

# Abernethyn Family Learning Centre

## Day Care of Children

Abernethyn Road  
Crindeldyke  
Newmains  
Wishaw  
ML2 9NB

Telephone: 01236 812 540

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
25 May 2022

**Service provided by:**  
North Lanarkshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000237

**Service no:**  
CS2020379263

## About the service

Abernethyn Family Learning Centre is registered to provide care to a maximum of 87 children not yet attending primary school at any one time. Of those 87, no more than 15 children are aged two years to under three years.

Care is provided from a purpose built single storey building, in Newmains, Wishaw, North Lanarkshire. There are shops, schools, public transport links and other amenities in the local area. The children have direct access from the playroom to a large outdoor area.

This was an unannounced inspection which took place between 23 May 2022 and 25 May 2022. Two inspectors carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children who were using the service
- spoke with or received emails from nine parents/carers
- observed practice
- reviewed documents.

## What people told us

We spoke with several children who told us about their play and learning experiences. Their comments included:

'There's water in the sand. My feet are wet now.' (sand pit)

'This is a pterodactyl. It can fly.' (dinosaurs in tray)

'You can wash your hands here.' (child washing hands in boot room before coming indoors)

'I like pizza, but I don't like yoghurt.' (lunchtime)

'Can I have a hug? I have a million hugs for you.' (child asking for a hug at lunch)

Nine parents/carers of children attending the service contacted us over the course of the inspection. All parents spoke highly of the quality of care and support their child received at the service. Many families told us about the caring staff and management team and how various methods of communication and consultation had offered them opportunities to share their views and included them in the service.

## Self assessment

We did not ask the service to submit a self-assessment in advance of this inspection.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very 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 found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

Children were happy, settled and confident in the service. Staff knew the care and support needs of all children very well. They had built strong and trusting relationships with families who used the service, using various methods of communication to meet individual parents' needs and preferences.

More recently, families were able to visit the playroom in small groups and share play experiences with their children. This had included parents further in their child's day and informed them about their play, learning and development. One parent told us: 'The staff keep me updated through the learning app about my child's key learning stages and also via telephone calls. We have an email every few days with any relevant information we need to know and the staff also let us know any information at drop off and pick up times. They are very good at keeping me updated. The nursery let us have a 30 minute visit with my child in the nursery. It's a very safe and secure environment with plenty for my child to explore.'

We observed several examples of loving, nurturing interactions between staff and children throughout our visit. This created a secure, inclusive play and learning environment for children. Staff worked closely with families and other professionals where required, for example speech and language therapists. Agreed strategies were in place and followed to ensure children's individual care and support needs were met consistently and appropriately. Key information was recorded as required within children's personal plans and online learning journals. A 'what matters to me' format was to be introduced for children and families to ensure more detailed parents' and children's views were sought and responded to.

Children were offered a wide range of opportunities to lead their own play and follow their own interests, both indoors and outdoors. Staff were responsive to children's requests and interests and were skilled in observing, supporting and developing children's ideas and thinking.

Lunchtime was a pleasant, sociable time with staff sitting alongside children sharing natural conversations and supporting them, where required. Children were independent in collecting cutlery, cups and pouring their own drinks. We advised that more opportunities for children to make choices and serve their own food would develop this independence further. Although most children enjoyed the lunch option on the day of the inspection, an alternative choice should be made available to children who did not like the menu, more promptly. Management assured us that alternatives will be readily available to children every day. They will continue to consult with the local authority regarding menu options and review and monitor children's snack and lunchtime experiences to ensure these are consistently positive experiences for all children.

Water and milk was freely accessible to children throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. This supported a healthy lifestyle and ensured children were kept hydrated without interruption to their play.

Medication which may be required by children while at nursery was stored in line with guidance. We shared small improvements to the service's recording and monitoring systems and these were addressed immediately. This supported children's health, wellbeing and safety. All staff had undertaken child protection training and were clear in their roles and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in the aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

There was a calm, welcoming ethos within the service. The new purpose-built building was bright with natural light, spacious play areas and well-resourced. This open layout and design supported children's play and routines, both indoors and outdoors. Examples included quiet and cosy spaces available throughout the large playroom, which provided areas for children to rest and relax and a large, sandpit on the floor which meant children could be fully immersed in this sensory play experience. Literacy and numeracy resources were available in all play spaces. This contributed towards children's communication, language and mathematical development.

