

Letham Primary School Nursery - Livingston Day Care of Children

Letham Primary School
Forth Drive
Livingston
EH54 5LZ

Telephone: 01506 432 012

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
24 March 2022

Service provided by:
West Lothian Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002601

Service no:
CS2003044560

About the service

Letham Primary School Nursery is provided by West Lothian Council to offer a day care of children service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time from three years to entry into primary school.

Situated in the Craigshill area of Livingston, the service is part of Letham Primary School. The premises comprises of one large playroom with kitchen space, a cloakroom, and children's toilets. A secure garden area can be accessed directly from the playroom.

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Friday 18 March 2022 between 10:00 and 13:00 and returned for a second visit on Monday 21 March between 11:00 and 16:30. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with staff
- reviewed documents in the service
- observed practice, daily routines, and children's experiences.

Feedback was given via video call to the management team, provider, and a representative from West Lothian Council on Thursday 24 March 2022.

What people told us

Children were extremely settled and confident in the setting. They knew the routines and expectations within the service and moved around the play space independently choosing what they would like to play with.

We asked the service to distribute information about the inspection to parents, inviting them to offer feedback. We also spoke to some parents at the nursery gate when they dropped off and collected their children. We received feedback from seven parents who overall were happy with the service provided. However, it was clear that parents were feeling the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and not being able to come into nursery to experience first-hand what the children were doing. Management was planning to review how to support parents to reduce the impact of restrictions in place in line with updated government guidance. Parents comments included:

"Lockdown has not been easy for my child. Before the pandemic they did not have the best social skills, but the nursery has been helping them to come out of their shell and interact more. Their speech and numeracy have improved, and they enjoy the creative activities like painting."

"The nursery is good at updating the journal so I can follow my child's nursery journey and see what they have been learning."

"I would like more small group support for my child whose first language is not the English language, to help them to learn."

Self assessment

The service was not asked to submit a self-assessment.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We inspected two quality themes, care and support, and staffing. Both quality themes were evaluated as very good because there were major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children.

The service values, such as respect, included, empathy and nurtured shone through in this inspection. Similarly, the service motto which was 'children at the heart of what we do' was evident throughout. Value based practice resulted in confident, trusting children and naturally loving relationships, demonstrating respect, love, and inclusion. There was a sense that all children and staff felt 'at home'. As a result, we saw happy children who clearly felt valued and who trusted and respected all staff and other children. One child made sand chocolate muffins to give to her friends who were sitting at the snack table. The muffins were gratefully received with a chorus of "thanks."

All children demonstrated a sense of ownership and independence because staff had invested in supporting them to understand clear and appropriate routines and expectations. This allowed children to move around the play space with confidence and willingness to explore and discover. Children were safe and responsible as they understood expectations, and showed respect for others, the playroom and play materials. For example, knowing to take off their outdoor shoes when coming in from the garden area, to prevent the playroom from getting muddy. Similarly, children held doors open for other children, who gave their thanks.

The culture of ownership and responsibility was extended to the staff team. Individual staff skills were identified and encouraged. Leadership was promoted, with all staff having leadership responsibilities for improving areas within the service to enhance outcomes for children. Staff had individual action plans to develop their leadership skills to further enhance the very good service.

Staff knew children very well and thoughtfully planned for individual needs to support children to get the best opportunities. Routines and experiences were tailored to provide extra support for children when required. Effective partnership working with other agencies resulted in children getting individualised support to be able to progress and learn. Similarly, child protection procedures were clearly understood by all staff and as a result children were given appropriate support to protect them from harm.

Play and learning was valued, and children enjoyed unhurried and uninterrupted purposeful play. This was skilfully enhanced by playful staff who had a mind minded approach when supporting children. This meant that they recognised children's individual thoughts and feelings. All staff knew when and how to engage to support and extend children's thinking and imagination.

The local authority had recently trained staff in newly introduced planning approaches. Planning was responsive to children's thoughts, needs and wishes. All staff appreciated that children had their own ideas and plans, which they responded to and respected. This resulted in developing interesting play and learning opportunities. Such as, learning about sharks, which was a spark of interest that started with a discussion when an egg was cracked.

Where children required medication, this was managed well to keep them safe and healthy. Clear medical flow charts with stepped approaches of how to support a child should they become ill and require their medication was in place. Medicine was stored safely but was to hand should it be required in an emergency. Similarly, very good systems were in place to keep children who had food intolerances and allergies safe and protected.

Snack and lunch times were unhurried sociable occasions. Children were able to make choices about what they would like to eat and where they would like to sit. Staff sat and conversed with children as they ate. Staff were looking forward to reintroducing children to being able to make the snack as Covid-19 restrictions eased.

What the service could do better

The service planned to develop outdoor learning and introduce a forest school approach. Plans were in place to create a second outdoor space, which could be used in addition to the current nursery garden and find suitable local woodland to explore. This would encourage exploration and discovery and support children to take risks and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Management and staff were looking forward to being able to enhance partnership working with parents as Covid-19 restrictions were eased. This would support parents to be more included in their child's learning and the life of the nursery.

We asked staff to consider the level and nature of support being given to children whose first language was not English. Effective intervention would provide them with the best opportunities to support their learning and progression.

Management was advised to revisit the Care Inspectorate's notification guidance. This would support them to know when to inform us of notifiable events in the service, such as child protection concerns.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
27 May 2019	Announced (short notice)	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>Not assessed</div>
26 Jan 2016	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>
6 Dec 2012	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>6 - Excellent</div>

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
9 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed

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