Kinnaird Waters Early Learning and Childcare Centre
Day Care of Children

Kinnaird Primary School
McIntyre Avenue
Stenhousemuir
Larbert
FK5 4TQ

Telephone: 01324 503 377

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 May 2022

Service provided by:
Falkirk Council

Service provider number:
SP2004006884

Service no:
CS2007156528

About the service

Kinnaird Waters Early Learning and Childcare Centre is a Falkirk Council service situated in the heart of the community. The service provides care for a maximum of 144 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The service is situated in Larbert and is close to local amenities such as shops and parks. The service has 4 playrooms which all have direct access to a large enclosed garden. Children have access to a shared dining hall, cloakrooms and toilets.

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 12 May 2022 between 09:15 and 17:15. Three inspectors carried out the inspection. We continued the inspection with telephone discussions and email exchanges. We provided feedback using a video call on Friday 13 May 2022.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children in the service
- spoke with eight parents and families in the service
- reviewed emails from nine families and spoke with three parents over the telephone
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and staff interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

What people told us

During the inspection we observed children playing indoors and outdoors in their enclosed garden. Being outdoors was very popular with the children and they enjoyed the range of activities available there. Children were very happy and engaged throughout the visit in a range of activities, both on their own or as a group. They were relaxed and confident in the care of the staff.

We sent a request through the nursery to the families who used the service asking them to provide us with feedback about their experiences. Almost all parents were very happy with the quality of care and support their children had experienced. Parents felt that the staff knew the needs of the individual children and supported them very well. Some parents considered communication as an area for improvement and they would like the service to develop different ways which would allow them to feel more included in their children's day.

Examples of parent's comments included:

- "I am extremely happy with the nursery, everyone is brilliant. The pick ups and drop off are always very informative and if I need to call it is always welcomed".

- "Kinnaird have offered superior care and have been incredibly supportive".

- "During Covid I think the ELC put a lot of work and thought into following guidelines and rearranging the nursery, my child was delighted to get back to nursery after closure. I am glad they are trialling parents back inside now at collection time and opening up more, and I hope this will continue at pace, and parents will be allowed access again".

- "The team are brilliant at providing feedback on what has happened during the day and new things coming up".

- "Despite the size of the nursery, there is still a very personal feel. Everyone seems to know everyone's name and the positive relationships between the staff and the children are very obvious. I also feel that parents are kept very informed in numerous ways".

- "I feel they could do more to communicate with parents".

- "I think the learning journals are a great way of communication, although they could post more regularly on it. However, I think the communication is generally good via email, learning journals and occasional letters, and I am satisfied".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of this inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for development. This included reviewing and improving environments both indoors and outdoors and planning for children's learning.

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

The quality of care and support, and the quality of management and leadership, have both been evaluated as very good. We found that there were major strengths to support positive outcomes for children.

Children were having fun and they were engaged in their play and learning throughout our visit both indoors and outdoors in the garden. Skilled staff carefully observed and supported children to follow their own interests and lead their own play. For example, children were keen to show us their learning about weddings. Staff used open-ended questioning to promote children's curiosity and creativity. This resulted in children being supported to find resources they could use to design and create clothes for a wedding and bake their own cake. This promoted the development of children's imagination and showed children's interests and ideas were valued.

Parents, children, and staff were regularly asked for their thoughts and views on the service. Parents told us they were well informed of any changes and felt included in the development of the service. Children's views were sought in a variety of ways. For example, children were fully involved when two rooms combined. They were supported to express their views and vote for things they wanted in their new space. This supported children to understand the changes and express their views which helped children feel secure and respected.

Staff were confident in their roles and responsibilities on how to keep children safe and secure, including knowledge of child protection procedures. Children's development and wellbeing was supported as staff worked well with other professionals when required. This allowed consistent approaches to be used to support children.

Transitions were supported as the service had worked well to achieve positive relationships with the primary school. Children confidently told us about their playground visits, and they had a good understanding of the plans in place to support them starting primary school. One parent told us "I think it's great the nursery is working so closely with the school". This enabled children and families to feel confident and secure with the upcoming changes.

Children benefited from positive experiences at mealtimes. A rolling snack time allowed children to choose when they wanted to have a snack. Lunch time was relaxed and unhurried. Children received appropriate levels of support to promote their independence. Staff created a sociable experience by involving children in conversations. This supported language and communication development and helped staff get to know children and their families better.

The manager and staff team were passionate and committed to the continuous improvement of the service. It was clear strong leadership had supported the staff team to develop positive and supportive working relationships. This helped them work well together during the expansion of the service and throughout the pandemic. This meant children benefitted from a service with a warm atmosphere that was well led and managed.

The improvement plan detailed the vision, values, and aims of the service. Clear improvement priorities had been identified after consulting with parents and children. The manager empowered senior members of staff to take the lead in each improvement area. All staff were given opportunities to contribute to the working groups. These included, PEEP, STEM, a numeracy project, marvellous mealtimes, and a music initiative. This meant children's outcomes were maximised as staff were motivated and worked effectively, as their individual qualities were recognised.

What the service could do better

Some play experiences successfully engaged children's imagination and offered rich learning. We asked the service to ensure meaningful play and learning opportunities were available consistently across the setting. This would allow all children to continually benefit from high-quality experiences and outcomes throughout their session.

Some quality assurance systems were in place. Staff were completing checks of resources to ensure different types of play and learning experiences were supported. There were still opportunities to improve quality assurance and to increase monitoring to support a consistent approach. For example, more formal approaches to monitoring of staff practice should be introduced. This would allow for staffs' strengths and areas for improvement to be identified. Not all online learning journals had the same high level of quality

observations and engagement. The manager was aware of some inconsistencies and had a plan in place to promote a consistent approach. This would allow all parents to be fully included in their children's day and all children's learning to be monitored.

The manager told us they were keen to identify ways to become more involved in the local community now Covid-19 restrictions had eased. Children had recently enjoyed a visit to the local library, and the manager was keen to develop more regular activities out with the nursery setting. Some parents told us they would like their children to have more outdoor learning opportunities and greater community links. Suggestions offered by parent's included accessing the small local park, visiting the local supermarket, and more regular planned forest sessions.

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	
5 Jun 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
7 Jul 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
16 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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