

Larkfield Children's Centre Day Care of Children

Stafford Road
Greenock
PA16 0TE

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 May 2022

Service provided by:
Inverclyde Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000212

Service no:
CS2011280569

About the service

Larkfield children's centre is registered to provide care to a maximum of 100 children not yet of an age to attend primary school at any one time.

Of those 100 no more than six are aged under two;

No more than 30 are aged two to under three and;

No more than 64 are aged three to those not yet of an age to attend primary school.

Care is provided from a purpose built single storey building, located within a residential area of Greenock. The service is close to shops, schools and transport routes. Children are accommodated in four playrooms which have direct access to outdoor play space at the rear of the property.

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place between 16 May 2022 and 19 May 2022. Two inspectors carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluations we:

- Spoke with children attending the service
- Sought the views of parents and guardians
- Spoke with staff and management
- Observed practice
- Reviewed documents.

What people told us

For this inspection, we received views from 18 parents of children who attend the nursery. Most families told us that they were very happy with the quality of care their children received. They said that their children had made good progress since starting nursery. However, some parents felt 'the nursery could improve on communication with parents'. We shared all parental feedback with the management team.

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. However, we looked at their improvement plan which 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	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

During the inspection, we evaluated two quality themes – quality of care and support and quality of environment. We evaluated both themes as good. Several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Overall, children were happy, settled and having fun at nursery. They were supported by kind and caring staff who responded appropriately to their needs, helping them feel secure. Several children chatted with us during the inspection, and they were keen to tell us about their favourite activities which included painting, building towers, and playing outdoors.

Personal care plans were in place which highlighted children's individual needs and interests. As a result, children received care from staff who knew them well and had the right information to support their wellbeing. Good working relationships with other agencies ensured that children received additional support when needed.

Staff gave a good account of their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection. They had undertaken training and knew how to address any concerns. This contributed to keeping children safe.

The playrooms were bright and welcoming. Children had access to a good range of toys and activities which offered them a variety of play and learning experiences. Toys and materials were well organised and stored within reach which meant that children could independently choose what they played with. Staff supported children to make progress by providing support and challenge.

Children had regular opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air which supported their health and wellbeing. We saw children developing their imagination and problem solving as they explored mud, built an assault course, and pulled each other along in crates. Management and staff should continue with plans to implement free flow access to the outdoor area, maximising children's choice about where they want to play.

We were satisfied that the environment was clean and hygienic for children. There were procedures in place to minimise the spread of infection, and staff were competent in following Covid-19 guidance. For example, good hand hygiene, wearing masks when required, and regular cleaning.

What the service could do better

Children would benefit from a more relaxed, unhurried, and sociable mealtime. There were times when staff did not sit with the children. As a result, some children were unsettled, and others were not supported to develop their independence when eating.

Management and staff had begun to reintroduce access to the nursery for parents through planned parent's evenings. However, some parents told us that they would like more information about their child's day, and how they were progressing in their learning. Management and staff should engage more with families to ensure they are working in partnership to meet children's needs.

Staff were committed to keeping children safe. However, some risk assessments restricted children's experiences. For example, children were unable to participate in baking activities. To ensure that children can build their resilience and develop their learning, staff should adapt assessments of risk, considering the skills and abilities of children.

Some children would benefit from more cosy, quiet spaces within the playrooms. Soft furnishings had been removed due to the restrictions around the Covid-19 pandemic and moving to a new building. Staff should continue with their plans to develop more cosy spaces where children can rest if needed.

Children's personal plans should be developed to ensure that clear 'next steps' are in place. This will support children to make progress in their learning.

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
29 Mar 2019	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
12 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
2 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
26 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
9 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 3 - Adequate 4 - Good 3 - Adequate

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