Newfield Primary School Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Muirhead
Stonehouse
Larkhall
ML9 3HG

Telephone: 01698 792 084

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 November 2021

Service provided by:
South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003481

Service no:
CS2003015323

About the service

Newfield Primary School Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service is provided by South Lanarkshire Council and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 64 children aged from three years to those not yet attending Primary School.

The service is close to public transport links, schools and parks.

The service aims include:
'**H**opeful - to provide nurture and support to ensure children are hopeful for their future.
Awesome - to showcase children's talents and achievements and make them feel valued and included.
Proud - to encourage children to respect themselves and others, allowing them to reach their full potential.
Playful - to enrich the learning across all areas of the curriculum through indoor and outdoor play.
Yourself - to celebrate every child's uniqueness and cater for all needs. (**HAPPY**)'

As part of this inspection we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality of Care and Support.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every child (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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

We compiled this report following an unannounced site visit which took place on Tuesday 23 November 2021. Feedback was shared remotely with the service on Thursday 25 November 2021.

What people told us

There were 39 children present on the day of the inspection. We saw that all children were happy and settled in the care of staff. Some of the children told us about their friends and their favourite activities at nursery.

Five parents contacted us over the course of the inspection. All five parents highlighted the benefits of the online learning journals in keeping them informed of activities and their child's progress. They told us of the good communication systems in place and highlighted the qualities of management and staff and the systems in place which made them feel welcome, supported and included within the service. Some parents told us they were looking forward to coming into the new premises once restrictions relating to Covid-19 improved.

Self assessment

A self-assessment was not requested prior to this inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The service had a strong ethos and emphasis on children's emotional health and wellbeing. This was reflected in their aims, values and visions for the service. Through our observations and discussions, we noted staff were kind and caring in their approach and were mindful of children's individual care, support and wellbeing needs. This contributed towards ensuring positive outcomes for children.

Good communication had been maintained with families throughout the pandemic. Parental views were sought through various methods such as online learning journals, twitter and an online parents group. This respected and included families within the service.

Children were actively involved in leading their own learning and their ideas, suggestions and feedback was recorded within active, busy floor books. Staff should continue to promote open-ended experiences and materials in all areas to enable children to have more exploration and creative learning opportunities.

We sampled four children's personal plans. Although the staff knew the care and support needs of children well, not all required information was currently in place for all children. We acknowledged that there were plans in place to review and update the format of personal plans to be in line with South Lanarkshire Council's documentation, following more guidance from the local authority. We shared Care Inspectorate information on personal plans to assist with this improvement.
https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/4653/personal-plans-guide-elc-final-13102021.pdf
(See Recommendation 1).

All staff had undertaken mandatory annual child protection training and this was part of the induction programme for new staff. Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.

Medication storage and associated paperwork was in place. We advised where more detailed information would ensure all staff were clear when medication should be administered. This would assist in meeting individual children's specific medical needs. Monitoring completed documentation would ensure all written information was clear and consistent.

We observed lunchtime and snack time over the course of the day. We advised where procedures should be reviewed and improved to enable children to access drinking water more independently and have a snack if requested throughout the day. Staff were attentive to children as they ate, but did not routinely sit at the table with the children. Staff sitting alongside the children would make lunch and snack times more sociable and relaxed experiences, where children's preferences and safety while eating could be easily monitored.

We were satisfied the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. We saw staff and children were vigilant with hand hygiene and had created a fun approach through rhymes and songs and support when required to ensure effective hand washing took place.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The service should review children's personal plans to ensure they contain all required information and that these are reviewed in line with legislation.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.' (HSCS 1.15)

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The nursery had been extended to support the introduction of 1140 hours and to facilitate an increased number of children. This new indoor environment was well-resourced and visually clean and tidy. Areas had been planned to enable children to have identified spaces for floor play, tabletop activities and space to rest and relax with direct access to the outdoors. This created a bright, welcoming learning environment.

Children had free flow access to an outdoor area and had both timetabled and flexible use of the school gym hall and other outdoor areas within the school grounds and the local community. We observed children directing their own play both indoors and outdoors and freely accessing a range of resources to meet their interests, age and stage, while stimulating their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. Children, families and staff had been consulted about the purchase of materials and equipment to further resource specific areas. This met a recommendation made at the last inspection. The local authority had plans to refurbish a currently unusable outdoor area within the school grounds which included an outdoor classroom. Once made safe, this large area would extend children's outdoor learning experiences.

We saw that children had been included in risk assessing the outdoor area using pictures and photographs. Staff were vigilant in ensuring gates were closed and outdoor areas were clear and safe for children prior to going outside.

