

Care service inspection report

Quality themed inspection (day care for children)

St. Michael's Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Burnbrae Avenue
Moodiesburn
Glasgow

Service provided by: North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number: SP2003000237

Care service number: CS2003016456

Inspection Visit Type: Unannounced

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and set out improvements that must be made. We also investigate complaints about care services and 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.

Contact Us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

www.careinspectorate.com

 [@careinspect](https://twitter.com/careinspect)

1 About the service we inspected

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

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The provider of St. Michael's Nursery Class is North Lanarkshire Council.

St. Michael's Nursery Class is managed by the head teacher of the school. The nursery is currently registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 30 children, aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery offers morning and afternoon session's term time only. The service is near to local amenities, including motorway and bus routes.

Included in the services aims and objectives is: "Provide an environment which is based on our core values of honesty, respect, forgiveness, fairness and equality for all."

What we did during the inspection

We carried out a 'themed' inspection. This targeted approach means that we looked at identified aspects focusing on children's experiences under each Quality Theme.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection. This was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. This inspection took place on Tuesday, 10 May 2016 between the hours of 09:20am and 4:10pm. We gave feedback to the head teacher and an early learning practitioner at the end of the inspection.

As part of the inspection, we took into account the completed annual return form that we asked the provider to complete and submit to us.

We sent 12 care standards questionnaires to the provider to distribute to parents/carers of children who used the service. Nine parents/carers returned the questionnaires before the inspection. Nine had written comments that were shared with the head teacher and early learning practitioner and they are included within this report.

We also asked the provider to give out staff questionnaires and we received four completed questionnaires before the inspection.

We considered two key aspects of each of the four Quality Themes we inspect and gathered a range of evidence relevant to this through:

Speaking with:

- head teacher
- four early learning practitioners
- two students on placement at the nursery
- four parents/carers
- additional support employee
- children who were present over the course of the inspection.

Looking at:

- certificate of registration
- how staff work, care for and interact with the children
- indoor and outdoor play environments
- displayed information
- improvement plan
- monitoring and improvement records.

Sampling;

- children's floor books.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

Children were observed to be happy, having fun and engaged in a wide range of activities inside, outdoors and in the woodland area. The interactions between staff and children were friendly and nurturing which helped to create a positive learning environment for the children. Some of the children told us about their favourite activities including: playing with their friends, playing in the garden with the cars, going to the forest and doing yoga with their friends.

Taking carers' views into account

Nine parents returned our questionnaire and we had the opportunity to speak to a further four parents/carers as part of the inspection process. Both written and verbal feedback evidenced that parents/carers were very happy with the quality of service they received. They commented positively about how children were supported to make the transition from home to nursery and from nursery to school. They told us how the children were particularly enjoying their experiences whilst in the forest.

Their comments included:

"My daughter enjoys going to nursery every day and I think that is down to the staff. They provide a warm and caring environment and I feel comfortable about approaching any member of staff regarding my child. My child has thoroughly enjoyed going to the forest and taking part in yoga. My child will miss nursery but I feel that they have gained and grown so much in confidence that they will thrive in primary one and I believe that this is because of their nursery experience."

"A wonderful nursery. All staff are very friendly, helpful and approachable. My child is very happy and I am confident leaving them in their capable hands each day. The nursery always makes great use of resources in the community."

"The nursery had a lovely ambiance and the staff are all very approachable, enthusiastic and warm towards the children. "

"Staff members name runs a forest group for the children, teaching them about health and safety and a number of other things. It is fun but they also develop their numeracy skills as well as grammar. Overall every member of the nursery team are fantastic. I couldn't be happier with the progress my child is achieving."

"The staff do a fantastic job. My son enjoys the activities that are introduced regularly. He is more confident and enjoys reading and asking questions to."

"The staff within the nursery are always going above and beyond to make sure my child's individual needs are met. They have supported us which has helped tremendously. Communicating with staff is very easy and they always keep us in the loop regarding support for my child."

"I could not speak highly enough of the service provided by St. Michael's nursery. The staff are friendly and extremely approachable and have given good advice whenever needed. My child loves going every day and has been transformed from a quiet, shy child to a confident individual. The staff provide activities which challenge and motivate the children and their interests are listened to."

"St. Michael's nursery is a fantastic and fun learning environment for children. I am impressed with the staff they are knowledgeable and nurturing towards the children. The range of activities is great. The opinions of children and parents are always taken into consideration. The nursery team work hard to make learning fun and valuable to the children."

