Shawhead Primary School Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Shawhead Primary School
30 Neidpath Avenue
Shawhead
Coatbridge
ML5 4NG

Telephone: 01236 794 838

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
3 May 2022

Service provided by:
North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000237

Service no:
CS2020379265

About the service

Shawhead primary School Nursery Class is provided by North Lanarkshire Council and is based in Shawhead, a village within the town of Coatbridge. The service is provided from a purpose built premises containing one playroom which is well resourced and provides children with direct access to a large outdoor space. There are appropriate changing and toilet facilities for children and the premises also benefits from a cloakroom and meeting room.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 children aged from two years to those not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than five are aged two years to under three years. At the time of inspection no children under three years were registered to receive care. Children can attended sessions 09:00- 15:00 during term time.

We carried out an unannounced inspection visit on 28 April 2022 between 09:30 and 13:40. Further evidence was reviewed on the 29 April and 03 May 2022 by email and video calls. The service was given feedback on 03 May 2022 by video call. This inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. At this inspection we carried out a full inspection, we evaluated all four quality themes. To inform our evaluation we:

- gathered views of the service from four parents and carers
- we gathered views of staff by email and video calls
- we spoke with the management team
- we observed children's experiences during our site visit
- reviewed information submitted by service and information gathered by the Care Inspectorate since the service was registered

What people told us

We gathered the views from four parents of children attending the service. They provided very positive feedback about the service and support the staff provided. They all stated that their children really enjoyed attending the service.

- All parents stated that the service was of a very high standard, describing it as outstanding, exceeded expectations
- All parents confirmed staff work very close with them during their child's enrolment and settling in process to ensure a smooth transition.
- All parents stated they were kept well informed about their child's learning and developement
- They all stated staff go above and beyond to ensure children are safe and happy

We observed and talked to some of the children. They were settled and having fun playing with friends. They told us they like playing outside, digging, building with wooden blocks and that they like the lunches.

Self assessment

We did not request the service self-evaluation before this inspection. During the inspection we did review the services self-evaluations and development plan. We agreed with their priorities for further development.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of very good for this theme, as we found major strengths in this area that supported positive outcomes for children, families and staff.

Children were settled and engaged in their play. Children were confident in using new skills to enhance their learning and development. Through effective observations and interactions, staff provided experiences to enhance and extend children's thinking and consolidate their learning. The children shared their knowledge and extend their learning working together with friends, being curious and inquisitive to find out how things worked and to see what happened when they tried new things.

Staff knew the children well and had spent time to get to know them and plan the right care and support to meet their needs. A child centred settling in procedure, agreed doorstep visits to the child's home created a welcoming introduction for children and families. Parents found these very helpful. Staff gathered meaningful information from families and other professionals to ensure they were well informed about children's needs, wishes and choices. Through careful consideration staff planned how best to support each child.

Friendship and caring for others was evident within the service. Children were very comfortable around staff and had formed positive relationships with them. Parents told us staff understood the children's needs and that they were kept informed about children's learning and development. They said staff were approachable and friendly.

Mindfulness and wellbeing sessions were incorporated into the daily routine. Children were encouraged to share their feelings and to recognise others. Staff responded sensitively and with compassion to children's needs. One parent told us how their child had shared mindfulness techniques at home to help other siblings.

Children received daily snacks and meals. These were a relaxed time of day where children and staff sat together and shared stories. Children had lunch in the school gym hall and each day some of the children helped to set up for lunch and set the tables. Children plated their own food and were given a choice in what they wanted to eat. In response to children's requests, Tasting Tuesdays had been introduced. This provided the opportunity for for children to be creative and experiment with food, for example by making cupcakes and ice cream. The children told us they were looking forward to learn how to make jam.

The outdoor space was accessible from the playroom and children could move freely between the indoor and outdoors space all day. Children were suitably dressed and engaged in a variety of outdoor play experiences. The outdoor play experiences were planned in response to children's needs and interests.

The service had policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and free from harm. This included following good practice in administration of medication, safeguarding of children and infection control procedures. We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, we observed children being supported to understand the need for good hand hygiene, however we discussed how handwashing should be encouraged after eating food. All staff were implementing the good practice guidance for infection prevention and control.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of good for this theme, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

This purpose build space provided natural light, ventilation and heating which can be suitably adjusted to meet the children's needs. The play areas and resources were carefully monitored using good practice guidance and incorporating the children's wishes. As a result, more indoor space had been designated to imaginary play and block play. All areas of the play spaces were being well used. The resources were well laid out and accessible to children. Through effective observation and skilled interactions staff responded to children's needs, this enabled children to make choices and lead their own play.

The children had direct access to a large, well-used outdoor space where they were having fun learning. Outside some children were independently using water to create, explore and investigate, others were wanting to paint. There were a few occasions where children's play could have been further enhanced by staff. It was a large space for one staff member to support all the areas of children's learning. Through further development of this space, and consideration to the number of staff in this area, children's learning could be further enhanced. Staff had undergone training in outdoor play and they had plans in place to further enhance children's outdoor experiences.

