

Carolside Primary Nursery Class

Day Care of Children

Carolside Primary School
Ashfield Road
Clarkston
Glasgow
G76 7TX

Telephone: 0141 570 7100

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

22 January 2020

Service provided by:

East Renfrewshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003372

Service no:

CS2003017003

About the service

Carolside Primary Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2011 to provide care to a maximum of 80 children aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates from two separate buildings within Carolside Primary School grounds in the Clarkston area of East Renfrewshire. In addition, children have free-flow access to secure, adjacent outdoor play areas. The nursery vision statement and aims include: "A happy and safe school, providing rich learning opportunities, where everyone is treated with respect and kindness. To work together in partnership with parents, carers, children and other stakeholders to ensure that we foster a positive learning environment within which children can grow and learn."

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (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. GIRFEC supports children and their parents 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

Children attending on the day of inspection were observed as happy, busy and engaged. Positive, nurturing relationships had developed between staff and the children as well as with the children themselves. We found the whole staff team were very kind and caring with respectful approaches observed.

We found staff responded in a sensitive and supportive manner to the children during play, for example, as they: developed number awareness while sorting caterpillar body parts on an interactive whiteboard; compared weights of magnifying glasses on balance scales; built bridges with wooden beams and crates outdoors; engaged in imaginative play while washing clothes for 'babies' in the home corner.

We issued 30 questionnaires for parents and carers, 15 were completed and returned before the inspection. During the inspection we spoke with an additional two parents and carers. Feedback from parents and carers was very positive. All 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that they were happy with the overall service provided by staff and management. Comments included the following:

"My child loves nursery. The staff go above and beyond to ensure they are happy and enjoy their learning. The nursery always updates parents via Twitter and newsletters which keeps us informed. There are so many events which engage both pupils and parents in the nursery community. I feel like my child is safe, secure and loves learning here at Carolside Nursery."

"My daughter has settled extremely well into Carolside Nursery through the nurturing and supportive environment the nursery adopts. There is a wide range of activities/materials/toys which the children have access to which allows a variety of play based learning. My daughter's confidence is continuing to grow and she had established some lovely friendships with staff and other children within the nursery."

"Carolside Nursery has been amazing. My child is very happy and he has completely come out of his shell and is maturing into a lovely, friendly and confident child. For example, today he played a part in cutting veg for soup and he was so excited to tell me and use the skills at dinner time."

"My child is happy and confident going to nursery and has a great relationship with his teachers. I am very confident in the staff's ability to teach and care for a child. The nursery has a wide range of activities and toys, books etc. for my child to enjoy."

"The nursery has always made all members of my family extremely welcome. The staff are all lovely. I am satisfied with the environment/service provided to my child as the staff appear attentive and the environment is clean, bright and inviting. The service is proactive in engaging with parents."

"They prepare the children well to start P1 especially if going to Carolside. However, I think the three year olds needs are not as well met as the expectation to self-direct is too high. It is a good nursery overall. I have had two children attend Carolside Nursery and I have been happy both times. My children loved their time there. I have seen a marked improvement in the organisation and structure since my older child attended five years ago. I would like to see outdoor nursery facilities better utilised - my older child greatly benefited from that."

"The nursery is very good at keeping parents involved in their child's learning. I have attended two parents meetings/open mornings with the head teacher of the nursery. These have been very informative, the head teacher is very enthusiastic, puts the child's needs/learning at the centre. Overall I'm very happy with the nursery and my son loves attending."

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 paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The service's planning approaches for children's care, learning and development ensured they experienced high quality outcomes. Throughout the various indoor and outdoor play sessions we observed it was clear that children experienced sensitive, responsive and considerate caregiving. Staff understood their roles in relation to planning for play and were confident when sharing information about children's wellbeing needs. Children were given opportunities to make sensible choices about their learning by being involved in making decisions about what could be provided. We observed children being challenged and encouraged to use reflection and other higher order thinking skills to solve problems during play. Children's voices were evident within their individual learning journals and planning big books. Planning systems contributed to continuity in children's care and helped to ensure staff followed a consistent approach to supporting children's development through play.

Staff made good use of observations and conversations with children to inform and support the planning and recording systems for children's play, learning and development.

They told us how they took time to discuss children's transitions during home visits, building on what the children could already do and their unique play interests. This encouraged genuine partnerships that respected parents' knowledge of their children. It supported children to develop close, positive relationships with staff and supported continuity in their care and learning.

Staff were given opportunities to take on leadership roles in areas of the curriculum in which they had identified a particular interest or strength. These covered a wide range of areas such as outdoor learning, musicality, curiosity, STEAM (Science, Technology, Art and Design, Engineering and Maths), family centred approaches, intergenerational projects, numeracy, literacy, health and well-being. The distributive management style contributed to positive outcomes by increasing the range of approaches available to meet children's individual needs.

All staff contributed to the service's improvement plan that set out the service priorities and expectations for improvement. This included a significant recent focus on engaging with parents and families to improve communication and strengthen relationships. We found the nursery staff had developed a range of communication methods that supported children and parents to be involved in decision making and shape improvement planning. 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 centre. These approaches supported everyone involved within the family centre to develop a shared understanding of its vision, values, strengths and improvement needs.

What the service could do better

We highlighted a need to enhance the frequency and detail of recording of next steps for children's play within children's individual learning journals. This can ensure each journal becomes a more meaningful planning tool, is forward looking and more closely reflects the links and challenges available to children through play.

We discussed with staff a range of observation and planning approaches that focus on capturing and responding to the play interest of a child or group of children in the present moment. Staff agreed that further adaptations to their evolving systems for recognising children's play interests could enhance opportunities for child-initiated play. It will extend opportunities for staff to reflect on when children display deep level engagement within play spaces and support them to provide greater autonomy and choice as to how this will be taken forward.

We reviewed children's personal care plans and medical administration records and identified a need for staff to record in clearer terms how some children's individual health or medical needs would be met. We discussed implementing good practice guidance strategies which recommend that each individual child's medication is kept separate and stored in an individual container clearly labelled with the child's name and date of birth. The senior management team agreed this will enhance the robust systems already in place for ensuring all staff understood and were sensitive to children's particular medication needs.

We highlighted the value to the senior management team of establishing a more robust recording system for monitoring accidents and incidents. This can help staff to identify and respond to any common patterns with the environment or resources and minimise any potential risks to individual children.

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	
1 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
6 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
11 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	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 cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

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 ਵਿੱਚ 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.