

Craigbank Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Newtonshaw
Sauchie
FK10 3EJ

Telephone: 01259 452 307

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
5 November 2021

Service provided by:
Clackmannanshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002713

Service no:
CS2019377710

About the service

Craigbank Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 7 January 2020. The service is located in Newtonshaw, Sauchie.

The accommodation is based in Craigbank Primary School and comprises of one large open plan play space. Cosy spaces had been created in the open plan space including a sensory nurture nook for children that want some quiet time. There is an entrance area with adequate cloakroom facilities and a parent/meeting room. Further secure doors lead to the main play space, which is clean, warm, bright and welcoming with adequate heating, lighting and ventilation. Adjacent to the playroom is a large purpose-built nursery kitchen and next to this kitchen space is a designated area for meals and snacks. There are adequate numbers of toilet and wash hand basins for children, including accessible toilets and a changing room with facilities. There is direct access to the outdoor play areas with a cloakroom/boot room area for outdoor clothing. There are two toilets and wash hand basins within this area providing easy access to toilets from outdoors. There is a large enclosed garden with various woodland areas that are used by the service to provide children with outdoor experiences. A complete shelter in the form of a garden 'pod' room is utilised for a variety of purposes depending on children's needs and interests. The outdoor area is secure.

The daycare service is registered:

To provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 48 children at any one time, aged 2 years to not yet of an age to attend primary school. Of those 48, no more than 5 are aged 2 to under 3 years.

The vision, values and aims have included the voice of children. What matters to each individual child as well as what matters to the setting:

That all children feel happy, safe, and secure within Craigbank.

That we can work together with families to build trusting, supportive relationships.

That children are supported to become successful learners and are challenged in their thinking.

They value:

Making learning fun and recognize children's right to play.

Communicating with families regularly

Tracking and sharing your child's learning through their learning journal.

Respect and will be respectful of all children and families.

Children's rights and will ensure these are upheld and promoted.

We began an unannounced inspection of Craigbank Nursery Class with a site visit on 1 November 2021. We concluded the inspection using digital technology. Feedback was given on 5 November 2021. This inspection was carried out by two 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 spoke with a number of children during our visit. They were busy both indoors and outdoors. The use of natural resources and loose parts supported them to be creative and learn how to problem solve. Children

loved being outdoors exploring the natural environment.

Families said that communication was effective with various methods in place to support this. They said staff were responsive if families had questions about their children's nursery experience and that information about children's progress and learning was shared regularly. Families felt that safety and security measures kept children and families safe including measures in place to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. They said that children benefitted from being outdoors learning in a natural environment.

Self assessment

N/A

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We observed strong nurturing interactions between staff and children. Staff knew children well and were responsive to their needs. Most staff recognised, respected, and promoted children's rights as they created a positive, nurturing environment supporting children to manage their emotions and build emotional resilience.

Individual personal plans were in place for all children. These were regularly reviewed and updated in line with appropriate timescales. The voice of children and families was apparent ensuring they were included in agreeing children's progress and identifying their next steps. The information gathered was used effectively to enhance children's learning and development within the service.

Children were kept safe through effective medication systems and processes being in place. Guidance was followed to ensure medication records were completed, medication was stored safely, and a regular review was undertaken. This ensured the safety and wellbeing of children.

Staff understood the importance of safeguarding the children in their care. They regularly attended child protection training and had appropriate knowledge and understanding of how to respond to, and record, any concerns or situations. Links with other professionals supported children and families as required. Children were safe and protected as a result.

Children benefitted from a sociable experience during mealtimes. Staff sat with children creating a positive experience that supported them to develop self-help skills. There was recognition that some children needed alternative arrangements at mealtimes. For instance, snack was offered outdoors for children who were too busy to stop their play to come inside for food and drink. This meant children had choice, and their

play and learning experiences were not interrupted. Staff ensured children were hydrated and had some food if they were hungry.

