

# East Wemyss Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

School Wynd  
East Wemyss  
Kirkcaldy  
KY1 4RN

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Unannounced

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Fife Council

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## About the service

East Wemyss primary school nursery is registered to provide a service to 54 children aged from three years to an age to attend primary school. The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2011.

The service is provided by Fife Council and operates from a room within the school as well as a premises situated within the grounds of the school. They offer term time and year round provision for children.

We are testing our new ELC quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare. This inspection was included as part of the test. We have evaluated the service based on key questions and quality indicators linked to the framework. As this was a test, we will not be publishing the evaluations. More information about the quality framework and methodology can be found on our website [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## What people told us

We spoke with several children at the inspection and made contact with three parents.

Children were happy in the service. They chose what they wanted to do and settled well at activities. During their play children told us;

"I'm making pictures a beautiful picture."

"This is for my mummy. I love my mummy."

Overall , parents were happy with the service provided. They felt that staff knew their children well. They were given enough information about the changes and what to expect within the service, although two parents said they would like to see inside the nursery, but understood why they were not able to at this time.

Parents felt that staff they had good relationships with staff which helped share information and promoted partnership working. They felt they could contact staff about their child and they gave them information to help them support their children. One parent felt that at times communication could be better.

Parents liked, that children got their lunch and mostly felt that their dietary needs are catered for. One parent felt communication around some of the food provision could be better.

Parents felt Facebook was used well to share information and were looking forward to SWAY being introduced as this was a more personal system for each family.

## How good is our care and learning?

### 1.1: Nurturing care and support

We saw that all interactions with children were respectful, kind and responsive to their needs. As a result of this, children were happy, contented and confident in the care of staff. There were close bonds between staff and children which meant children sought out cuddles, sat on staff knees and were comforted when they needed reassurance.

Children benefited from cooked meals, packed lunches and snacks which were prepared on the premises. These included fresh fruit, vegetables and options to meet dietary needs. We observed lunchtime and saw children were familiar with the routine and had developed self-help skills. Staff did not sit with children as they had to move between tables to help them which meant they did not fully benefit from the social aspect of mealtimes. To ensure children have a positive learning experience and good role models, staff should review the lunch time routine. **See area for improvement 1.**

Partnership working with parents, carers and other agencies supported information sharing. If children had additional needs, strategies and techniques were agreed to support their individual needs. This helped staff plan experiences to help children achieve through a child-centred approach. Personal plans could contain more information about the benefits children experience from the strategies used and how this helps plan 'next steps' for their learning and development.

## 1.2: Children are safe and protected

Staff were clear about their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children. They had completed refresher training in child protection and were confident about recognising and reporting any concerns they had.

Staff used a range of ways to ensure contact with families was maintained during Covid-19 and as children returned to nursery. Families appreciated this involvement as it supported children's transition and helped them feel safe and secure.

Staff used the well-being indicators within the service which meant children were familiar with them. This helped ensure children experienced positive health and well-being outcomes.

## 1.3: Play and learning

A range of activities were available to support children's learning and development. Staff were responsive to children's interests and supported them to lead their learning. They used questioning well to encourage children's curiosity and investigation when they showed an interest in using magnets. This led to children experimenting to find out which objects they attached to.

Children chose to play in the outdoor areas and had opportunities to explore the natural environment. They used loose parts to make an obstacle course and build a den. Children built resilience as they learned to problem solve and take risk safely as they practised their physical skills.

## Areas for improvement

1. Children would benefit from the social interaction with staff at mealtimes. To support this, the lunch time routine should be reviewed to ensure staff are able to sit with a group of children as a positive role model and support the development of social skills.

This is to ensure that I experience high quality care and support that is right for me and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I can enjoy and unhurried snack and meal times in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible.' (HSCS 1.35)

## How good is our staff team?

### 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values.

There was a range of staff skills and experience within the staff team which met the needs of children. Effective communication had been used to support staff returning to work and new members joining the team. This had helped build relationships, promote teamwork and contributed to a welcoming environment for children.

Staff attended training and used best practice guidance for their professional development. Knowledge was shared within the staff team to promote consistent practice. Their learning had been used to create a stimulating learning environment for children. Responsive interactions further supported children's learning and development. As a result, children were engaged in their play and benefited from positive outcomes.

Staff recognised the importance of partnership working and had developed good relationships with families. A private Facebook page was used to share information about children's experiences. Almost all parents felt listened to and involved in the service. Staff therefore knew children well which enabled them to support their individual development. If parents had any queries they knew to contact the head teacher.

The flexibility of staff, enabled regular meetings to take place which helped them reflect on the provision and identify where improvements would enhance children's experiences. We asked that changes were evaluated so the outcome can be measured. See area for improvement 1.

### 4.3 Staff deployment

The service operated over two sites and staff were deployed to promote consistent care for children. Senior staff oversaw the daily running of the service and supported staff in their role.

The staff rota was planned to support children throughout the day. Due to the layout of one site, this was not always effective. Staff were aware of the challenges and had considered ways that would support them to meet the needs of children such as the use of walkie talkies to promote communication. However, they were not in use and impacted on sharing information and fully supervising children. We asked the service to review and update the risk assessment to ensure the risk reducing measures identified were in place. Where staff absence impacts on the usual nursery routine, changes should be made to ensure children can be effectively supervised. For example, minimising free flow access to outdoors. See area for improvement 2.

### Areas for improvement

1. The manager and staff should further develop the quality assurance systems in place to ensure are effectively assessing the provision for children so they provide positive outcomes.

This is to ensure that state I have confidence I the people who support and care for me.  
'I have confidence in people because the are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes'. (HSCS 3.14)

2. The provider should ensure the deployment and levels of staff are sufficient to meet the needs of children throughout the day.

This is to ensure that state I have confidence I the people who support and care for me. 'My needs are met by the right number of people' and 'people have time to support and care for me and speak with me.' (HSCS 3.15 and 3.16).

## What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

### Areas for improvement

#### Previous area for improvement 1

The provider should consider how quality assurance processes could clearly demonstrate the impact and capture the improvement journey within the service. Increased monitoring of staff practice and relationships with children would enable appropriate and timely support, learning, and interventions to ensure positive outcomes for all children. Applying clear benchmarks and expectations to monitoring systems would enable the team to strive to meet those expectations and, in turn, enhance and embed high quality practice.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes." (HSCS 4.19).

**This area for improvement was made on 11 December 2019.**

#### Action taken since then

Due to the interruption in service delivery due to Covid-19 this recommendation has not been fully met. The manager had identified that quality assurance is an area they need to improve in so we will continue this recommendation.

### Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

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