Viewpark Montessori Nursery School
Day Care of Children

The Apple Centre
10 Earn Avenue
Bellshill
ML4 3LW

Telephone: 01698 840 222

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 February 2022

Service provided by:
Alphabet Village Limited

Service provider number:
SP2005007688

Service no:
CS2005103051

About the service

Viewpark Montessori Nursery School is registered to provide care to 62 children aged from birth to those not yet attending primary school.

Care is provided from a single storey property located within an industrial estate in Bellshill, North Lanarkshire. The service is close to shops, transport routes and other amenities. Children were accommodated across three playrooms and had the opportunity to play outside every day.

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place between 8 February and 11 February 2022. Two inspectors carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included, previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered through the inspection year. To inform our evaluations we:

- Spoke with children using the service and ten of their family members
- Spoke with staff and management
- Observed practice
- Reviewed documents.

What people told us

For this inspection, we received views from ten parents of children who attend the nursery. All families told us that they were very happy with the quality of care their children received. They said that staff were friendly, approachable, and worked closely with them to meet their children's care needs. They also commented positively on communication from the service, stating that it was 'effective, regular and informative'. These views were consistent with our findings.

Three parents suggested that the new outdoor space could be further developed. For example, by adding new equipment and tidying some areas. We acknowledge that the service had created this additional space to maximise children's time outdoors throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Investment had taken place in developing this area, and we were satisfied that the manager had plans to ensure it continually develops.

We talked with several older children who told us that they enjoyed coming to nursery and had fun playing with their friends. They particularly liked playing in the garden.

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to submit a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. Issues relating to quality assurance, acting on feedback from people using the service, and the quality of the services improvement plan 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	4 - Good

Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very 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 theme as very good.

Children attending the service were happy and confident. They received care from staff who knew them well and had the right information to meet their needs.

Children's personal plans were developed in partnership with parents and carers and were reviewed regularly to support children's rights needs and choices. One parent said "staff have been excellent at working with us as parents, in regards to our child's development needs".

Children with additional care needs were fully supported. Staff worked closely with families and other services to get it right for children, and had developed clear strategies to help them be included and achieve. For example, by providing specialist furniture and feeding equipment.

Children had fun and were progressing their learning during play. They particularly enjoyed playing outside and were developing skills in measuring, problem solving and imagination as they dug in the mud, transported water, and pretended to cook. Experiences in the baby room could be further enhanced by providing children with more opportunities to explore natural objects, helping them to problem solve and make sense of their world.

Children's vocabulary, language and imagination was enhanced through the early literacy programme. Children particularly enjoyed story time and told us about their favourite books. We observed nurturing attachments between staff and children during these experiences.

Responsive planning ensured that experiences offered to children met their interests. Staff observations of learning provided further insight into children's needs, and these were contributing to progressing their development. We discussed how planning processes could set out more clearly how children's needs will be met. The manager agreed and informed us that she had future plans to track children's next steps in learning. We were satisfied there was a plan to develop this.

Children benefited from a relaxed unhurried meal experience. They enjoyed a nutritious lunch and were very independent when eating. Older children had the opportunity to learn about food preparation and were often involved in preparing snacks. This helped them develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating.

Staff gave a satisfactory account of their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection. This contributed to keeping children safe.

The service had appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, very good handwashing, physical distancing, and regular cleaning.

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 theme as very good.

Playrooms were positive welcoming spaces where children could relax, play and learn. Furniture, tents and soft furnishings provided cosy spaces where children could feel safe and secure.

Children were cared for in a calm, peaceful, and pleasant environment. Playrooms were light and airy, and heating was adjusted to ensure children's comfort.

Children made choices about what they wanted to play with. Toys and materials were organised and stored within reach, making them easily accessible. We saw children transport materials to develop their ideas and thinking.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted as they accessed outdoors every day. The gardens were well resourced to provide opportunities for different types of play. For example, water play, digging, cycling, and playground games.

The outdoor area had been developed to improve children's access to outdoor play in all weathers. Children were excited to go outside and had all weather clothing to ensure their comfort. Plans were in place to further enhance the outdoor space. This included staff training on shelters and developing literacy outside.

The premises and gardens were well maintained. Regular safety checks ensured that damaged items were replaced, and broken equipment reported. This helped to keep children safe.

Children were protected from harm through a variety of safety measures. These included, safe sleeping arrangements, secure storage of hazardous materials and secure entry to the premises.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Staff worked well together. They were positive, motivated and happy to be at work. This contributed to a warm and welcoming environment for children. They met regularly as a team and discussed how they would meet children's needs.

Staff had participated in training that had led to improvements in children's experiences. For example, training on mindfulness led to the inclusion of new breathing exercises that supported children's wellbeing.

Staff had worked hard to develop a new planning approach that was supporting children to achieve. To build on this approach, staff could consider using Realising the Ambition, the national practice guidance for early years in Scotland, to further support planning children's learning.

Staff participated in wider professional discussions that informed practice. For example, linking with colleagues across the local area to reflect on training. These opportunities helped staff to challenge their thinking and identify areas for further enhancement to improve children's experiences.

Reflective practice was also encouraged through peer observation. Staff regularly observed each other's practice, providing opportunities for improvement discussions and celebrations of success. This helped staff feel supported and more confident to plan children's play. Further development of peer assessment could include, evaluating the impact of training on children's experiences.

Almost all staff interactions with children were loving, kind and caring. We observed lots of cuddles, comfort, and laughter, helping children feel loved. To ensure a consistent nurturing approach across the service, staff should reflect on their interactions with children during sleep time in the baby room, ensuring a calm and relaxing experience for children.

.

Staff were deployed to ensure good supervision of children. They communicated when a task took them away from their responsibilities, ensuring children were safe. At times, deployment of staff could have taken better account of children's needs. For example, the staff rota around nappy changing should not interrupt children's care.

Staff caring for children were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council. They are the regulatory body responsible for registering the social services workforce. They provide public protection by promoting high standards of conduct and practice and support the professional development of those registered with them.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

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 theme as very good.

The management team had confidently led changes to practice that were needed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff appreciated the support they had been given to carry out their role during challenging times. This helped secure good wellbeing, impacting on a positive and happy environment for children.

Children received care from a consistent staff team who knew them well. Careful consideration had been given to staff retainment and wellbeing, and strategies were in place to show staff that they were valued. For example, offering a day off for their birthday and making time to talk to them.

A thorough induction and mentoring programme supported new staff to meet children's needs. The induction process helped new staff to build relationships with children and families, understand their responsibility to keep children safe, and continually develop their learning.

All staff were well supported to carry out their roles. They received regular feedback on their work and participated in formal performance reviews with their manager. This was a supportive process that helped them achieve their development goals and improve the care they provided to children. The manager should continue to undertake observations of children's experiences and provide constructive feedback to staff linked to best practice guidance.

Staff at all levels were given an opportunity to lead projects. For example, taking on champion roles in attainment of literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing. This provided an opportunity to build on their skills and deliver positive experiences for children.

Quality assurance processes led to continuous improvements for children and their families. The manager had a plan that involved regular monitoring of all aspects of the service, and identified when further development was needed.

The service recognised that parents and carers know and understand their children best. They worked alongside them valuing their contributions to develop a greater understanding of children's needs. To achieve this the nursery used very good communication strategies that were informative and asked for feedback. For example, email, online learning journals and daily diaries. One parent told us 'communication from the nursery is excellent'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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	
2 May 2019	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
11 Apr 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
2 Jul 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
15 Jul 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
26 Jul 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
8 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
27 Jan 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.