St. Joseph's Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Wren Road
Greenock
PA16 7NH

Telephone: 01475 715719

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 March 2020

Service provided by:
Inverclyde Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000212

Service no:
CS2018363843

About the service

St. Joseph's Nursery Class is situated within a newly refurbished wing of St. Josephs Primary School. The nursery is self contained an includes an outdoor area and reception entrance, with access to areas within the school and playground.

The following conditions of registration apply to the service:
1. To provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 71 children not yet of an age to attend primary school at any one time.
Of those 71 no more than 0 are aged under 2
No more than 15 are aged 2 to under 3 and
No more than 56 are aged 3 to those not yet of an age to attend primary school

2. Adult: child ratios will be:
Under 2s - 1:3
2 to under 3s - 1:5
3 and over - 1:8 if the children attend more than 4 hours per day, or
1:10 if the children attend for less than 4 hours per day
If all children are over 8 years old and over 1:10

Vision, values and aims of the service include: that all children have the right to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. A full statement of aims are available on request and also within the school/nursery handbook.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We noted children attending on the day's on inspection to be happy, engaged and relaxed in their surroundings. They were comfortable in the company of the adults caring for them and would look to them for reassurance and encouragement.

We spoke with eight parents/carers during the inspection who spoke very highly of the staff team and felt they were approachable and provided a good range of experiences for children to challenge them and develop children's independence. Some parents praised the staff on their flexible approach and willingness to help if they could.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance processes. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We observed warm, sensitive interactions between staff, children and parents/carers. Families were warmly welcomed into the service, with staff taking time to listen to and share information with them. Staff demonstrated through discussions and practice that they were motivated, open to exploring new ideas and building strong working relationships based on mutual trust and respect, amongst themselves and with families.

There was a relaxed, calm pace to the day. Children were able to make choices about where they wanted to play and what resources to play with. Staff supported this well and demonstrated a responsive attitude to the children's needs and interests. This contributed to the children being valued as individuals and to become successful learners.

Children were confident, happy and nurtured by an enthusiastic staff team, who encouraged children's health and wellbeing through active play, fresh air and nutritious snacks and lunches. Good interactions were observed between staff and children, with language and vocabulary extended where appropriate.

Children led on their own learning throughout their session, with staff extending this through discussion building on children's verbal and non verbal communication. Children's imagination and creativity was strong, enhanced by a variety of high quality resources and equipment.

Activities and resources were stimulating, interesting and provided very good opportunities for the children to extend their thinking and learning. Opportunities for numeracy and literacy development were embedded in the learning environment. Achievements and progress were recorded in the children's learning profiles and used to effectively inform planning. This meant children took part in activities they enjoyed which fully supported them to reach their full potential.

Children were protected from harm because staff were alert and had a clear understanding of their responsibilities. Communication was effective, the whole staff team met regularly to share information and plan care for children in the nursery and wider support for families. Strong links were established with other services and agencies which ensured children and families had the help they needed.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Staff had worked hard to create a calm, safe, clean and inclusive environment, where children accessed a range of quality resources indoors and outside. Children were confident in their environment and had fun choosing what they wanted to play with, with resources that met their interests and needs. Natural resources and loose parts continued to be introduced into the nursery. Thought had been given to the layout within the playroom, ensuring there was room for children to move around freely. There was space for children to play in groups with friends and/or comfortably play or lie on the floor. Soft furnishings provided cosy areas where children could rest and relax.

The learning environment was inviting and offered a range of quality learning experiences. Resources were presented attractively to promote curiosity and enquiry. Staff were skilled at extending interests, for example at the time of inspection children were interested in babies, staff had introduced resources and equipment associated with new babies. This helped extend children's interest and provided them with new skills. The flexible routine of the day allowed children to play at their own pace and areas were carefully arranged for children to be independent and engage in self-directed play.

We discussed with the service how they were proposing to continue to develop the outdoor learning experience for children. The staff and the manager were aware of the improvements that needed to be made and were keen to develop this further. The use of 'My World Outdoors' and 'Space to Grow' will provide opportunities for staff to extend more loose parts for both indoor and outdoor areas. This will give children real life experiences and allow them to explore and have meaningful play experiences so they can develop their skills further.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff worked well as a team, providing nurturing care with warmth, kindness and patience. This helped children to grow in confidence, build relationships and form close attachments. They used effective questioning skills to support children and extend their thinking and learning. They were also perceptive and knew when to provide support and when to stand back. As a result, children were happy, relaxed and very engaged in their play.

Staff were developing their leadership skills through opportunities to take responsibility of various aspects of provision and support others through mentoring activities. This built staff's capacity to implement change and make improvements for children's continued success and enjoyment. A range of training enhanced staff existing skills and knowledge. Outcomes for children were being positively affected by training that staff had attended. Staff showed good awareness of the impact of training and were able to discuss how they had adapted and developed their practice to improve outcomes.

Leadership roles across the staff team had built professional confidence. Staff were confident to discuss their learning and the positive impact this had on the outcomes for children and their families. They engaged positively with the inspection process and were keen to share their learning and professional development with us.

Staff were committed to the on-going development of the service and had been involved in making changes within the service. This contributed to the positive ethos of the staff team and nursery and supported very good outcomes for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The head teacher and senior staff were professional, enthusiastic and motivated. Parents told us they had confidence in the quality of the service provided for their children by the management and staff team, often mentioning certain staff by name. Parents felt their children were safe and happy and that they benefited from the wide range of play and learning experiences provided.

All staff contributed to the service's improvement plan and self evaluation that set out the service priorities and expectations for improvement. The collaborative approach to self-evaluation ensured staff engaged

with parents and children in regular discussion of the impacts of recent improvements and changes within the nursery. These approaches supported everyone involved within the nursery to develop a shared understanding of its vision, values, strengths and improvement needs.

We looked at how staff evaluated the service and noted a positive attitude to improvement and evaluation overall. All staff were involved in evaluation using tools and reference documents such as 'How good is our early learning and child-care', 'Building the Ambition' and were willing to try new initiatives. We noted they frequently reviewed the areas they were working on and identified further work needed in order to promote the quality of learning experiences provided for the children. Evaluation of practice was regular, informal and formal with staff discussions during staff meetings.

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

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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