"We are extremely pleased with the level of service our children receive daily. There is a fantastic ethos to the nursery, staff are very positive and friendly and keep us up to date with all the latest learning. They have supported the development of our children and we cannot praise the nursery highly enough."

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment document from the provider. We were satisfied with the way the provider completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under.

The provider identified what it thought the service did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The provider told us how they gathered the views of parents, children and staff to help them make improvements.

2 The grades we awarded

We grade the quality of care and support, quality of the environment, quality of staffing and quality of management and leadership. In each case, we award a grade on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent.

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

3 Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We focused on child protection and transitions in this quality theme.

Staff were very knowledgeable about the service's child protection procedures and their roles and responsibilities. Annual training and regular reviews of these practices supported the staff in keeping their knowledge up to date on how to safeguard children's wellbeing.

Very good approaches to transitions, which involved staff, parents, children and other professionals, where appropriate, resulted in positive and meaningful experiences for all. These included informative stay and play sessions for families prior to their child starting nursery and a welcome lunch for parents and children to sample the lunch time menu and familiarise themselves with the cafeteria experience. Positive links and effective communication with feeder schools were evident. There were planned visits to primary one and visits from primary one teacher. Primary one and six children provided a buddy system through a variety of activities to support and reassure children during this time.

Grade

The quality of care and support is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

4 Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We focused on how staff promoted children's health, well-being and safety through a range of experiences inside and outdoors.

The nursery environment inside and outdoors was calm and relaxed and created excellent opportunities for children's active and meaningful learning. Children confidently engaged in a range of experiences which challenged them and enriched their learning, including yoga sessions which supported them to be active, work as part of a team and assisted their well-being.

The different outdoor environments provided children with an extensive range of real world experiences which enabled them to explore, experiment, negotiate, investigate, build on their skills and grow in confidence. We saw how children had created 'stick men' from old branches, created a dinosaur garden, grew plants and vegetables and had been involved in planning the outdoor classroom.

Children had a range of opportunities to experience risk and challenge in their play. They confidently used a known action rhyme to remind themselves and identify any potential risks before entering the woodland area. They expertly used sharp utensils to prepare a stick to hold their marshmallow and had learned to keep safe around fire, supported by staff trained in the Forest Kindergarten approach.

Grade

The quality of environment is graded 6 - Excellent

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

5 Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We focused on staff induction and training in this quality theme.

A very good induction process was in place which staff valued. They were respected and included during this time.

Staff continued to be a significant strength of the service, working extremely well as a team. We commend the opportunities available to staff to undertake leadership roles within the service. We found many examples of enthusiastic, inspired and confident staff driving forward new developments and being supported by management. Staff training had an enriching and positive effect on the outcomes for children. Staff shared best practice within the community, with other colleagues and organisations. As a result, there was a culture of recognising and valuing staff success.

Grade

The quality of staffing is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

6 Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We focused on quality assurance and the improvement plan in this quality theme.

Management and staff had established a variety of very good approaches to reflect on their current practice and evaluate new initiatives or changes they had introduced, which included and respected the views of all. For example, parents had provided the service with very positive feedback after they had participated in the 'Grounds for Learning' workshop. The service used a range of creative visual displays to demonstrate to everyone how these contributed to the on going development of the service.

The improvement plan detailed priorities which supported the continued improvement of the nursery and children's outcomes and learning experiences. Areas taken forward successfully were children's transition arrangements, staff leadership roles and the 'Grounds for Learning' initiative within the forest and outdoor areas. This was resulting in richer experiences and outcomes for children.

Grade

The quality of management and leadership is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

7 What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at our last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

8 What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at our last inspection

Previous recommendations

1. The service should amend their policy on the administration of medication to indicate that parents should administer the first dosage of any medication. It should also describe the procedure to be followed should a child refuse medication.

**National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16.
Standard 14: Well managed Service.**

This recommendation was made on 31 May 2013

Policy had been updated.

Recommendation met.

2. The complaints policy should indicate clearly that parents can contact the Care inspectorate at any time with any concerns they might have about the service.

**National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16.
Standard 14: Well managed Service.**

This recommendation was made on 31 May 2013

Policy had been updated.

Recommendation met.

9 Complaints

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

10 Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

11 Additional Information

None.

12 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
31 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment 5 - Very Good Staffing 5 - Very Good Management and Leadership 5 - Very Good
23 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment Not Assessed Staffing Not Assessed Management and Leadership 5 - Very Good
4 Nov 2008	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment 5 - Very Good Staffing 5 - Very Good Management and Leadership 4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

You can also read more about our work online.

Contact Us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

www.careinspectorate.com

 @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 c?nain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

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 ਵਿਚ 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.