Fun Lodge Out of School Care
Day Care of Children

Merrylea Parish Church
78 Merrylee Road
Newlands
Glasgow
G43 2QZ

Telephone: 07977 215 652

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 January 2023

Service provided by:
Fun Lodge Ltd.

Service provider number:
SP2010011327

Service no:
CS2010252629

About the service

Fun Lodge Out of School Care is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 65 children aged from four years six months to 16 years of age. During operating times the service has exclusive use of the large church hall, small church hall and downstairs church hall within Merrylea Parish Church, Merrylee Road, Newlands, Glasgow. The service is close to transport routes and other amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place between 24 January and 31 January 2023. One inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection. To prepare for the 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 evaluation we:
- spoke with children using the service and received survey responses from 21 parents or carers
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were cared for by staff who displayed warm and nurturing approaches, which made children feel welcome and supported.
- Staff regularly engaged in a range of professional learning activities that built on and sustained their practice.
- Staff were confident about the procedures to follow in the event of concerns for children's welfare.
- We found that staff promoted a culture within the service that focussed on promoting the children's rights to play.
- Planning approaches focused on capturing and responding to the play interest of a child or group of children.
- Personal planning should be more collaborative and provide children with a greater sense of ownership of their next steps for play and development.
- We highlighted the value of providing professional learning opportunities linked to wider champion roles for staff.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning? 5 - Very Good

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question as we found performance that demonstrated major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children. Performance evaluated as very good does not require significant adjustment.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

We looked at how the service's planning approaches for children's care, learning and development ensured they experienced positive outcomes. Throughout the various play sessions we observed it was clear that children experienced sensitive and respectful caregiving. We observed staff adapting daily planned activities and being responsive to children's changeable interests and demands. Children were spoken and listened to in ways that encouraged them to feel valued and included. One parent commented: "Fun Lodge staff are fully engaged with my children whilst they are there, meeting their needs - playing with them, helping them to write stories, doing arts and crafts. My children have developed good relationships with the staff and they feel safe and included whilst they are there."

We discussed with staff approaches that may make a gathering of personal planning information more collaborative and provide children with a greater sense of ownership of their next steps for play and development. Staff agreed that this would provide time and space for children to regularly review, evaluate and adapt their plans. It can enhance the existing approach to personal plans by ensuring they become a meaningful forward-looking planning tool that supports children's ownership of developmentally challenging play opportunities.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the policies and procedures in place to ensure care and welfare of children including child protection. All staff received regular professional learning in safeguarding and understood the indicators that may suggest a child is at risk of suffering harm. We signposted the management team to our organisation's "Practice guide to Chronologies" and discussed how this could be used to enhance the robust systems already in place for monitoring and maintaining child protection records and support the continued safeguarding of children.

1:3 Play and learning

We found that staff promoted a culture within the service that focussed on promoting the children's physical play, opportunity to engage in a variety of games and access to play materials that could be used in numerous ways indoors and outdoors. Through discussion with staff it was evident they shared an understanding of the resulting impact this had on children's sense of fun, enjoyment as well as learning and development. One parent commented: "During the summer, they plan a schedule of activities, including outings, which my children love and is great to know that they are having fun. They mix up activities in and around the church and incorporate themes into the activities." Another parent told us: "Every session children are engaged in meaningful activity."

Staff told us how they placed the interests of children at the centre of their planning approaches for play and learning. We found children had opportunities to participate in a variety of creative experiences, board games, movement and ball game sessions where they had the opportunity to learn about teamwork, body coordination and control, practice ball skills, and build awareness of the body in space.

The energetic activities we observed were engaged in enthusiastically by the children providing wider benefits associated with aerobic activity such as supporting weight control and cardiovascular health.

