

## First 4 Kids SCIO Stenhousemuir Day Care of Children

Stenhousemuir Primary School  
Rae Street  
Stenhousemuir  
Larbert  
FK5 4QP

Telephone: 01324 473 325

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
25 August 2021

**Service provided by:**  
First 4 Kids a Scottish Charitable  
Incorporated Organisation

**Service provider number:**  
SP2018013072

**Service no:**  
CS2018364504

## About the service

First 4 Kids SCIO Stenhousemuir registered with the Care Inspectorate on 15 May 2018. First 4 Kids is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The service is registered as follows:

1. To provide a care service to a maximum of 30 school aged children. Children who are enrolled to start school in the August can also be cared for during the preceding summer holiday period within the maximum numbers stated.

2. The manager of the service is peripatetic and has responsibility for the following services:

First 4 Kids SCIO Bonnybridge, Bonnybridge Community Centre, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA

First 4 Kids SCIO Ladeside, Ladeside Primary School, Carronvale Road, Larbert. FK5 3LH

First 4 Kids St. Bernadette's Primary School, Edward Avenue, Stenhousemuir FK5 4JW

The peripatetic manager must spend at least one session in each service per week. The manager is not included in the adult child : ratios.

First 4 Kids SCIO stenhousemuir is a small day care of children service. It is based in Stenhousemuir Primary School. The children use the gym hall, toilets and have access to the outdoor area. A fridge is available to store snack foods and cupboard space is available to store a variety of resources.

The stated ethos of the provider organisation included:

'Play and the Playwork Principles will be the focus in all of First 4 Kids clubs. Staff will be trained to develop appropriate activities in partnership with children. This will be informed by best practice and current playwork theories. Children will be encouraged to stretch them-selves, participate in challenging activities with an element of supported and managed risk'.

We carried out an unannounced inspection of First 4 Kids SCIO Stenhousemuir. We undertook an onsite visit on Tuesday 15 June 2021 and continued the inspection using virtual methodology. We provided feedback to the Manager on 25 August 2021. As part of the inspection process, we undertook the following:

- Observed children as they arrived at the service after school.
- Observed snack time and children having fun in the service indoors and outdoors.
- Spoke with children attending the service.
- Observed a parent collecting their children.
- Video and telephone call contact with the manager and staff.
- Email contact with parents.
- Teams call with a family member.
- 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.
- Visited the holiday club that children from First 4 Kids SCIO Stenhousemuir could attend.

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 an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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),

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 spoke with and observed four children in the service on the day of our visit. They were knowledgeable about the pandemic and described the measures in place that kept them safe. For instance hand washing and adults wearing face coverings and physical distancing.

Children said they enjoyed playing outdoors and taking part in games. Children enjoyed a snack and played various games as part of their beach party.

We asked the service to send an email to families to enable us to gather their views about the service. One family member requested that we meet via teams. They told us they were reassured that the children would be safe when the service was re-opened. They had received information about the arrangements in place to mitigate the risk of the spread of the virus. They said that face coverings were worn by adults when children were collected and that they had discussions with staff about the children physically distanced. They said that children had fun in the service and had positive relationships with the staff who were sensitive to the individual needs of children. The only improvement they would have liked was notice about whether there would be childcare in the new term Monday to Friday rather than only two days.

## 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?	4 - Good
--	----------

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?

4 - 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.

Kind and caring relationships were observed between children and staff. Their nurturing approaches supported children to feel safe and secure. Children were happy, confident, and relaxed choosing from a range of experiences both outdoors and indoors. On the day of our visit the children were having a beach party.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported by staff who explained that children had developed routines in school that were transferred into the service supporting a consistent approach to staying safe and well. Staff were mindful of the need to support children's emotional wellbeing providing opportunities that supported them to share their emotions and feelings.

Personal plans (All about me) were in place and contained information about children's individual needs. This ensured that the information was up to date and that staff were able to meet children's individual health and wellbeing needs and interests. The staff team knew children well and were responsive to their needs. Children were happy to be back at the service where they were able to see their friends. Their views were sought when deciding on games, planning the snack menu and deciding on an outdoor shelter. Children were valued and listened to.

Sensitive transition arrangements supported children as they returned to the service after the national lockdown. Regular communication using digital platforms was used to share information about the service and changes being made. Families had appreciated this as they felt well informed and kept up to date about plans being made in response to Covid-19. A new app had been introduced to record children's attendance and let staff know when children would be collected. Effective communication meant relationships were maintained and children felt safe and secure on their return to the service.

Snack time supported children to have a choice of food and drink. Staff acknowledged that there was less opportunity for children to develop skills through for example, making their own snack. We discussed how snack time could be more sociable and how children could continue to have opportunities preparing food in a COVID safe way.

Staff were aware of their responsibilities in safeguarding children and had a good knowledge of child protection, through undertaking training and having regular refreshers. They confidently explained the steps they would take should they have concerns about a child and had a good understanding of concerns that may arise due to Covid-19.

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.

Precautions were being taken to minimise the spread of infection through the implementation of Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance. For example, families were not routinely permitted into the building, wore face coverings and physically distanced when collecting children, enhanced cleaning was in place and doors were kept open to promote ventilation. A risk assessment and policies and procedures were in place to ensure staff working practices in relation to Covid-19 were followed. These were reviewed and updated as needed. Staff participated in lateral flow testing and taking temperatures of adults in the service. There was a clear process for anyone presented with Covid-19 symptoms.

The organisation had bought portable sinks to add to the current facilities to enable frequent hand washing. Children used them on arrival from school, when coming in from playing outdoors and before eating. We advised staff of some aspects of infection prevention and control that could be improved. Paper towels need to be in a dispenser and children should be encouraged to wash their hands for 20 seconds.

In line with current guidance, staff maximised the use of outdoors. This included free flow access to the outdoor area. To support play outdoors, staff encouraged children to take their games outside which meant children spent most of the session outside. Children enjoyed a treasure hunt and games linked to their beach party. The organisation has been awarded a grant to be used to develop the outdoors.

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.

A dedicated staff team followed Scottish Government guidance to maintain a safe environment and reduce the risk of spread of Covid-19. They spoke highly of the support they received both professionally and personally from the senior management team. Staff said they felt able to share ideas and worries as a team and felt supported by each other. New staff told us that the induction process had helped them to develop confidence in their work. Relationships between staff and children and families had quickly developed encouraging trust and security.

The staff team had undertaken Covid-19 training that helped them to understand the measures to be implemented to promote a safe environment. This supported them to be competent and confident in supporting children at this time. For instance, they physically distanced, wore face coverings as required and carried out enhanced cleaning. We advised that face coverings should be stored in a washable, sealed bag when not in use. This was quickly responded to by the organisation. Staff had familiarised themselves with the procedures outlined in the the risk assessment which supported safe practice at their site.

Covid-19 has had an impact on development work in the service. The focus has been on children's wellbeing, increasing the use of the outdoors and ensuring staff and children and families understood the changes because of Covid-19. As restrictions ease, and the service starts to operate full time, the manager and staff will review the improvement plan and will agree the priorities for development.

The area manager was in regular contact with the service offering support and guidance. Staff were given opportunities to provide their views about the quality of the service. This meant they felt included and listened to. For example, surveys enabled staff to give their views on the effectiveness of systems and the impact of training on practice. By gathering staff views, the management team was able to identify areas for improvement that will be taken forward to develop the service being offered.

During the school holidays the organisation offered a holiday club to families. The service operated from the St. Francis site. To ensure continuity of care, staff from each of the sites were present to support children they were familiar with.

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	4 - Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	4 - Good

## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.