

Sauchie Nursery School Day Care of Children

By Holton Cottages
Sauchie
Alloa
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Telephone: 01259 452 111

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 April 2021

Service provided by:
Clackmannanshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002713

Service no:
CS2003015581

About the service

Sauchie Nursery School registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2002. It provides a day care of children service to a maximum of 103 children at any one time aged 2 years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates a full day session for children with various models to support the needs of children and families. This is part of the planned expansion to offer children additional hours of funded early learning and childcare.

Nursery children are based within the designated nursery accommodation which includes an enclosed outdoor area providing a rich outdoor learning space for children. The premises and garden have been divided into areas to accommodate the individual pods of children in line with COVID-19 guidance.

Sauchie Nursery School aims to:

"Provide a welcoming, high quality learning environment for all children.

Develop a responsive partnership with family members and the wider community.

Promote the health and wellbeing of all children, their families and staff.

To be proactive in educational development by planning and documenting high quality learning experiences based on Pre Birth to Three, Building the Ambition and the Curriculum for Excellence.

To create a warm, respectful environment that builds a genuine partnership that supports children and families in reaching their full potential."

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Sauchie Nursery School from Monday 12 to Friday 16 April 2021. We undertook an onsite visit on Monday 12 April 2021 and continued the inspection using virtual methodology. We provided feedback to the Manager, the pedagog, the development officer and the Early Years Lead officer for the local authority provider on Friday 16 April 2021. As part of this process, we undertook the following:

- video and telephone call contact with the manager and staff
- email contact with parents
- review of written evidence such as personal plans, policies, procedures and risk assessments
- review of communication evidence for families including emails and social media posts.
- Telephone contact with external professionals.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic. This inspection was carried out by inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

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

We saw 11 children during our onsite visit to the service. They were confident and happy and making use of the indoor and outdoor environment. The interactions between children and staff were warm and nurturing with staff observed as responsive to the needs of the children. The environment created a rich opportunity

for children to learn new skills. We could see that children felt safe and secure and they were happy to chat with us about their nursery. They said:

"I am playing in the sand."

"I was close to the bird."

"It's a birds feather."

"It's a toilet." (when asked about the outdoor toilet)

"I'm washing my hands. There are germs."

We asked the service to send an email to families containing our contact details and asked them to provide with us feedback about the service. Four families responded as follows:

"During lockdown my sons keyworker (name of staff) was amazing and kept in touch via phone calls, his online journal and facebook messenger."

"On return to nursery after each lockdown procedures were put in place and explained in great detail on the online journal with a short video which was great for both my son and myself to watch. The drop off and collection times have been very well organised as well with never any congestion. I honestly don't think they could have handled anything any better than what they have."

"Just drop offs and pick up and more outside play as is to be expected"

"The nursery have been proactive and engaged well with us as a family."

"We have also received information regarding social distancing which has also been helpful."

"But the thing that has stood out for us is the time the staff have taken to engage with families and children through story times, burns suppers, catch ups and sing a longs through Teams or their private Facebook."

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator 5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting
- effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

Children were happy, confident, and having fun at nursery. Their interests and individual needs were given consideration when activities were being planned in a COVID safe way. For instance, children were being creative and problem solving when making a bridge with the wooden blocks. They were learning in nature outdoors in the sensory garden when learning the names of the different birds they saw and heard.

Children and families were supported to feel included in the life of the service when they could not attend during the national lockdown. The service successfully established a range of ways to share information and engage with families including the use of digital technology and physically distanced doorstep visits. This meant families were provided with support that was tailored to meet their needs supporting their health, wellbeing and safety. Key staffing arrangements and regular contact supported warm and nurturing interactions. This helped build safe and secure relationships and helped children to confidently return to nursery when it re-opened. Parents confirmed that they were well informed of changes within the service and felt confident that their children could return to the service safely.

Staff were mindful of the need to support children's emotional wellbeing and had developed strategies that met their individual needs. They provided a variety of activities that enabled children to explore their feelings and to chat about the changes to their nursery experience because of COVID. Access to comfortable, quiet, sensory spaces supported children to feel safe and secure.

Staff knew children very well and were skilled in tailoring their support to meet their individual needs. They observed and recognised children's progress celebrating their achievements. The level of family engagement had increased during the national lockdown with families recording children's achievements in their e-learning journals. This level of engagement was empowering families helping them to feel included as children continued on their learning journey.

Quality Indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Children were protected as staff took the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. Clear policies, procedures and risk assessments were in place to ensure a consistent approach to infection prevention and control. Review and development of risk assessment and updates to policy and procedures was responsive to the outbreaks in the service. This ensured a rigorous approach to minimising the spread of the virus. Signage was displayed around the premises to support staff and children. This included visual

instruction at hand washing sinks and arrows showing the one-way system to prevent children in different pods from crossing over when going to the toilet.

Very good infection prevention and control practices were effectively followed by staff ensuring the health and wellbeing of families. They maintained a safe physical distance from each other and wore face coverings when attending to parents during drop off and collection. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) was used while performing tasks such as nappy changing. Good ventilation was maintained within the playrooms. Pods were managed very well with drop off and collection points organised to enable key staff to maintain safe contact with families and minimise congestion as families arrived at the service. This ensured a safe environment for staff, children and families. Parents indicated that they felt informed about practice related to COVID-19 and were given the information they needed.

Quality Indicator 5.3: Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families
- staff are well supported and confident.

Staff were committed to ensuring children's emotional wellbeing was supported and recognised the important role they played in families' lives. Deployment of staff was managed in a focussed and organised way. Staff in each pod had a leadership role delivering the initiatives in a COVID safe way that were recognised as a success in supporting the health and wellbeing of families and supporting children's learning. They were flexible and responsive to the needs of the children and their colleagues.

Staff were well trained, competent and confident in supporting children during the pandemic. Staff had received training that supported them to become knowledgeable about COVID safe practices. Discussion with staff and observation of practice reassured us that staff were confident in current legislation and best practice. This ensured that they maintained a healthy environment for children and families.

Staff felt well supported by the senior management team. Return to work meetings enabled consideration and support to be given to staff supporting their health and wellbeing. A flexible and compassionate approach whilst maintaining high quality care and support for families helped to foster a supportive ethos within the service.

There was a team around the child approach that extended to a wider network of support for families from the community. We spoke with three professionals who work closely with the service to support children and families. They told us that they appreciated the professionalism and respectful ethos of the staff team. Collaborative approaches were supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

Leadership within the service maximised the contribution of the whole staff team setting standards for good practice and reflecting the values of inclusiveness and respect for others. A focus on self-reflection and high quality professional development supported the service to continually improve outcomes for children and families, despite having to manage COVID-19.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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