

Largs Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Largs Early Years Centre
Largs School Campus
Alexander Avenue
Largs
KA30 9DR

Telephone: 01475 674382

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

25 October 2018

Service provided by:

North Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003327

Service no:

CS2003017312

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service was previously registered as St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. A variation was completed in March 2018 with changes to the service, including the name, due to the amalgamation of three early year's services in the town.

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 (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Largs Early Years Centre is based within the Largs School Campus in the coastal town of Largs in North Ayrshire and is provided by the local authority. The service operates within purpose built premises and can provide a service for up to 100 children aged two years to those not attending primary school.

At the time of this inspection 84 children were registered to attend the service.

The service's mission statement reads: "Largs Early years Centre will provide a welcoming, safe, secure, nurturing environment that offers high quality early learning and childcare. We acknowledge each child is unique and therefore plan a tailored based approach to meet the needs of our individual children and families within our local community"

They plan to do this by aiming to:

- Provide an inspiring environment indoors and outdoors which motivates children to be happy and excited to learn, ensuring they reach their full potential
- Promote the children's confidence, self esteem, creativity and independence through offering a wide range of choices in a fun play based approach
- Promote inclusion and equality ensuring children's individual needs and learning is celebrated and supported
- Engage with parents in a meaningful way to support their child's development and learning at home and within the centre
- Provide opportunities for staff for life-long learning and to further develop their skills, qualities and knowledge to confidently provide a quality curriculum
- Provide a nurturing ethos which promotes positive relationships for all our children, families, staff and wider partners which includes mutual respect.

What people told us

Children of all ages were confident and happy in their surroundings and with the staff caring for them. They freely made their own choices of activities both indoors and outside. Some children were happy to chat with us and invited us to join in with their play.

Six parents shared their views of the service during our visit. They spoke positively about different aspects of the service including the environment, settling-in procedures, staff, management, communication and opportunities to be involved. We brought a couple of comments regarding the toilet doors and extending notice of upcoming events to the manager's attention.

Twelve parents/carers completed our Care Standards questionnaires. They all strongly agreed that they were happy, overall, with the quality of care their children received. Comments made included:

"My wife and I have been delighted with the progress of our daughter"

"The new nursery is amazing and staff are too"

"Well done Alicia & all the staff"

"Largs Early Years Centre is a wonderful environment for my daughter to play and learn"

"Fabulous nursery with plenty of varied activities for children"

"This is an amazing centre with so much resources for the children to play, having option to play outdoors every day too is amazing. It has such a beautiful homely feel about it and the children have a great time".

Additional comments can be found within this report.

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 the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The children present were happy, settled, confident and engaged in their play and learning in a nurturing and inclusive environment. They had access to a wide variety of well organised activities and made good use of the available resources which helped develop skills, imagination, physical development and learning. Children's preferences and interests were respected and taken into account by staff when planning activities and resources within the playrooms.

Health and wellbeing was promoted. Snack and meal times were relaxed, unhurried, sociable events. Staff sat with the children providing them with positive role models and joining in with their conversations. Independence was promoted at these times along with other tasks such as tooth brushing and preparing for outdoor play opportunities. Water was readily available at all times for the children to freely access.

Choice was provided for the children to explore outdoors on a daily basis ensuring access to active play in the fresh air. Children were suitably clothed for the weather conditions and had fun exploring the different areas of the garden. We discussed extending opportunities for children to freely access this area at any time.

Information gathered and staff knowledge of the children ensured care and support needs were organised effectively for all. We discussed with the manager reviewing the children's personal plans to reflect how individual health, welfare and safety needs were to be met in order to meet the requirements of Regulation.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The purpose-built premises were bright, clean, spacious and provided plenty of natural light. The large outdoor space provided all the children with fun opportunities to climb and explore in a range of learning spaces. Staff discussed the further potential of the outdoor space to extend play/learning opportunities.

High quality furnishings and resources were effectively laid out in areas that the children could freely access and promoted their independence and choice. A wide range of natural resources for the children to explore different materials and textures.

Additional smaller rooms provided space for the children to participate in small group/quieter activities. Children used the areas well to lead their own activities with support and encouragement from staff allowing them to make their own choices and decisions.

The atmosphere within the service was welcoming and positive. The buzz of children busily engaged in their play and learning contributed to noise in the large playroom being kept at an acceptable level.

All areas were clean, secure and safe. Appropriate infection control procedures were carried out by staff and children to help prevent cross-infection. We discussed attending to odours coming from the changing area and toilets and the addition of a child-sized sink in the changing area also.

We also advised that all children's accident/incident reports be signed by parents/carers and that the outdoor risk assessment be reviewed and updated to reflect all risks.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff were kind/caring and enthusiastic in their roles. They worked well together and spoke positively about their relationships with one another. They felt well supported within their teams and by management.

High staff ratios ensured the needs of all children were readily met and staff spoke knowledgeably about the children in their care and the differing support required. Parents/carers commented positively about staff, telling us they "work really hard" are "always friendly and welcoming" and that "communication was very good". They indicated their confidence in staff and their abilities in appropriately meeting their children's needs.

Positive relationships enabled children to confidently approach staff indicating that they knew they would be listened to and that their needs/requests would be met.

Staff made good use of their individual mix of skills/knowledge to take on lead roles and areas of responsibility in the setting. They were individually responsible for developing areas such as literacy, numeracy, communication and outdoor learning amongst others.

Opportunities for training were on-going and all staff had undertaken child protection covering a range of areas of society.

We discussed some areas for development including raising staff awareness of the Health and Social Care Standards, all staff undertaking pre-three training, further developing leadership roles and embedding skills from training into their daily practice.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Largs Early Years Centre benefits from strong leadership with a clear vision of how the service could improve. Staff respected management and the positive support provided to them.

The manager knew the children and their families and made herself available, ensuring she greeted them on a daily basis. Parents/carers told us that she was "approachable" and "knows all the children's names". Transition to the newly combined service had been effective for staff, children and their families. Parents/carers spoke positively about how their children had settled and how staff ensured individual transition to meet all their needs.

Parents/carers were actively encouraged to be involved in the service. Opportunities were available for them to do so in a variety of ways including sharing their skills/interests, open days, stay and play sessions, Eco group work, topics and small group activities.

Staff were fully included in professional discussions and self assessment to help promote continuous improvement. Their input into reviewing policies and procedures made them more meaningful in their day to day practice and further raised their awareness and understanding.

The service's first year improvement plan set clear targets and outcomes which were shared with parents/carers and staff along with any identified action taken from monitoring procedures.

Areas for development included reflecting on the impact on children through monitoring and evaluation, including the Health and Social Care Standards in self evaluation and continuing to develop the staff team and their roles.

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

Date	Type	Gradings								
21 Jan 2015	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	4 - Good									
25 Jan 2012	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	Not assessed	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	Not assessed
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Environment	Not assessed									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	Not assessed									
11 Dec 2009	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	4 - Good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
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Management and leadership	5 - Very good									

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