The children were provided daily snacks and lunch. The children were able to self-register for snacks, collect their own bowl and cups and self-select what they wanted to eat and drink. We were told children can take their snacks outside. The hand washing sink in the snack area did not have consistent warm water, although the service had reported this. They hope this will be resolved soon. Lunch was provided in the school gym hall, the service continually reviewed the lunch time to ensure it met children's needs, they did provide an alternative location for children if needed.

The premises was secure, and the staff were vigilant at monitoring children throughout the day. On the morning of the visit, the main entrance alarm was not working, the service was aware and had taken appropriate safety measures. The alarm was working correctly by the end of the day . The service agreed as restrictions are removed, and as parents are encouraged to enter the premises, the safety measures will need to be reviewed. Risk assessments were completed and reviewed for the premises and when children went out on trips and outings. We did discuss the need to add the possible hazard of children leaving staffs supervision and appropriate safety measures to reduce the likely hood of this.

The facilities including indoor and outdoor toilets, nappy changing, parents' room, offices and kitchen area were all found to be clean, tidy, and following good practice guidelines. We did ask the service not to store resources in the disabled toilet, they agreed to relocate these items. The outdoor toilet location and heavy door was providing some challenges for children being able to access it independently. The service was monitoring the impact of this and had reported this to the provider. Children had access to the school gym hall where they could participate in a range of indoor activities.

The service had made good use of the displays around the building and in the welcoming entrance. These displayed children's artwork, photographs providing familiar images and space for children to display things that are important to them. The shoes size chart was very useful, supporting children to know and find the correct size boots for playing outside.

Since the new build opened, the service had been carefully monitoring how the children used the environment and resources. Through making positive changes to how they use the environment, the children have have settled well and are having fun learning. Staff have worked hard to create play spaces which reflect the children's needs, wishes and choices.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of very good for this theme, as we found major strengths in this area that supported positive outcomes for children, families, and staff.

There were five staff employed at the time of the inspection to care for the children and they were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council, the professional registering body for childcare workers. They were caring, courteous and respectful. They knew the children and families very well.

Parents told us that staff were approachable and always available. They told us that from the beginning. they provided high quality care and formed positive relationships. One parent described them as having lovely relationships with the children. Parents were very appreciative of the support and guidance from staff. One parent was extremely thankful for the personalised support provided when their child started the service and another for how well staff understood and supported their child's wellbeing needs.

Staff interactions with children were caring, and supportive. Staff listened to children, responded to their needs, and provided support when needed. Children were given comfort and reassurance, praise, and recognition and, when needed, support or encouragement to challenge their abilities. Children were confident and comfortable communicating with staff and seeking reassurance if needed.

Staff meetings, supervision and training plans helped staff achieve their goals and recognise their successes. The staff had mixed skills and experience in early years. They had formed a positive relationship and taken on board lead roles such as, implementing mindfulness into children's routines, virtual nature schools and child centred settling in process. The staff had a very good approach to how the service should be delivered. Through distribution of leadership, they were working hard to have consistency in the quality of staffing, within the team.

Staff demonstrated that they understood their responsibilities and roles in keeping children safe and free from harm. They had attended annual protection training and were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Staff were aware of good practice guidance and were found to be following these. This included using different strategies to help children communicate verbally and non verbally, share how they were feeling and their opinions. Staff shared the vision that children had a right to have a voice and to be heard, this was evident throughout the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of very good for this theme, as we found major strengths in this area that supported positive outcomes for children, families, and staff.

The service have worked hard to implement a child centred approach and deliver a high-quality early learning childcare service. They had created an environment where children's voices were heard and respected. Meaningful and careful consultation had taken place to include children's views and opinions in the type of service they want to receive. For example, when creating and designing the use of the play spaces, types of play and resources on offer.

The service had a very good understanding of self-evaluation and improvement models to help them meet their aims. The service improvement plan identified what they wanted to accomplish, how this would be achieved and how the success would be measured. Staff worked as a team and reflected on the impact of changes within the service. Through this robust self-evaluation they ensured they provided the right care and support for the children and families. For example, they were successfully delivering a service with a strong focus on nurture and children's wellbeing.

All children's learning and development is monitored and tracked to ensure that the play experiences offered meet their needs. Through effective monitoring their goal is to have consistent high quality observation and tracking of children's development.

The service made very good use of the resources around them to ensure they were providing the right care and support to children and families. This included other early years services, support from the provider and other sources such as Care Inspectorate, and Education Scotland.

Staff inductions, mentoring and reviews were undertaken to support them settle into their roles. This has created a staff team with a shared vision and agreed purpose as early years workers. They were involved in writing the service policies and procedures. Staff views and opinions were valued. Staff told us they work well as a team and were happy in the roles. They told us that the support and encouragement from the management team was invaluable.

The service engaged well with the inspection process, were very welcoming and sourced the records and answered the questions required, to support the evaluation of the service.

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

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

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