Lochgelly West Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Main Street
Lochgelly
KY5 9NS

Telephone: 01592 583445

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 1 December 2017

Service provided by:
Fife Council

Service provider number:
SP2004005267

Care service number:
CS2003015946

About the service

The service was registered with the Care inspectorate in 2011. The service is currently registered with the following conditions:

The care service may be provided to a maximum of 30 children per session from 3 years to an age to attend primary school.

The children may have access to the following areas of the premises: The nursery classroom, the hall, the living room, the toilet blocks, the school playground and the field.

The hours of operation are 8.45am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday, during school term time only.
The nursery is situated within the primary school. The children have access to a bright playroom, a "Living Room", the gym hall, on a time-tabled basis, and an adjacent outdoor play area. The building is of good repair and decorative order and has suitable heating and ventilation. A robust security system is in place to ensure the safety of the children.

The nursery aims "to provide opportunities for children to learn and develop as individuals."

What people told us

We issued 14 Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents/carers. Nine of these were completed and returned to us. The information on these forms indicated that those who responded agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall I am happy with the care and support my child receives from this service".

We spoke to several parents when they dropped off their children at nursery. In the main they were happy with the quality of care their children were receiving. However there were comments from parents who were dissatisfied with the staff's vigilance in ensuring they were meeting the needs of children's personal care/toileting routines. There were also concern over the vigilance of staff ensuring children were safe on play equipment.

Self assessment

A self-assessment was not requested by us for this inspection. We reviewed the School Improvement Plan and considered priorities to be taken forward within the nursery.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The Headteacher involved himself in nursery by getting to know children and parents and creating a welcoming ethos for all. He was supportive to the staff team and shared a vision on where they wanted the whole school to aspire to. The staff were friendly and nurturing which enabled children and their families to feel valued and respected.

Whilst the layout of premises was challenging the staff made good use of what they had both indoors and outdoors.

The attractive layout of the nursery allowed for children to move around easily and have choice in their play. Very good resources stimulated children's interests, promoted language development and problem solving skills. The strong focus on promoting independence skills ensured children were able to achieve and develop self-worth. Staff gave praise and encouragement to children and intervened when appropriate to do so.

Risk assessments were in place for children moving between the nursery to toilets and to the school office. The staff told us that the strategies used ensured the safety of children at all times.

The outdoor area was seen to be used in a monitored manner still allowing children choice of whether they wanted to go out or stay indoors. Children were enjoying playing outside. They were able to play with their peers or have space for solitary play. There was a very good range of resources which encouraged active and imaginative play.

Children were taken to a local forest one day per week which gave them the opportunity to explore the environment and take part in risky play which enhanced their cognitive and physical development.

Well thought out and effective settling-in and transition procedures resulted in children and parents feeling well-informed, secure and respected. Early Years officers went with children into primary one to support the transition for children and provide support for teachers to help children get settled. This enabled the officers and teachers to share information on individual children and provide appropriate support for them.

What the service could do better

The systems used to evaluate children's learning and development needed to improve. Information held in children's personal learning journey folders was limited. Next steps for children's development were not always recorded and the system for identifying these did not record what actions were taken and how these had been evaluated. There was therefore no evidence of how individual children were progressing their development and learning or how this was linked to planning. See recommendation (1).

Staff practice and nursery provision was discussed. There was no formal recording of monitoring provision, staff practice, areas of strengths and identified training needs. We discussed this with the Headteacher and agreed that this was an area for development.

We discussed issues raised with us by parents regarding children's personal care. It was agreed that this had been an issue and that steps had been taken to ensure there was more effective monitoring of children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The service should ensure that children's 'Personal Journey folders' accurately and regularly record children's next steps for learning and development, with evaluations on actions taken. It should be clear how individual next steps are taken forward into planning.
National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 6.1- Support and Development.

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
16 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
18 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
19 Mar 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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