

St. Ninian's Primary School Nursery - Livingston Day Care of Children

Douglas Rise
Dedridge
Livingston
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Telephone: 01506 414 612

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 June 2021

Service provided by:
West Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002601

Service no:
CS2003016165

About the service

St. Ninian's Primary School Nursery is provided by West Lothian Council and was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. The service is registered to provide early learning and childcare service for a maximum of 40 children from three years of age to entry into primary school.

We carried out an unannounced inspection visit to the service on Thursday 27 May 2021. Following the visit, the inspection continued virtually through online meetings, email and telephone discussions. As part of this process we:-

- carried out online discussions with staff and the management team.
- sought feedback from families using the service.
- reviewed relevant documentation including a sample of children's personal plans and the service's Covid-19 risk assessment information.

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.

On the day of the inspection visit, 34 children attended the morning session and 28 children attended the afternoon session.

The stated aims of the nursery are:-

- To work together as a team to inspire change in our nursery by being creative, innovative and building on our individual strengths.
- To offer our children rich and exciting play opportunities, indoors and outdoors, by embedding Froebelian principles in our practice.
- To promote wellbeing and positive relationships to ensure the best outcomes for children and families.

The stated values of the nursery are love, happiness, kindness and friendship.

Feedback was given to the management team and Early Years Development Officer from West Lothian Council via an online meeting on Wednesday 2 June 2021.

What people told us

During the inspection site visit, we observed that children were confident and relaxed in their environment and when interacting with their peers and staff. Children were observed taking part in a variety of experiences within their individual cohort groups including outdoor play opportunities.

We asked the service to distribute an email to families on our behalf to provide them with the opportunity to give us their views. Feedback received was complimentary about the nursery. Feedback included information about children's experiences, transitions to primary one, supporting children's individual needs, outdoor opportunities, provision of activities, contact made with families during closure and communication about Covid-19 measures. Feedback from families was shared with the management team whilst maintaining confidentiality.

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

5.1 Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The nursery understood and valued the importance of supporting families and children prior to their return to the service. Effective information was shared and contact maintained with families through a variety of methods including phone calls home, online activities and PEEP (Play, Engage, Enjoy, Participate) sessions. This had helped families to keep up to date and connected as well as supporting home learning opportunities.

Staff knew children well and were respectful and caring in their approach. Robust processes facilitated communication between the nursery and parents to help gather, share and review necessary information. This ensured that children's personal plan information was kept up to date and outlined any changes to their care and support needs. Links were also in place with other professionals to support children and their families as appropriate.

Snack and lunch time routines were calm, relaxed and sociable experiences for children. Children's dietary requirements were taken into account to support individual health and wellbeing needs. Where children had any allergies or medication needs, this information was documented as part of their personal plan and medication procedures. Staff were able to confidently describe how children's individual needs were supported to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Staff were aware of the nursery's child protection policy and procedures. Staff training had helped ensure their knowledge and understanding of these procedures to support the safeguarding of children. This included exploring the challenges in relation to Covid-19 and ensuring children's emotional wellbeing was being supported. This was facilitated through the introduction of the nursery Covid bear mascot and 'How we are feeling' discussions with children. Children were also routinely provided with reassurance and support from staff to help assess risks and boundaries during their play. This helped children to be confident and independent within their environment.

The nursery was separated into two cohorts in line with national guidance. This meant that both the indoor and outdoor environment were divided for those cohorts. Staff had worked hard to ensure that a variety of experiences and opportunities for children were maintained during these changes. Some activities/ resources were located in a central area which meant that children from different cohorts could potentially access these when going to their outdoor area, cloakroom or toilet facilities. This was to continue to be reviewed as part of the nursery risk assessment and quality assurance processes to ensure that any potential risk to children's health and wellbeing was minimised.

The nursery had maximised use of the outdoor space in line with Covid-19 guidance and the provision of loose parts play enhanced children's experiences and imagination. Further resources and opportunities were also provided throughout the session to take into account children's interests and requests. For example, the provision of the climbing frame outdoors, arts and craft items, storytelling and water play. Children were relaxed, confident and engaged in their chosen play which indicated that they felt safe and secure in their environment.

5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

Operating guidance and risk assessment information outlined how national Covid-19 guidance had been taken into account. This information along with staff training had helped inform staff practice. Clear guidance had been provided for parents to support and reassure them about the changes necessary. For example, procedures at drop off and collection times. This demonstrated there was an understanding of the Covid-19 national guidance.

Staff were knowledgeable of the procedures to follow if a child became unwell during the day. Staff wore personal protective equipment (PPE) including the wearing of face masks in line with national guidance and to strengthen infection control measures.

The environment was visibly clean and tidy. Children's health and wellbeing was supported as staff also carried out enhanced infection prevention and control practices including additional cleaning routines. For example, regular cleaning of the resources in between the different cohorts of children attending. This included the toilet facilities, surfaces and any outdoor clothing provided to children.

Due to the layout of the nursery environment, children in both cohorts accessed the same toilet/handwashing area. However, to minimise any potential infection control risk, designated sinks and cubicles for each cohort were provided. Visual prompts were used as well as ongoing staff monitoring to help remind and support children to use the facilities for their cohort.

Additional handwashing routines for children were carried out throughout the day including on their arrival to nursery and after being outside. Staff were continuing to monitor children's handwashing routines to ensure that this was carried out effectively. Further action was also to be progressed by the nursery to support children's handwashing facilities within the designated nappy changing area. We discussed that the provision of additional staff handwashing facilities for one of the playroom areas would be beneficial particularly during snack and lunchtime routines. This would help further enhance infection prevention and control measures already in place.

Staff had designated roles and responsibilities throughout the session. At the end of the morning session, one member of staff was responsible for the management of the collection of children from both cohorts. Whilst staggered collection times were in place, this was a busy time with children being supported to locate their belongings from the shared cloakroom area. We asked the nursery to review the collection procedure and to consider this being carried out separately within the cohorts. This would further support consistency of staff/child contact, assist with communication with parents and further enhance infection prevention and control measures.

5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during Covid-19.

Staffing levels supported the continuity of care for children within their cohort groups. Staff were clear about their responsibilities and worked well together within their cohort teams. When children moved onto primary one, processes were in place to support this transition and provide consistency for individual children's wellbeing needs.

Staff were confident in their approach and were supported by the management team to develop their skills and regular wellbeing meetings were held. There was a commitment to ongoing training for staff which included Covid-19 updates, risk assessments and children's personal plans. This helped to ensure their knowledge and consistency of practice. Robust induction processes were also in place to support new staff with keeping up to date with information and providing peer/management support to ensure a consistent approach.

Quality assurance systems included regular staff meetings, observations of staff practice and reviewing key documentation including risk assessments. These processes were to continue with further observations and ongoing assessments of the individual cohort areas and key routines throughout the session. For example, handwashing facilities, layout of the environment and collection procedures.

It was evident through the inspection process that the management and staff teams were committed to ongoing improvements to maintain positive outcomes for children. To further support this, we directed the management team to The Hub on the Care Inspectorate website to access information about best practice resources.

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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