningful. The services development plan highlighted this as a priority area for development. Staff should be able to consider the impact on the child of positive interactions with staff and each other. Management told us they were monitoring this and training was ongoing.

Staff training was discussed with management. They told us they encouraged staff to be proactive in their learning and they were seeing the benefits of this. However, there were some areas staff should familiarise themselves with, for example, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), Food Matters and the Solihull Approach.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

We acknowledge that management and staff have been reflective and proactive since the requirements made in the recent complaint report. We were heartened to see the action that has been taken. An appropriate action had been submitted by the service.

We will follow up on the three requirements that were made at our next inspection.

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	
6 Dec 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
30 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
7 Mar 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
29 Jul 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

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