

# Slamannan Early Learning and Childcare Class Day Care of Children

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**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
16 November 2022

**Service provided by:**  
Falkirk Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004006884

**Service no:**  
CS2003015577

## About the service

Slamannan Early Learning and Childcare Class is situated in a small residential area of Falkirk. The service operates within the grounds of Slamannan Primary School. Children have access to entrance areas, designated playrooms and outside areas, toilets and nappy changing facilities.

The service is provided by Falkirk Council and is registered to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 64 children not yet attending primary school at any one time:

- of those 64 no more than 3 are aged under 2 years
- no more than 5 are aged 2 years to under 3 years and
- no more than 56 are aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school full time

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 16 November 2022 between 9:00 and 18:00. Feedback was given at the end of the inspection visit. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with a number of children using the service
- spoke with and gathered feedback from three parents and carers
- spoke with management and staff
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents

## Key messages

- Children experienced nurturing and compassionate care.
- Children were developing strong attachments with staff.
- Children were supported well to develop and achieve.
- Leadership within the service was strong.
- The staff and leadership team were committed to providing high quality care and support.
- Self evaluation and quality assurance was working well.

## 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, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

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

### Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support.

Children experienced nurturing and compassionate care. Interactions were respectful, supporting children to feel safe and well cared for. Strong attachments with staff contributed to children remaining very happy and relaxed in the service.

Children were supported very well to communicate and express their needs and emotions. Staff skilfully listened to them and responded quickly to their individual requests. This demonstrated to children that they mattered and promoted their sense of security and belonging. To further support younger children, consideration should be given to extending resources to help them express and understand their feelings.

Cosy spaces where children could rest, relax and spend time alone further supported their emotional wellbeing. Personal care was sensitively supported and respectfully promoted children's independence, privacy and dignity.

Staff knew the children very well and continually gathered important information to help them provide the right level of care and support. Positive working with families and other relevant professionals meant children received care which was tailored to meet their individual needs. Personal plans were used well to ensure children's continued progress. Strategies for support were successfully used by staff to promote children's development and enjoyment in the service.

Family life was supported well. Parents and carers told us staff care and listen to them. Staff sensitively encouraged families to build positive and trusting relationships with them and other professionals. This helped children and families to gain confidence and develop a sound understanding of their rights. This also demonstrated to families they mattered and were well cared for.

Mealtimes were a very positive and social experience. Children were given time to enjoy their meals. Menus were well planned and nutritionally balanced. This promoted children's health and wellbeing. Staff sat with children encouraging good mealtime habits and independence.

### Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning.

Children had fun and were engaged in their play. They could access resources and activities with ease. This empowered them to make independent choices and lead their own play and learning.

Staff successfully planned daily experiences to support children's current interests, learning and development needs. They respectfully responded as these interests and needs changed. Skilful interactions and effective use of questioning encouraged children to widen their thinking and extend their learning. This supported children to get the most out of their early learning and achieve their potential.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of child development and children's right to play. Effectively supporting differing learning methods contributed to the planning of high quality play experiences. Children's learning and development was encouraged as they enjoyed a wide range of activities which promoted exploration, discovery and creativity. Regular assessments and evaluations of children's individual learning supported planning approaches to promote continued success.

A wide range of natural and open ended resources promoted creativity and imagination. For example, children enjoyed building and climbing on large structures they had made out of loose parts. This promoted problem solving skills as they worked on their structures.

Risky play opportunities inside and outside were readily available and encouraged children to explore and challenge their abilities. Staff supported children's understanding of appropriate risk and how to keep themselves safe through effective conversations and role modelling.

Regular trips within the surrounding area promoted children's connection and sense of belonging in their local community.

## How good is our setting?

## 5 - Very Good

### Quality indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities.

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

Children enjoyed a safe, secure, homely and clean environment. All areas were bright, well maintained and ventilated to an appropriate standard. Furnishings were comfortable and in a good state of repair and appropriate to the children in attendance.

Staff effectively followed current guidance to prevent the spread of infection and promote children' health and wellbeing. Children were supported well to understand good hand and respiratory practice and take care of their own personal hygiene. This also contributed to their continued wellbeing.

Interesting and welcoming play spaces enabled children to move freely around and play with their friends. This and high quality resources supported their individual play and learning.

Sensory areas gave children calming space where they could relax and set their own pace of day. This supported their emotional development and demonstrated children's wellbeing was important. Children confidently invited staff into their personal space demonstrating their feeling being comfortable and secure in the setting.

Children benefitted from free flow access to the outside play areas. This enabled them to enjoy high quality play indoors and outside. Children enjoyed large play equipment in the outside area. This supported their physical health and mental wellbeing. Regular use of the school gym hall further promoted physical activity and fun exercise.

Relevant risk assessments were clear and staff practice demonstrated a sound knowledge of how to keep children safe. Confidential spaces where families could speak to staff and effective storage of personal information ensured children and families continued privacy and dignity. This also gave families confidence that personal information would only be shared with relevant people.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

### Quality indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

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

Staff were supported well by the leadership team. This encouraged their passion and desire to continue supporting children and families. Daily provisions and staff practice fully reflected the settings values and ethos of inclusion. The team effectively demonstrated a shared understanding and vision of what was important in the service. A strong recognition of children and families being at the heart of the service contributed to high quality care and support.

Parents were very happy with the level of information shared about their child's experiences and progress. Sharing the vision, aims and values of the service with families gave them confidence in the care provided and encouraged them to feel included.

Children and families were given opportunities to express their views and influence the care and support provided. The service identified parental engagement could be enhanced and were working well families to build positive and effective relationships. They should continue to explore methods to encourage families to become meaningfully involved in the evaluation process

Leadership opportunities across the team promoted staffs' continued pride in their work. Staff were confident in these roles and how they had positively impacted on children's development.

The leadership team knew the service well and demonstrated effective use of reflection to evaluate and highlight improvements. Quality assurance processes were well led and having a positive impact on making changes and securing very good outcomes for children and families. The whole team approach to evaluation promoted shared responsibility and positive change.

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

### Quality indicator 4.3 Staff deployment.

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

Children benefitted from staffs' wide range of knowledge and experience. Effective teamwork and sharing of knowledge and professional learning promoted consistency of care and continued outcomes for children and families. Planned mentoring of new staff meant they were supported well to understand their roles and the positive ethos of the service.

Staff remained vigilant of where children wanted to play. The team worked very well together to ensure they were available and enable children to make full use of play spaces and resources.

Daily tasks and staff breaks were managed well to ensure effective supervision. The leadership team and staff worked well together to ensure children's needs were continually met. Throughout the inspection an appropriate level of staff were available to support positive play and learning experiences.

Effective sharing of information meant staff could share relevant details with families about their child's daily experiences. The staff team worked well to support transitions and get to know children in differing playrooms. This meant children were familiar with all staff and remained settled when unplanned changes were made within the staff team.

## 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).

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good



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