The outdoor area offered experiences of different ground surfaces, sloped areas and opportunities for risky play. Good use was made of loose parts. We observed children having lots of fun outdoors on a slide they had designed using tarpaulin and ground fixings. This supported active, physical and creative play.

The inclusion of an outdoor toilet, handwashing sinks and boot room contributed towards children's independence with less interruption to their play, when accessing outdoors. To support children's independence further, we advised where free flow play between the indoors and outdoors could be improved. Management agreed to review this at the next staff meeting.

All resources and areas were freely available to children throughout the day. This enabled children to make choices of where to play and what to play with. Children had fun developing their skills in creativity, investigation, problem solving, including imaginative play. Some children confidently shared their learning with us. They told us:

'This is how you make a dog bed. You need a box that is sturdy and you can tape it up and then you can take it out and about.'

'I'm going to Motherwell. I'm going on the bus, but I don't have a ticket. I'm going to make a ticket.'

Children's safety was promoted throughout the nursery. Secure entry systems, door alarms, enclosed outdoor area and relevant risk assessments were in place to ensure all areas accessible to children were safe. Management and staff were aware of the Care Inspectorate's recent safety awareness campaign and information was displayed throughout the service.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection prevention and control practices and procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. Regular handwashing was undertaken by children and staff at required times, all areas and resources were clean and tidy and systems reviewed when required, to maintain this healthy environment.

Now that restrictions had lessened and children were settled in their new environment, the service hoped to re-establish their links in the local community and plan their forest school programme. This would build and extend children's learning experiences.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

There had been a focus on developing staff core skills and knowledge as they came together as a new team. Staff were included in discussions about current best practice, building their confidence, consistency and continuity in practice. This contributed to improved positive outcomes for children.

Regular team meetings, training and development opportunities encouraged staff to continue to discuss, improve and reflect on their practice. Staff told us they felt included and that their views were valued and respected. Staff appraisals were planned to further discuss staff strengths, training and development needs and the ongoing development of leadership roles.

Staff were deployed effectively and worked well as a team, communicating and supporting children as individuals. However, we shared examples where staff deployment could be more flexible in response to where children were playing. Staff had created trusting and secure relationships with children. Several staff shared their own experiences with us and their passion, enthusiasm, knowledge and skills were evident.

There was a clear focus on nurture, health and wellbeing within the service which had created a warm, nurturing, learning environment. One staff member commented, 'I have recently completed a 'Do Be Mindful' course, which I feel has supported the wellbeing of myself. This recent training has allowed me to be mindful of other people around me. By doing this training it has allowed me to focus on the here and now, be present when interacting with the children which in turn benefits the setting.'

All parents spoke highly of the quality of staff. Parents comments included, 'I always feel a warm welcome from staff. All are lovely.' and 'My child speaks very highly of her keyworker and all staff members. We are greeted every morning by staff who are always very knowledgeable about each child. Staff know my child very well and any updates or observations communicated to myself are always a reflection of their personality at home.'

To ensure only staff suitable to work with children were in place, safe recruitment guidance was followed. Staff were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), as required. The SSSC are the regulatory body who set standards for staff practice, conduct, training and support staff professional development.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

The manager and depute were highly motivated and committed to ensuring all children had a high quality early learning and childcare experience. They had a clear vision for the improvement focus of the service. Strong relationships and a mutual respect had been built and maintained between management, families and the staff team. This created a welcoming, nurturing, open door ethos. One parent told us 'it's just like a big family.'

Staff told us the management team were supportive and encouraging. They felt fully informed and included in all aspects of the service development.

Robust quality assurance systems were in place which assisted with the improvement focus of the service. Staff, parents and children were actively included and involved in the ongoing self-evaluation and improvement plan. One parent told us 'it is very much a 'you said, we did' culture.'

Now that Covid-19 restrictions had lessened, more opportunities to include families in the nursery were planned. 'Play and stay' sessions had just been introduced for parents and this had proved to be very successful. Children were observed proudly showing their families around the nursery. This promoted children's self-esteem, confidence and gave them a sense of belonging.

Staff were responsive to children feelings, interests and requests and listened to their ideas and suggestions for play and learning experiences. This ensured children's voices were heard and respected.

Clear improvement plan priorities for the service were discussed, agreed and shared with all staff and parents. This ensured everyone felt included and informed.

## 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](http://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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