Sanquhar Nursery
Day Care of Children

Sanquhar Primary School
Lovedale
Sanquhar
DG4 6BD

Telephone: 01659 502 75

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 May 2023

Service provided by:
Dumfries & Galloway Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003501

Service no:
CS2003015541

About the service

Sanquhar nursery may provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 53 children not yet of an age to attend primary school at any one time.

The nursery is located in a residential area in the town of Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway. The service is close to local shops, parks and other amenities. Children are accommodated in two indoor playrooms and two enclosed outdoor play spaces. Children can also access area of the primary school and gardens.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9th and 10th May 2023. The inspection was carried out by one inspector 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 people using the service.
- consulted with 24 of their families through online questionnaires.
- spoke with 11 staff and management.
- observed practice and daily life.
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care from a responsive staffing team which helped them feel happy, secure and safe.
- Staff promoted a positive team ethos and were respectful in their interactions with each other and the children.
- There was a strong sense of community in the nursery which supported children sense of belonging and ensured they felt valued.

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?	4 - 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? 4 - Good

1.1 Nurturing care and support

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

On the days of inspection, we observed children having fun, talking, and laughing with friends and engaging with staff. Children experienced warm, nurturing care from staff and the manager. Staff provided positive role models for children with kind, patient, and sensitive interactions. One parent told us "The staff display a genuine care and affection for my child".

Children enjoyed a relaxed, unhurried, sociable lunch time experience with their friends and staff. Children's confidence and self-esteem were developed by independently undertaking tasks, such as helping set up the table or clearing away their own plates after lunch. Food choices were nutritious, reflected current guidance and supported healthy choices for children. Fresh water was available in the playroom throughout the day for children to remain hydrated.

Personal Learning Plans (PLP) were in place for each child which were shared regularly with families. Information gathered within personal plans supported meeting children's needs. For example, their likes, dislikes, interests, and important routines. Children with additional support needs had one-page profiles to support all staff to provide continuity of care. Children's learning was recorded and shared with parents through newly introduced e-learning journals. We encouraged the manager to continue monitoring the detail and frequency of input of the learning journals to ensure individual achievements and developments are visible to all families.

We sampled the medication policy and consent forms and found these were in line with current guidance which ensured the health and wellbeing of the children accessing the setting.

Children were supported to feel safe and valued by the manager and staff who recognised the benefits of partnership working with parents and other agencies. Regular communication with other key agencies ensured the team had up to date information to support children's current needs and any changes in the child's life.

1.2 Play and learning

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

Children were actively leading their play which ensured the pace of the day was led by them. Activities available indoors and outdoors supported children to engage in their imagination, spark their curiosity and creativity. We observed children painting, playing with sand, measuring, and pouring, playing doctors, making fairies outdoors and playing on balance bikes. One parent told us "They make efforts to engage my child in the topics that interest them"

Children benefited from a variety of play-based learning opportunities within the nursery. The team had recently introduced new planning and recording approaches which were child centred and responsive to children's interests and experiences. The manager, in partnership with staff, should continue to embed, sustain, and evaluate the planning and recording process to ensure high quality experiences for children in their care are achieved.

Play experiences available helped develop children's language, literacy, and numeracy. Staff members spoke positively about their plans to further enrich the environment, especially outdoors, in the coming months.

Children accessed the community on a weekly basis through a variety of organised activities such as trips to the local park and walks, The service invited family members to join them weekly for stay and play and PEEP sessions. Families told us they appreciated the opportunities to play and explore their children's nursery environment. We have asked the manager to consult with working parents to support opportunities for regular engagement in the nursery setting.

How good is our setting? 5 - Very Good

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

The setting indoors was comfortably furnished and welcoming for the children. The room had lots of natural light and was ventilated. There were ample space children to play and explore together or alone if they chose to do so. Spaces reflected children's current interests. A sensory room provided a cosy space for children to relax and rest if they wished to.

Free flow between the indoors and two enclosed outdoor spaces further supported children's abilities to lead their play and learning. The outdoor area provided children the opportunity to engage in risk taking, explorative and imaginative play. Children were confident moving around the playroom and between the indoors and outdoors spaces. This showed us children felt safe and secure in the nursery.

Children could lead their play as they could easily access toys and equipment at their level. Tubs and boxes were labelled with pictures to further support children's independence. Natural, opened ended materials were available to stimulate children's curiosity and extended their play. Loose parts play was also supported by a variety of materials readily available for children. We have suggested expanding the use of real objects into the playroom to further enhance children's curiosities.

Infection prevention and control measures were in place in line with current guidelines and best place practice. Toilets were clean and accessible for children. The setting had an adequate supply of personal protective equipment which was stored appropriately.

Health and safety checklists were in place to ensure children and staffs health and wellbeing when accessing the setting. Children were encouraged to help staff undertake outdoor risk assessments before going out to play. Risk assessments were in place for some areas and outings. The new manager continues to review and update risk assessments for the indoor areas of the nursery following changes and improvements.

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

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

Clear vision, values and aims had recently been reviewed and updated for the service in collaboration with the children, their families, and the wider school community. Children were supported by staff and a senior leadership team who embedded the nurseries values into their practice. This ensured children felt respected, safe, and included.

Aspirations for the service were shared by all staff and supported by the manager and head teacher. This showed us the service had an incredibly good capacity for change. Staff spoke passionately about their responsibility to help lead improvements, work with families and support children to reach their full potential. There was a strong sense of community within the nursery, school and learning centre, this ensured children and their families received a high quality, rights-based care, play and learning experiences.

The manager was visible in the setting to children, families, and staff. They created conditions in where people felt confident to discuss their ideas, opinions or if needed concerns. Children participated in the improvement process. We could see evidence of children's voices in the curriculum rationale and plans for the outdoor expansion. This supported children's rights and ensured they felt valued within the nursery. One parent told us "Management seem very invested in the children".

Views of families had been actively sought to support the development of the setting. This was achieved through e-learning journals, questionnaires, newsletters, parents comment board, open nights and during review meetings. Information received was then discussed as a team and used to inform planning and improvements. The service should continue with plans to extend parent and carer involvement in the nurseries self-evaluation and improvement plan process.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

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

Children were supported in a nursery that was appropriately staffed to meet their individual health, wellbeing, and safety needs. Continuity of care and effective communication was promoted by the manager, head teacher and staff which supported positive transitions and communication with families. One parent told us "The staff are fantastic we couldn't asked for any better. They strive to ensure that all my childs needs are met and are really friendly and approachable".

Staff where proactive and flexible in their deployments throughout the day, they followed the children between the indoors and outdoors, which ensured children led their play and engaged in free flow opportunities whilst remaining safe. Staff breaks were planned to minimise the impact on children during their time at the nursery, including lunchtime.

Children were supported by staff who embedded the values of nurturing and responsive care into their practice which ensured children felt acknowledged as individuals and included.

Good working relationships and effective communication had been established between the team and new manager which ensured effective supervision and quality engagement of children throughout the day.

Staff were motivated in their roles and keen to support the service to continue to develop and improve to ensure positive outcomes for the children in their care. We found staff worked well together, they were respectful in their interactions with each other, creating a positive ethos and role models for the children. Most parents who responded to our questionnaire highlighted the staff as a strength for the service.

Appropriate policies were in place to maximise the attendance of staff and all staff understand the impact of unplanned absence on the provision of the service. There was a positive ethos of attendance within the service.

Complaints

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

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - 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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.