Comely Park Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Cow Wynd
Falkirk
FK1 1PZ

Telephone: 01324 508 560

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
5 June 2023

Service provided by:
Falkirk Council

Service provider number:
SP2004006884

Service no:
CS2003015561

About the service

Comely Park Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children, aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is located in Cow Wynd in Falkirk and is based within Comely Park Primary School. The environment consisted of open plan playroom with kitchen area, children's toilets, and a room that could be used as a quiet space. Children had direct access to an enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 5 June 2023 between 08:30 and 17:30. We provided feedback to the service 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, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with several children using the service
- spoke with six family members
- spoke with staff
- observed practice and daily life, including staff interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Families told us about the positive relationships with staff that supported positive outcomes for their children.

- Children experienced a deeper and richer learning experience because they could choose from a wide variety of resources.

- Staff used SHANARRI wellbeing language to support children to reflect on outcomes as a result of their play and learning experiences.

- Children were building confidence and learning to stay safe through risky play experiences. Staff should reflect on their deployment at busier times including mealtimes.

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?	4 - 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 and families were nurtured and supported by the staff team. Staff showed warmth, kindness, and compassion as they interacted with children. A calm approach supported children to manage their emotions. This meant children felt valued and secure in the service.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported by the information that was recorded in their personal plans. We could see that in most cases, the strategies recorded were used by staff in the care and support of children. Information about children's care and support needs was clear and accessible for staff. This meant care was consistent and promoted good outcomes for children.

Children enjoyed a relaxed, unhurried sociable experience during mealtimes. Children felt respected when staff spoke with them as they sat having lunch. Healthy food choices and regular drinks throughout the day supported children's health and wellbeing.

The service was focused on increasing the opportunities for families to engage with the service. Families were welcomed into the service when dropping off and collecting children, and stay and play sessions were held regularly. Staff had opportunities to listen to families as they shared experiences from home. Children were benefiting from having their family included in their nursery experience. Families said staff were approachable and that they had developed positive relationships with them. One parent said staff were "fabulous."

Children's health and wellbeing was supported through well managed systems and processes. Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children and medication was managed well.

Quality Indicator: 1.3 - Play and learning
Staff had a good understanding of how children learn through their play. They were supported to evaluate the spaces, experiences and interactions that resulted in rich child led play and learning. Staff were developing an understanding of their critical role in supporting children's current interests and curiosities. This meant children were empowered to be fully involved in their play and learning.

The service understood that children had a right to play and to have fun. Children used the white board to watch a lion on a web cam sleeping. They were supported by staff to extend their language and communication skills. Children remembered the story, 'The Tiger Who came to Tea' and talked about sleeping in their own bed and about sleepovers at grannies. Having a wide range of experiences and resources that were suitable for children's ages and stages of development, stimulated their natural curiosity, learning and creativity.

Staff recognised and celebrated children's achievements. They displayed photographs of children's experiences in the playroom and shared them with families through personal learning journals. A systematic approach to planning for, recording and evaluating children's next steps, supported them to reach their potential.

How good is our setting? 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: 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities
Children benefited from an environment that was bright, spacious and well maintained. Quiet areas provided space for children to relax and spend time alone or in small groups. A child lay on the bunk in the outdoor wooden house watching other children as they rested. Other children used the sensory space to relax and read a book with a member of staff. Having calm spaces supported children's wellbeing.

Children enjoyed interesting and exciting play environments that reflected their interests. Two children were busy in the block area building a dragon. One child sang a song about the dragon gobbling up the children. They showed humour and had fun as they played imaginatively. Staff reflected on how children used the areas and changed them so that the resources and experiences supported their learning. The service should increase the visuals that will support numeracy and literacy outdoors. This will support children to experience a deeper and richer learning experience.

All children had the freedom to access the different areas, including the outdoors. This meant they were able to decide where they played. Some children chose to have an outdoor snack. They were able to wash hands outdoors before sitting with their friends at the snack table. Staff recognised the right for all children to play outdoors and how this impacted positively on their development, health, wellbeing and happiness.

Children were safe because there were effective security systems and processes in place. Secure entry door systems ensured children were safe. Staff carried out daily risk assessments and reported any concerns to the management team. Children were included in discussions about staying safe using 'Stanley Safe.' This promoted a safe and secure environment for children.

Children were supported to be healthy and safe through effective infection prevention and control routines. The environment was well ventilated, hand washing was embedded in practice, and regular cleaning took place. Staff were being respectful and protecting children by maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.

How good is our leadership? 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: 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvements are led well
There was a welcoming ethos within the service. Information about the service was shared with families so they knew what to expect. Families commented on the positive relationships they had with staff. They felt valued and included as a result.

Continuous improvement was supported by effective quality assurance systems. The service used best practice guidance 'How good is our early learning and childcare' and 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' to support them in their improvement journey. A shared vision across the service in improving family engagement for example, meant there was an aim to further develop the relationships with families. This demonstrated an understanding about the importance of partnership working to ensure children's outcomes were as positive as possible.

Staff had regular opportunities to have professional discussion and continuously reflect on practice. This was starting to bring about positive changes to outcomes for children and families. Staff told us about training in outdoor learning that had supported changes to the outdoor environment and learning opportunities for children.

Meaningful ways to involve children and families in the improvement process continued to be developed. Their views were actively sought through survey's, family group sessions and meetings. Staff valued the opinions of children and families supporting them to influence change in the service.

How good is our staff team? 4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator: 4.3 - Staff deployment

Children and families benefited from the consistency of a caring and nurturing staff team. Staff met regularly to share information about children's changing needs. This meant they were aware of their roles and responsibilities, and how to ensure children's individual needs were met. A shared approach ensured that most children and families were supported to achieve their potential. Staff should reflect on and develop their approach to planning to ensure that the strategies identified that will support outcomes for individual children are considered. This will ensure that all children experience meaningful activities that support their needs.

The senior leadership team recognised and valued the importance of ensuring the service was staffed to meet the individual needs of children and families. Staff were flexible and breaks were, in the main, planned to minimise the impact on children whilst making sure staff had time to rest.

Staff were confident in their roles and communicated well as a team. They were empowered to deploy themselves across all areas of the playroom and outdoors. This meant that the necessary levels of supervision for children were in place most of the time. Staff should reflect on their deployment at busier times including mealtimes. This should include ensuring that there is a balanced skill mix of staff across all areas. This will ensure that children's needs are supported at all times.

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?	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?	4 - Good
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - 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.