Milnathort Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Milnathort Primary School
Bridgefauld Road
Milnathort
Kinross
KY13 9XP

Telephone: 01577 867 260

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 April 2022

Service provided by:
Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003370

Service no:
CS2003017338

About the service

Milnathort primary school nursery is situated in the small village of Milnathort. It provides a daycare of children service for a maximum of 53 children aged from two years to those not yet attending primary school. Perth and Kinross Council provide the service.

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 25 April 2022 between 09:30 and 16:30. Two early years inspectors carried out the inspection. Feedback to the management team took place 26 April 2022.

To prepare for inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluations we:
- observed practice and children's experiences indoors and outdoors
- spoke with children who experienced care at the service and six parents/carers
- spoke with the staff and management team
- reviewed relevant documentation

What people told us

Children told us about their experiences of attending the service. They told us they had fun playing with their friends, enthusiastically demonstrating their skills as they joined in a variety of activities. Children were animated as they spoke about their nursery and the activities they enjoyed. One child told us "Nursery is amazing, it's so much fun".

As part of the inspection, we received views from six parents and carers of children who attend the service. All parents said that they were very happy with the quality of care their children receive. All parents commented about the very good communication between nursery and home. Many included comments such as "We always get lots of information from the nursery, see-saw is great and I can see updates right away. It also means I can send comments back too."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection. As part of the inspection, we reviewed the services quality assurance processes and improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for improvement.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

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

Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches to their personal care and learning needs. This contributed to children feeling safe and secure. Children had developed strong, positive relationships with staff members. To support children to be happy and confident, staff had effectively used personal plans to enhance individualised care and support. Staff knew the children very well which supported the development of strong, trusting and respectful relationships. This contributed to children being confident, safe and feeling valued. Children were fully included in routines of the day with many opportunities to be independent and responsible. For example, children helped set up lunches for their peers and did so with a real sense of achievement and belonging. Children experienced a lunch and snack time that was sociable and unhurried. They showed their skills and confidence by pouring their own milk or water and serving their own side dishes. Staff knew children very well and provided effective support for all children to enhance the lunch experience.

Children were very good at self-regulation and being mindful of each other in their play experiences. Staff were skilled in supporting children during these times, to extend and develop children's understanding. Meaningful restorative conversations contributed to the overall ethos of respect and inclusion within the service.

The service had very good links with outside agencies and worked effectively with them to provide responsive care and support to children. Children's health and wellbeing were very well supported by staff who consistently used identified strategies based on children's individual needs. This supported children to be included and contribute fully to nursery life.

Children and families were kept safe as the nursery followed appropriate infection prevention and control procedures. For example, good handwashing routines were in place for both staff and children and had been adapted in line with current guidance. The playroom was well ventilated and clean with enhanced cleaning regimes in place to prevent the spread of infection. This contributed to minimising children's risk of exposure to infection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

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

Children experienced a warm and welcoming environment. The playroom had been thoughtfully set up to ensure children could access a variety of spaces. Spaces had been designed to give children an area to be calm and quiet and also provided opportunities to explore and develop their play. Children's current interests and curiosities were reflected in the activities and layout of the playroom and outdoor areas. This resulted in children who were valued and provided a strong message that they matter.

Children had opportunities to play, explore and lead their own learning. Children were empowered to take appropriate risks by staff who recognised their abilities and supported their development. For example, children were developing gross motor skills jumping from the large cable reel. This contributed to children developing confidence, becoming aware of their abilities and being able to regulate their emotions.

Children were highly engaged in their play on the day of inspection. Play opportunities supported children's curiosity, enquiry, and creativity. Children freely accessed toys and resources to extend their play. This contributed to them developing a sense of ownership and respect for their environment. Children had plentiful opportunities to explore using real and natural resources. This supported them to be creative and develop their curiosity and problem-solving skills.

Children independently accessed the secure outdoor play areas through the session each day. This promoted their health and wellbeing as they enjoyed fresh air and energetic play daily. The outdoor area had been developed which provided a range of natural spaces. Children confidently explored the outdoor areas experimenting in the mud kitchen and playing group games, helping one another and sharing during this time. This contributed to children feeling empowered to lead their play experiences and supported them to develop confidence and resilience.