Indoors, safety and the use of goggles was discussed with the children when using real tools and equipment. This contributed towards their health and safety. However, there were no written risk assessments in place for the refurbished premises, indoors or outdoors. We had a full discussion around children's health and safety and identified particular areas for concern, such as the main doors and the toilet doors being wedged open throughout the session. Templates were then devised and temporary measures put in place prior to feedback. Discussions and completion of written risk assessments should be undertaken and shared with the nursery staff team. This would ensure all staff were included and informed. We have repeated the recommendation made at the last inspection. (See Recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. We advised the service to review and update the risk assessments for all areas the children accessed throughout their session, both indoors and outdoors to ensure their health and safety at all times. This would contribute to the provision of a safe environment for children and staff.

This would ensure that care and support is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'My environment is secure and safe.' (HSCS 5.17) and 'My environment has plenty of natural light and fresh air, and the lighting, ventilation and heating can be adjusted to meet my needs and wishes.' (HSCS 5.19)

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We observed staff to be kind and nurturing towards the children. Although the staff team had increased in recent months, they were settled and worked well as a team. They were enthusiastic and motivated in creating a fun play and learning environment for children through sharing knowledge, experience and fresh ideas. There was a keyworker system in place and enough staff deployed effectively throughout the day to meet the number and care and support needs of children. This provided consistency of care and contributed to children feeling safe and secure.

Staff confidently told us about their roles and responsibilities and additional areas they were leading within the nursery. This offered them an opportunity to research, resource and develop an area, build their confidence and share the good practice and knowledge with their colleagues. Once established this shared vision would lead to improved outcomes for children across a variety of areas within the nursery.

All nursery staff contributed to the agenda for staff meetings and dates were planned to accommodate staff working patterns. This ensured all staff felt included and valued with opportunities to fully participate. Training opportunities were discussed at meetings and during individual one-to-one meetings and appraisals.

Discussions had taken place to advise staff to evaluate their training, note the outcomes for children and how specific training had impacted on their own professional development and the service overall.

The team leader monitored staff practice informally daily and had an overview of the nursery as she worked within the playroom. Formal planned playroom visits were undertaken by the depute of the service and staff were included in discussing any next steps and actions to be taken. Peer assessment had been introduced which again supported team building and working relationships.

All staff were recruited centrally by the local authority and were registered or in the process of registering with the relevant regulatory bodies as required. Having a staff team who were trained, competent, able to reflect on their practice and adhere to their professional codes contributed to families and children feeling confident in their care. All parents spoke highly of the staff team who had created a warm, welcoming environment for their children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The nursery was well led and managed and had embraced key changes in recent months such as extended hours of attendance for children, an increased staff team and a newly refurbished playroom. This meant that some areas of development had been revisited and were in the earlier stages. All staff who contacted us told us they felt welcomed, happy and settled and had been offered opportunities to take on additional leadership roles. As a result, all staff felt valued and included and were confident in taking specific areas forward.

The management team kept up-to-date with local and national guidance through the local authority, the Scottish Government and Care Inspectorate guidance, which was then cascaded to staff. We shared links to bitesize sessions on our website and current guidance to assist with staff training and developments going forward. This included Scottish government good practice document, Realising the Ambition and the associated learning resources.
https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/realising-the-ambition/

There were monitoring systems in place. We advised improving particular areas such as the monitoring of medication records, accident and incident records and personal plans. This was discussed in full with members of the management team, who agreed this would be beneficial. This demonstrated a culture of continuous improvement with the service keen to improve upon their quality assurance processes.

An improvement plan was in place for the whole school including the nursery. Now that the nursery provision had expanded, plans were in place to separate the nursery plan. This would clearly highlight the key priorities for the nursery, the actions taken and the progress made.

We were confident the management and staff team were well placed to continue to develop and improve the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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

Recommendation 1

The service should review the resources available to each group of children during their session.

Increasing the types and variety of resources within each area would enable children to make wider choices of what to play with, offer more opportunities to lead their own play and extend children's learning experiences, both indoors and outdoors.

This would ensure that care and support is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.' (HSCS 2.27)

This recommendation was made on 19 March 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service were now in their newly refurbished, extended playroom. This offered a variety of play areas and resources for children to access both indoors and indoors. This created more opportunities for children to lead their own play and extend learning experiences. Therefore, this recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 2

We advised the service to review and update the risk assessments for all areas the children accessed throughout their session, both indoors and outdoors to ensure their health and safety at all times. This would contribute to the provision of a safe environment for children and staff.

This would ensure that care and support is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'My environment is secure and safe.' (HSCS 5.17) and 'My environment has plenty of natural light and fresh air, and the lighting, ventilation and heating can be adjusted to meet my needs and wishes.' (HSCS 5.19)

This recommendation was made on 19 March 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service had not devised written risk assessments for the new extended nursery premises, indoors or outdoors. Templates for this had been devised over the course of the inspection.
Therefore, this recommendation has been repeated under the quality of environment theme within this report.

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

Date	Type	Gradings	
26 Oct 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
18 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
1 Mar 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
25 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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