Auchenlodment Early Learning and Childcare Class
Day Care of Children

Auchenlodment Primary School
Aspen Place
Johnstone
PA5 9QQ

Telephone: 03003 000 145

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 March 2021

Service provided by:
Renfrewshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003388

Service no:
CS2003014751

About the service

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1st April 2011.

Auchenlodment Nursery is a daycare of children's service situated within Auchenlodment Primary School, located in the Johnstone area of Renfrewshire. The registered provider is Renfrewshire Council.

Current registration enables the service to provide a daycare of children service to a maximum of 71 children at any one time. Of those 71 children. no more than 15 children aged two to three years old and no more than 56 children are aged three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery aim is "to ensure all children are entering a nurturing, caring environment where they are valued and listened to. Learning will take place through engaging play experiences which are created from the children's interests. We respect our children's rights and recognise all behaviour is communication. We will support our children to express their emotions and challenge them to be the best they can be". A full copy of this statement can be obtained from the service.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

The inspection was carried out by three inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

What people told us

During the inspection, we observed children to be happy, relaxed and engaged in play. They had formed positive friendships and they were keen to share their learning experiences with us.

We spoke with six parents during the inspection. They told us that they were very happy with the care and support their children received at nursery. In particular, they praised the level of communication from management and staff during lockdown and the reopening of the service. One parent told us that the contact during lockdown helped her child to resettle very quickly at nursery. Another parent told us that staff had dealt with the changes very well and commented they were "worth their weight in gold".

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 and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic? 5 - Very Good

5.1 Children's health and well-being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19.

Children experienced kind and nurturing care from staff who knew them well. We observed children seeking comfort from staff who offered cuddles and reassurance when needed.

Children had developed positive friendships with each other and were happy and settled at nursery.

Children were supported to understand, express, and regulate their emotions through emotion displays and activities. This created opportunities for children to discuss changes to their lives. Behaviour was managed sensitively and in a way that was appropriate to children's age and stage of development.

Children participated in a variety of stimulating activities, based on their interests. For example, building and measuring in the construction area, and exploring sensory materials. Staff skilfully supported play when needed to promote learning and development.

Parents told us that staff worked in partnership with them to meet children's needs. They told us that the level of communication from the service was a particular strength. This was supported through a wide range of processes including regular phone calls, newsletters, social media, and online learning journals. A new handbook supported children and families to understand the changes to the service and the measures put in place to keep them safe.

Each child had a personal plan which gave a good overview of their current needs. We discussed how plans could be further developed to identify more specific methods of support for children's individual needs.

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of their responsibility to protect children from harm. They had participated in recent child protection training and, during discussions, staff demonstrated an understanding of the additional pressures faced by families as a result of Covid-19.

5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

Children were protected as staff took all the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. Children were cared for in consistent groups, minimising contact and reducing the risk of infection.

Staff had received training and regular updates on infection prevention and control that addressed key areas within national COVID-19 guidance. We observed this being effectively implemented in practice. For example, by regularly cleaning surfaces and toys, wearing masks when needed and removing resources that were difficult to clean.

A sufficient supply of cleaning materials ensured that the environment was clean, and staff knew to highlight any shortages. Regular cleaning of high touch areas and resources was embedded in the daily routine which helped reduce the risk of infection.

Playrooms were appropriately ventilated. All windows were left open, and children accessed regular outdoor play. The service recognised that maximising time outdoors reduced the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

We discussed how the service could further enhance outdoor opportunities for younger children when staffing levels allowed.

Regular handwashing helped prevent the spread of infection. Children and staff washed their hands regularly throughout the day and children could tell us how often they should wash their hands and why. The service should continue to monitor children's handwashing to ensure it is consistently carried out in line with national guidance.

5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19.

Children were cared for in a happy and secure environment. This was supported by staff who had developed positive relationships with each other and demonstrated a commitment to improving their work. Parents thought highly of staff. They told us that they valued regular phone calls from them to discuss their children's needs, and they felt that staff had coped very well with the challenges they faced due to COVID-19.

The service was sufficiently staffed to meet children's needs. Clear routines ensured that some staff were appropriately deployed to carry out extra cleaning duties while other staff ensured that children continued to engage in learning opportunities.

Consideration had been given to the additional demands placed on staff in response to COVID-19. For example, a cleaner carried out additional cleaning duties in the playrooms, allowing staff more time to focus on the children.

Staff observed social distancing and supported others to do the same, for example during drop off and pick up which reduced contact and contributed to a safe environment.

Children were supported by staff who were clear about their roles and responsibilities. They had participated in a variety of training such as infection prevention and control and received regular updates from management.

Strategies including virtual team meetings, and individual staff discussions identified any gaps in knowledge. This impacted on continuous improvement within the service.

Staff told us that they felt very well supported by the management team to carry out their roles. They felt that they could raise any concerns with management and were confident that they would be supported appropriately. This contributed to a positive ethos within the nursery that promoted positive outcomes for children. The management team should continue with plans to implement further monitoring that would support staff development.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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