The service had appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place. We could see from the floor books that children were involved in learning about the importance of washing hands correctly. The Covid-19 risk assessment was regularly updated to stay in line with Scottish Government and Public Health guidance. A well-ventilated environment, staff physically distancing and wearing face coverings and enhanced cleaning were some of the ways that staff prevented the spread of infection. Safe working practices ensured that mitigations were in place to protect staff, children, and families.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

A secure, pleasant and stimulating environment kept children safe and engaged in their learning. The play space was inviting providing children with a choice of experiences. Natural and open ended materials and loose parts made the environment interesting. Children were being creative and were learning to problem solve as a result of their play experiences. The wooden furniture was child friendly so that children were comfortable as they played and during mealtimes. Floor books in each area demonstrated how children's ideas and interests were developed showing breadth and depth in their learning. For example, an interest in water had resulted in the water from the outside tap being used to fill a hole creating a puddle. This had developed into an interest in measuring rainfall and talking about water disappearing from the puddle. Children's wellbeing was supported through having experience of an environment that was clean and tidy with furnishings and equipment that was well maintained.

In the main the environment was responsive to the needs of children. However, there were aspects of the environment that needed to be improved. At the point of registration, it was recommended that an adult sink be situated in the area identified for mealtimes. This had not been actioned by the provider. The children's sink in the area was not being used because it was unsuitable for use by younger children. This meant children washed their hands in the toilet unsupervised without staff being able to monitor the effectiveness of their handwashing. The toilet situated at the exit to the outdoor space did not have an external door. Staff recognised that when the exit door was open, the general public were able to see into the toilet facilities from the street. This created a child protection concern so staff had attached a curtain to prevent children being seen in the toilet. This situation had the potential to create a risk of the spread of infection. Children's health, wellbeing and safety was potentially compromised as a result of these snagging issues. **(See recommendation 1)**

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To ensure children's health, wellbeing and safety, the provider should ensure the environment is responsive to the needs of children. This should include, but not limited to:

- Having suitable hand washing facilities in the area identified for mealtimes for both children and staff.
- Having toilet facilities that have an external door to protect the privacy, dignity, and safety of children.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'The premises have been adapted, equipped and furnished to meet my needs and wishes' (HSCS 5.16) and 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17)

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff were kind, caring and compassionate towards children and families. There was a strong focus on relationships and staff had children and families at the heart of their practice. Staff maintained contact with families during lockdown recognising that this supported their wellbeing. Staff talked about the unique personalities and needs of individual children. Families were valued, respected and well supported.

There was a clear focus on building a strong team. As a new team, time was spent building relationships and confidence and recognising individual strengths and areas for development. Progress had been made through regular meetings and opportunities for professional dialogue. Staff said they felt the team had become supportive and that there was a culture of reflective practice evolving supporting continuous improvement. Staff described their leadership role in developing Makaton and the impact of this work developing skills in the use of Makaton supporting inclusion and effective communication with children. The staff team felt safe to try out new initiatives as they continued on their journey improving outcomes for children and responding to individual needs.

Children were safe and protected from harm through appropriate and safe recruitment procedures. Staff had completed the required pre-employment checks and training and other development opportunities had promoted professional learning for all staff. Enabling staff to develop their skills, knowledge and areas of expertise was supporting a competent staff team that was delivering responsive care to children.

Regular meetings with staff and quality assurance and monitoring supported staff to identify areas for their continued professional learning. Training had been agreed to support the development of the service. For instance, Virtual nature School training had resonated with staff supporting them to deliver quality outdoors experiences for children. It was agreed that work is now needed to support all staff in developing areas of practice including effective questioning.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

A supportive management team with a distributed leadership style, had developed a shared vision of continuous improvement. The team had worked together to support the opening and development of this newly registered service navigating through a pandemic. Leadership and coaching conversations had empowered staff to lead on focus areas supporting the development of service. The development of a confident and competent staff team was supporting responsive care and support for children.

Staff felt supported both professionally and personally by the management team. A positive nurturing approach to supporting the relationships within the staff team meant that there was a positive impact on their resilience and feelings of safety as they lived and worked through the pandemic. This positive ethos and culture contributed to children's progress, wellbeing and continued positive outcomes because staff were motivated and well cared for.

Quality assurance and practice monitoring was building momentum. Work was being undertaken to connect the various self-evaluation tools including the Quality Framework and How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare. Formal monitoring of staff practice, routines and procedures was supporting a culture of continuous improvement. The improvement plan validated appropriate priorities demonstrating that the team understood their strengths and areas that could be improved. Continuing to develop robust and transparent self-evaluation systems and processes that include input from children, families and other stakeholders will support responsive care and support for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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