St. Mary's Primary School Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Wallace Street
Whifflet
Coatbridge
ML5 4DA

Telephone: 01236 423684

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 August 2019

Service provided by:
North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000237

Service no:
CS2003016805

About the service

St. Mary's Primary School Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate when it was formed in 2011. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 70 children as follows, 25 children aged from two to under three years and 45 children aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service provider is North Lanarkshire Council.

The service operates from a detached single storey building in the locality of Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire. The manager of the service is also the manager of St. Mary's Primary School which is situated across the road from the service. The nursery is close to parks, shops and other local amenities.

Children are accommodated within three main playrooms, separated by their age and stage. Secure garden spaces are also accessible for all age groups to use.

The service aims to be inclusive, safe, nurturing, welcoming, bright and include parents and carers in their work. They aim to have staff who will support children, be creative, challenge, value and listen to children, and be kind to everyone.

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place over one day on the 19th August 2019. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as 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 the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included.

What people told us

We sent out 25 care standard questionnaires to the service, to distribute to parents and carers before the inspection. Eleven of these were returned to us completed.

All respondents agreed that they were very happy with the quality of care their children were receiving at the service. Parents highlighted caring staff, communication and interesting activities as strengths of the service. One respondent commented that they would like more opportunities to be involved in the service, and another said they were concerned about safe parking outside the nursery. We shared this feedback with the service and felt assured they were already addressing these issues.

Some comments from parents are noted below:

"Amazing place! My child loves it and the staff are wonderful".

"The staff are helpful, they are approachable and always give my child a warm welcome".

"Great nursery, great staff and loads of outside space and toys to keep kids happy".

"The staff who work with my child are exceptional and I could not be more grateful for all they do".

Children attending the service were happy and confident. They told us about their favourite things. For example, playing in the garden. They also shared that the staff were "nice" and gave them cuddles if they were upset.

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to submit a self-assessment prior to this inspection. Issues relating to quality assurance, acting on feedback from people using the service and the quality of the services improvement plans were considered as part of this inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Children attending the service felt happy, loved and valued. They were well supported by caring staff who were affectionate, responsive and kind.

Transitions were well planned to ensure that children felt secure. For example, appropriate information was sought about new children's needs, through 'all about me' records, home visits and individual settling visits. All information gained was used to plan how to meet children's specific needs.

The service valued opportunities to build positive relationships with families. For example, collection time was calm and promoted opportunities for informal discussions, and the parents room was a well used and inviting space. Partnership working ensures consistency in meeting children's needs.

The snack experience for children was relaxed and unhurried. Staff supported and supervised children to ensure their safety, but also sensitively encouraged independence helping children to achieve. Children were further supported to develop a positive attitude to healthy eating, through the 'Big Chef Little Chef' family cookery programme.

Children participated in a variety of experiences, which supported their understanding of the wellbeing indicators of 'Getting it Right for Every Child'. For example, through stories, discussions, puppets, photographs and floor books. A focused 'Wellbeing Wednesday' provided staff with the opportunity to help children to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included.

Children had fun as they learned through play. They were developing their skills in thinking, investigation, problem solving and imagination as they played using natural and open-ended materials. For example, building with cable reels, pebbles, blocks and corks.

The environment was warm and welcoming. The service had worked hard to create a home from home environment which was calm and relaxing. Twinkling lights, soft furnishings, plants and natural coloured hessian display boards, helped ensure children were not over stimulated and were able to focus their play and learning.

Children experienced care in a safe and clean environment. The spread of infection was minimised through very good hygiene procedures, such as handwashing and regular cleaning. Safety measures were also in place to protect children. For example, safe storage of hazardous materials and ensuring children wore helmets when riding bikes. The service benefited from an onsite janitor who ensured cleanliness and maintenance issues were quickly addressed.

What the service could do better

We discussed with the service how children's personal plans could be updated to demonstrate more clearly how their needs were being met.

We asked the service to continue building on the experiences for children aged two to three years, to promote further curiosity and exploration. This should include increased time outdoors exploring a natural environment.

The service had plans to adapt their parental participation strategies, creating greater involvement in the life of the centre. We agreed that the plans sounded positive for supporting needs.

We asked the service to update their child protection policy, ensuring there was clarity in who the appointed child protection officer was. This would ensure staff were clear who to report concerns to, contributing to keeping children safe.

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

Recommendation 1

The service should review and update the medication policy, practice and procedures for the storage of medication, in line with current best practice guidance 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding settings'.

This recommendation was made on 2 September 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Medication was stored appropriately, in line with good practice guidance. Administration records were effective and provided clear details of each child's needs.
Therefore, this recommendation is met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
12 Jun 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
2 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
30 Sep 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good
21 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate

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