Children managed their play and time with ease and confidence. Staff skilfully supported transitions throughout the day to maximise children's experiences and not interrupt play opportunities. This contributed to children feeling valued and respected.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

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

Staff were welcoming, friendly, and respectful in their interactions with each other, children and visitors and appeared to work well as a team. This promoted a happy and secure environment for the children.

Children were cared for by staff who were warm, compassionate and nurturing. Staff provided individualised support by effectively engaging with children throughout the inspection. Supporting children's development and extending their play experiences, staff demonstrated an awareness of when and how to effectively intervene as they picked up on children's cues. This resulted in children who were respected within the service.

Play and learning was skilfully enhanced by playful staff who had a mind minded approach when supporting children. This meant that they recognised children's individual thoughts and feelings. All staff knew when and how to engage to support and extend children thinking and imagination. This contributed to children feeling confident, safe and happy and supported all children to achieve their full potential.

Staff had recently taken on leadership roles to develop their professional knowledge and improve practice. In turn, this supported the learning experiences on offer for the children. Staff spoke positively about their leadership roles and regularly reflected on the impact these had on outcomes for children. The service should continue to support and develop various leadership roles across the staff team. This would contribute to staff feeling valued and respected and inform future areas for development.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found several important strengths, which taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. The areas for improvement were recognised by the management team and progress was being made to embed them into daily practice and positively impact on children's experiences. We have evaluated this quality theme as good.

Strong leadership resulted in staff who had high aspirations and confidence in their capacity to support children and families to reach their potential. The management team should continue to use systems in place to embed high quality practices. Children and their families should continue to experience high quality care as monitoring of new initiatives evolve to reflect ongoing developments and practice.

The centre improvement plan was relevant and had measurable outcomes. Clear and concise action plans were in place that had the outcomes for children at the heart. Plans allowed staff to reflect on current practice and identify next steps in improvement. A quality assurance calendar was in place that ensured purposeful audits of various aspects of the nursery were routinely carried out. We saw these to be outcome focused and detailed the impact they had on children. This contributed positively to the team continually reflecting on the experiences of care and learning children were receiving.

The management team and staff made use of effective quality assurance processes. This allowed them to review and monitor various aspects of the service in a a focused and meaningful way. This meant that areas for improvement had been identified, shared with staff and actions taken to make positive changes to children's experiences. This resulted in very good outcomes for children and their families.

The management team had a developed a variety of methods to ensure that communication was shared across the team effectively. For example, weekly briefs that detailed messages for the service as a whole and ensured staff were aware of all children's needs. Regular team meetings created opportunities for staff to come together and share and develop their practice. These both contributed to the very good team ethos and allowed all staff to be involved in leading the improvement journey of the setting. This resulted in a whole staff team working well together to ensure outcomes for children were of a high quality.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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

To ensure each child receives appropriate care and support and their needs are met the manager and staff should:

a) Ensure personal plans set out children's current needs and how they will be met
b) Ensure all staff are aware of and understand the information within the personal plans and use this to effectively meet each child's needs.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.' (HSCS 1.15).

This recommendation was made on 27 April 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Personal plan information set out children's current needs and how they will be met. Staff used information in children's personal plans to meet their needs effectively. The service had developed a number of information sharing strategies to ensure all staff are aware of and understand the information within the personal plan. Information was up to date and had been recorded in partnership with families. This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 2

In order to ensure that medication is safely managed, the provider and the manager should review best practice guidance; Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services' and ensure:

a) Medication is stored appropriately.
b) Recording formats contain all essential information to support staff to safely administer medication.
c) Written permission is in place for all children's medication in the service.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards, which state that: 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective.' (HSCS 1.24).

This recommendation was made on 27 April 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Medication was appropriately stored within the service. Recording formats clearly detailed essential information to safely administer medication, with written permissions in place. Clear audits were undertaken to ensure management of medication was inline with best practice guidance. This recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 3

In order to reduce the risk of the spread of infection during the pandemic, staff must ensure they are consistently complying with Scottish government guidance.

This should include:

a) Staff work with children to improve handwashing practice.
b) Ensuring children and staff hand washing is carried out at appropriate times.
c) Staff wearing masks appropriately.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Heath and Social Care Standards, which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

This recommendation was made on 27 April 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Staff supported children with effective hand hygiene throughout he inspection. Hand washing was carried out at the right times throughout the day. Staff were observed to be complying with Scottish government guidance at all times. This recommendation has been met.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
9 May 2019	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
25 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
12 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
4 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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