Balmalloch Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Balmalloch Primary School
Kingsway
Kilsyth
Glasgow
G65 9UJ

Telephone: 01236 632058

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 June 2019

Service provided by:
North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000237

Service no:
CS2003020018

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.

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

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure 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 (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Balmalloch Nursery Class is provided by North Lanarkshire Council and is based in Kilsyth. The service is provided from a purpose-built nursery in Balmalloch Primary School. The nursery features a welcome area where children can store their belongings, toilets, changing facilities, playroom and enclosed garden which is directly accessible from the playroom. The children also use the gymnasium in the main school for activities.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 44 children. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school. There were 36 children present on the first day of our visit.

A new head teacher had been appointed since the last inspection. The head teacher is the named manager of the service and the depute head teacher has remit for the nursery. The day to day care and support is provided by a lead early learning practitioner and four early learning practitioners.

The service aims include:

'To encourage all children to develop an appreciation of self-worth, respect for themselves and others in an environment where success is celebrated and promoted, thus encouraging all children to become confident individuals'.

The service's full aims and objectives are available to parents/carers and visitors.

This report was written following an unannounced inspection, carried out by one inspector over the course of two days. We visited on Tuesday 11 June 2019 and returned on Wednesday 12 June, to conclude the inspection and provide feedback to the management team and staff.

During our visit, we spoke with most of the children, parents/carers, staff and management team.

We asked the service to distribute 50 care standards questionnaires to parents/carers on our behalf. 24 were completed and returned to us prior to the inspection taking place. We also received five completed questionnaires from staff.

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

What people told us

Children's views:

The children were very happy, settled and enjoyed spending time at nursery. There was a sense of fun and excitement as the children arrived, where they were warmly greeted by affectionate and attentive staff. The children were incredibly proud of their nursery and spoke confidently about their learning and favourite activities. We could see some special friendships had been formed. Children were extremely kind, caring and considerate of one another.

Their comments included:

'This is our house, I like being the cat'.

'We're making soup in the kitchen, would you like to try it?'.

'I can climb to the top of the ladder now. I couldn't climb that far when I started nursery'.

'I'm up really high, this is the roof of the house'.

'We're looking for worms. We need to be gentle with them'.

'We're building a purple and pink house for Mrs Merrick'.

'The bees like our special bush. There are always lots of them'.

Parent/carer's views:

Parents/carers were very keen to meet with us. We spoke with seven parents/carers during our visit. They spoke very positively about their child's nursery experience. They were happy to share examples of the individual support they received from 'brilliant, caring and fantastic' staff. They described how this had impacted on their family life and told us that the support, advice, workshops and particularly opportunities to attend Solihull training had helped them develop an understanding of their child and learn about approaches to support them.

They felt staff went 'above and beyond' to ensure children and families were happy and well supported and felt 'they genuinely want what's best for them'. They told us they felt fully involved in all aspects of their child's learning and described a very positive transition programme for children moving to primary school. They felt their child was more confident as a result.

This feedback was echoed by parents/carers who completed the care standards questionnaires. They strongly agreed/agreed with most statements. These related to the quality of care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership. A small number disagreed that the service makes good use of resources in the

community. We discussed this with the management team. They had already identified this was an area that could be improved and were planning how this could be taken forward.

Parents/carers comments included:

'As first time users of this service, we were anxious about our child starting nursery. We shouldn't have been. From the start, the caring nurturing environment has meant she settled immediately and is thriving. The caring nature of the staff extends to all the family and is simply lovely to be part of.

'Great nursery. My child is happy and has settled. The staff are professional, welcoming and engaging'.

'Staff are knowledgeable about the children in their care. Communication between home and nursery is regular and appropriate. Excellent staff team who go out of their way to help families feel at ease'.

'I can not praise staff enough for the care they have provided. I have experience of nurseries and this is the best by far'.

'Staff are exceptional and excel at creating a warm, open and welcoming environment for children and parents alike. Staff constantly strive to improve and are happy to pass new knowledge on to parents. Staff give my child feeling of being loved, cared for and protected. 10/10 across the board!'.

'What a fantastic nursery with wonderful staff. My child has developed greatly since starting'.

'Balmalloch is a warm, loving and secure nursery. All staff go above and beyond to create an ethos of mutual respect and understanding, between staff, parents and children. I have been impressed by the professionalism of all staff who are always there for support. I know from the language my child uses and the stories he tells that this is a consistent approach'.

'Balmalloch Nursery Class is truly fantastic. The staff are so friendly and the children and parents are so fond of them all. They should be super proud of the work they do'.

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the service prior to this inspection. We looked at the service's improvement plan and talked to the management team about progress from the last inspection and future plans for improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Balmalloch Nursery Class had created a very positive, nurturing ethos with children and families placed at the centre of their work. Children were very happy, content and extremely confident in the setting. They directed their own play, freely choosing and making decisions about how they spent their time. High quality learning experiences that reflected children's interests, coupled with staff's sound knowledge of children's development and learning needs, resulted in children being deeply engaged in their play and highly motivated to learn and develop their skills.

Children's health, learning and wellbeing was further promoted through meaningful opportunities to engage in play outdoors, inspiring their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. The richly resourced outdoor space complemented playroom learning and children were able to access this area freely. Staff's enthusiasm for being outdoors had a positive impact on the children and as a result, they chose to spend most of their time here. Children benefited from playing on different outdoor surfaces and the wide range of outdoor resources stimulated and enhanced their play. This provided opportunities for them to develop and practise key skills, For example, balancing, running, jumping, cycling and climbing. Having opportunities to experience more challenging, risky play helped them develop a sense of responsibility and manage risks for themselves.

Staff knew children and their families extremely well and meaningful, trusting relationships had been established. Strong nurturing approaches were firmly embedded and staff used highly effective ways to support children's emotional health and wellbeing and as such, children were thriving in their care. Staff used meaningful ways to involve parents/carers in their child's care. Their sound knowledge of the Solihull Approach, was strongly evident in their practice. Staff recognised the benefits of this approach and shared this with parents/carers, to enable them to develop their own skills and learn about strategies to support their child at home. This meant children's needs were being well supported in a consistent way.

A new head teacher had been appointed since the last inspection. She recognised and valued the contributions the depute head teacher and staff had made, to ensuring high standards were being maintained throughout the nursery. Staff felt extremely well supported by the depute head teacher who visited the nursery regularly and monitored it closely. Staff demonstrated strong leadership qualities and were fully committed to continually developing their skills, to improve outcomes for children and families.

What the service could do better

During our visit, we found two newly appointed staff members had not yet registered with the Scottish Social Services Council. Early Years Practitioners working with children are required to be registered with the SSSC. The SSSC regulates the social service workforce in Scotland, to ensure children are cared for by trusted, skilled and confident staff. While we recognised the positive steps management had taken to address this situation, the local authority, who is the service provider, must ensure those who are eligible to be registered with a professional body do so within the appropriate timescales.

We asked the head teacher to review garden exits, to ensure they are secure. She advised this had been already been highlighted to the provider and agreed to pursue this further. The provider should review current arrangements and ensure appropriate safety measures are in place to keep children safe.

To further support children's health and wellbeing, the manager and staff agreed to consider how the environment can be adapted, to provide cosy spaces for children who require a sleep or rest.

While medication was being administered safely, we provided information about how this could be recorded more effectively. Management and staff have agreed to review procedures to ensure they reflect best practice.

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	
20 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent
31 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
16 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
23 Jun 2008	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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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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