We discussed with the management team the value of widening training options to ensure a greater focus on play based training for staff. Staff talked positively about the impact of previous staff development sessions in active play. The manager agreed to consider bespoke sessions that might be developed for staff including topics such as physical activity training, improving play practice, inclusive play, loose parts play, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning through playful resources. Improvement initiatives like this have the potential to enhance the variety and level of challenge children experience through the play opportunities on offer.

We found that staff regularly reflected on their informal observations of children's play to support planning approaches that focused on capturing and responding to the play interest of a child or group of children. Staff told us that this responsive approach helped them to build on existing approaches for recognising children's play interests as well as extend opportunities for child-initiated play.

How good is our setting? 5 - Very Good

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question as we found performance that demonstrated major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

We found the accommodation to be bright and airy, with considered organisation and layouts of play spaces that reflected children's interests. Staff ensured the health and safety of children's environments by keeping logs for risk assessments and cleaning. The service effectively implemented relevant health and safety legislation and removed or minimised any potential play hazards.

We found the environment and resources within it were effectively managed to support positive outcomes for children. The staff consulted with children to jointly evaluate the extent to which resources were effectively supporting their enjoyment of play. Children and parents confirmed there were frequent opportunities to take part in active play opportunities, indoors and outdoors. The main halls and outdoor areas were regularly used for energetic activities, sports and group games. The management team told us they were committed to widening the range of materials available to support children's play both indoors and outdoors. This can extend the opportunities for children to learn actively through play, be creative and think critically.

We were able to see systems were in place for maintaining and monitoring children's accidents. We discussed with the manager how they can be reviewed so that they could identify any patterns and make necessary adjustments to the environment. Staff told us that accident records were shared with the child's parents to provide reassurance that their child had been cared for by staff and to make sure there was continuity in their child's care.

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question as we found performance that demonstrated major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We found that the management team had a clear vision of how they wanted to take forward quality improvements within the service. The inspection team were impressed by their commitment to leading positive changes that will contribute to future improvements to the quality of children's outcomes and experiences.

The manager told us how they planned to dedicate time to analysing children's, staff and parents' contributions to any consultations and extracting the key messages, themes or ideas put forward. Some improvement planning work was at an early stage and there was a need to continue to develop more formal approaches to self-evaluation. For example, staff were becoming familiar with the Care Inspectorate "A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare" (Care Inspectorate, 2022). We highlighted how this tool could be used to support staff and children's contributions to the development of a service improvement plan that clearly set out the service priorities and expectations for improvement.

The service should focus on publicizing and making more accessible their shared improvement plans that have been produced collaboratively by staff and clearly capture the voice of children, parents and carers. This can help all stakeholders within service feel as though they are meaningfully involved in shaping future developments and improvements in the club.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question as we found performance that demonstrated major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children. There were very few areas for improvement. Those that did exist had minimal adverse impact on children's experiences and outcomes.

4.3 Staff deployment

Staff felt very well supported by manager both formally and informally through their open door approach. They told us that they felt able to approach them with any concerns, and that they had been proactive in ensuring their well-being during the recovery from the pandemic. Staff worked well together and supported each other. This helped to contribute to a happy and welcoming atmosphere. Recently appointed staff told us that they had been made to feel welcome. Recently recruited staff told us about their positive initial induction experiences and how this had helped them feel part of the wider staff team.

The staff routinely engaged in a range of professional learning activities that built on and sustained their practice. Recent staff development topics had included: paediatric first aid, child protection, Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Codes of Practice, infection control as well as bespoke active play training. These learning experiences helped to provide assurance to children and parents that staff were well equipped to fulfil their play practitioner roles.

We found staff were confident in discussing how they had improved their practice as a result of their own professional learning activities. We highlighted the value of staff engaging in training related to increasing their awareness about current play-based initiatives in the out of school care sector in Scotland and providing professional learning opportunities linked to wider champion roles for staff. The management team agreed that this would extend the capacity of staff to lead developments in child centred planning for play. This approach has the potential to enhance the depth and range of challenge that children experience through play.

Complaints

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

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	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.