St. Michael's Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Burnbrae Avenue
Moodiesburn
Glasgow
G69 0ER

Telephone: 01236 794822

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
6 November 2019

Service provided by:
North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000237

Service no:
CS2003016456

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

St. Michael's Nursery Class is located within St. Michael's Primary school and is managed by the head teacher of the school. The service is located within the Moodiesburn area of North Lanakshire. The nursery has its own secure entry system, two large playrooms and large enclosed and varied outdoor play areas for all children to access.

The service is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 44 children aged three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service's aims are shared with parents/carers and visitors. Their aims confirm their commitment to: "Provide an attractive, safe and stimulating environment from which all children can develop their full potential and enjoy play."

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, also known as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday, 05 November 2019. We concluded the inspection on Wednesday, 06 November 2019 and gave feedback to the depute head and nursery teacher at the end of the inspection. This inspection was carried out by one inspector.

During the inspection we spoke with many of the children, some parents/carers, staff and management team.

We asked the service to distribute 13 care standards questionnaires to parents/carers on our behalf. Eight were completed and returned to us prior to the inspection taking place in April/May, three or four months before the inspection.

We also received five completed questionnaires from staff.

We assessed the quality of care and support and staffing at this inspection.

What people told us

We saw that the majority of children attending were happy and settled in the care of staff. Some children were in the process of settling into the service and plans were in place to support this.

The children were keen to engage with us over the course of the inspection. They invited us into their play and told us about their experiences at the service. Their comments included:

"I like playing with my best friend."
"Playing with the animals, there are lots of them." (Child made sounds of some of the animals)
"Sometimes you can wear your shoes outside."
"I was in the mud but it was too cold so I came back in."
"I didn't bring my wellies because I didn't want to go outside today." (The service have outdoor clothing and footwear for children to use daily.)
"I have made a piano." (building area)
"I have made a bench." (building area and was used to sit at piano)
"I have made a drum." (building area children then sang a range of songs while playing the instruments they made)
"I am selling ice cream." (building area)
"The playdough is black and has sparkles."

Parents/carers who completed the care standards questionnaires strongly agreed/agreed with all statements. These related to the quality of care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership.

Their comments included:

"The nursery staff provided a happy and safe place for my child to learn and thrive. My child loves attending nursery and they particularly enjoy the challenges/tasks that the nursery staff provide. They can confidently use the Shanarri language at home, they have explained it to their siblings what this is. I as a parent am very impressed that my four year old child has developed a strong understanding of this as they can apply this at home."

"The nursery is a happy, family friendly establishment. The staff are approachable and know my child well. My child is always keen to talk about their learning and thinks the world of the ladies who work with them "

"My children have attended St. Michael's nursery of the last five years. We could not be happier with the care they have provided our children. All staff are highly professional and do their utmost to ensure my child is learning, safe, happy and included. They are very approachable and seek feedback/suggestions from both children and parents continually. My child is given a wide and exciting range of opportunities to develop in all aspects including forest projects, excursions, trips out in the local community. Excellent service. Excellent staff."

"I moved my child from another nursery and have found a significant difference in their approach. It has been the best decision I have made. My child is thriving and I truly believe this is because of the nursery."

"Staff always available for a chat. Keep me up to date with my child's learning and I have asked about certain foods provided as my child has dietary requirements. Very pleased about this safe, friendly environment."

"I have the utmost respect and trust in the staff at St. Michael's nursery. My child is very happy at nursery and looks forward to going. The staff are very caring and interact well with the children."

"Staff are amazing, supportive, kind, friendly professional, caring and positive. Knowledgeable and supportive regarding my child's development needs Staff communication is great, always informing parents of child and nursery developments. Learning journals are always kept up to date. I can not give enough praise to the nursery. Thank You!"

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own improvement plans and quality assurance procedures to determine their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision in the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Management and staff at St. Michael's Nursery Class had created a positive, nurturing ethos where children, parents/carers and visitors feel welcomed and respected.

Through discussions and observations, it was clear all staff we spoke with knew the care and support needs of the children in their care very well. We saw that the majority of children were happy and confident in their surroundings. A few children who appeared unsettled at times had just started at the service and were settling into their service with sensitive and nurturing support from staff.

Staff were responsive to children's needs and requests throughout the inspection. Children directed their own play both inside and outdoors. They freely accessed a wide range of resources, activities and experiences suitable for their age and stage of development.

We saw children having fun as they developed their skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including imaginative play and story telling. The staff team were motivated and passionate about ensuring children had access to quality outdoor experiences. To support this practice they had further developed the use of loose parts play, both indoors and outdoors. This stimulated children's natural curiosity, learning and creativity, using open ended and natural materials.

Children's health, wellbeing and safety was well supported and promoted through opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. This included a range of active play activities both inside and outdoors, following best practice guidance for infection prevention and control and hand hygiene. Children's allergies, cultural and dietary requirements as well as their individual preferences were also considered and respected. Snack time was a positive, pleasant social experience. It was offered in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere. Children's independence was well supported with staff encouraging them to access what they wished.

Staff assisted individual children where required, supervised their safety when eating and were engaged in pleasant conversations. In addition, children had access to drinking water throughout the day, had a visit from the oral health team during the inspection, were involved in the preparation of snack and participated in weekly yoga sessions.

We sampled children's personal plans and learning logs which were personalised to meet their needs. They identified children's progress, development and next steps in learning.

They were reviewed and updated consistently in consultation with parents/carers. Where children required additional support, staff worked effectively with partner agencies. This ensured children benefited from the right support at the right time to achieve their potential. The staff team had recently reviewed and changed the learning log format. Management and staff should continue to monitor these, to ensure they clearly demonstrate how children's changing learning needs and interests will be met/supported.

We found the system for managing medication to be in line with current best practice guidance. This helped to ensure that children's health and wellbeing was promoted through the safe management of medication.

Parents/carers who returned our questionnaires and those who took part in the inspection process spoke highly of staff with regards to how well they know their children as individuals. They found staff approachable and responsive to any questions they had regarding their children's wellbeing and development.

From our discussions and observations of the staff team we found that they worked very well together and demonstrated a positive and inclusive approach. We found their enthusiasm, interests and skills helped to bring different elements to the team and helped support children's learning and on-going development. Staff engaged very well with the inspection process and responded positively to our suggestions in relation to their on-going improvement journey.

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the policies and procedures in place to ensure the care and welfare of children, including child protection. All staff received regular professional learning in safeguarding and told us they were confident in dealing with child protection concerns. This supported them to keep children safe and protected. Details of child protection procedures were displayed for parents/carers and visitor's information.

Management and staff were committed to improving outcomes for children and families. As a team, they reflect very well together using a range of current guidance and good practice documents to strengthen self-evaluation practice within the nursery. They had used these reflections to bring about positive changes to the nursery environment both inside and outdoors and to children and families. They also asked the children and parents/carers for their views. This had created a positive, quality learning environment for children and a positive working environment for staff.

The staff team confidently shared with us examples of how their on-going training, participation in further qualifications, professional reading, reflective practice within the service and with other colleagues and opportunities to take forward meaningful initiatives, supported positive outcomes for children and families. These practices assisted them to plan quality experiences with strong connections between the needs and interests of children and their families.

What the service could do better

There were no significant areas for improvement identified during this inspection visit. Through our discussions with the depute head, we feel management and staff are well placed to make further progress on the areas they had identified in their improvement plan.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
10 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
31 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
23 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
4 Nov 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good

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