

Ferguslie Early Learning and Childcare Centre Day Care of Children

Tannahill Centre
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Unannounced

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Service provided by:
Renfrewshire Council

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CS2003014782

About the service

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

Ferguslie Early Learning and Childcare Class operates from a purpose-built facility which is part of the Tannahill Centre, Ferguslie Park, in Paisley, Renfrewshire. The extensive premises included two interlinking rooms for children who were under three years of age. Children aged three and over have access to two interlinking rooms and the atrium area. The playrooms had direct free flow access to secure outdoor play areas. In addition to the playrooms a dance studio (where children had lunch) provided space for different types of activities.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 93 children not yet attending primary school at any one time. Of those 93 no more than 9 are aged under 2 years, no more than 20 are aged 2 years to under 3 years and; no more than 64 are aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school full time.

We carried out an onsite inspection on 30 August 2021. We completed observations of the care provided and assessed relevant documents that were requested during this inspection. We spoke to management and staff virtually using Teams technology. Feedback was given to the service on 7 September 2021.

We are testing our new ELC Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged children. This service was included as part of the test. We have evaluated the service based on key questions and quality indicators linked to the framework. As this inspection was part of the test, we will not be publishing the evaluations. More information about the Quality Framework and methodology can be found on our website www.careinspectorate.com

What people told us

During the inspection process we issued a survey to parents and carers of the service. We received 10 responses. Parents and carers told us about the positive experiences they had using the service.

"Management are approachable and support us as a family when arrangements for childcare change".

"Very supportive and easy to speak to, amazing staff and my child adores nursery".

"Staff know my child very well. They interact with the children so it's almost like they become part of our family my child looks forward to seeing a lot of the staff when going in he looks for that familiar face to run too it's great to see".

How good is our care and learning?

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing Care and Support

Children were cared for by warm and nurturing staff who knew them well. To ensure consistency of care, a keyworker system was in place for children and families. Keyworkers were responsible for liaising with parents and ensuring that the correct information was gathered to allow staff to plan effectively for each individual child.

Children's care plans contained relevant core information about children's individual needs. Staff used the Ferre Laevers five-point scale to ensure appropriate emotional wellbeing support was in place prior to children starting the service.

Lunch time was a calm experience where children were encouraged to self serve. The nursery used the Swedish approach which involved children using real crockery and being seated at adult sized tables and chairs. This supported children to be independent and take responsibility. At snack time children were offered fruit and water or milk. Prior to the pandemic, management told us that children would visit the local shop and pick out their own snack. This was something which the service are hoping to reintroduce. To ensure that children have opportunities for a balanced snack we asked management to consider the guidance from Setting the Table when planning snack menus.

A list of individual allergies and children's medical needs was available in each playroom. This helped to ensure children were safe.

Good infection control procedures, including regular handwashing and good ventilation helped to ensure a safe environment for children and staff.

Quality Indicator 1.2 - Children are safe and protected

Clear procedures and a detailed policy for child protection were in place. Staff spoke confidently about their role in keeping children safe and following these policies and procedures. Staff also told us they knew who to report any concerns to and who their designated Child Protection officer was.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and Learning

Children were supported to develop independence and make choice, for example choosing which book would be read at group time. Staff were skilled in observation practices and had a very good understanding of when to support and interact with children and when to allow play to continue uninterrupted.

Individual children's interests were promoted and encouraged. Staff used open ended questioning to extend children's learning and promote further enquiry and curiosity. A good example of this was when a child showed a keen interest in the dinosaur area. The child discussed with a member of staff the different types of dinosaurs he could see and what they ate. The child expressed an interest in the dinosaur books available and the member of staff took him to find more books to allow him to continue his investigations.

The environment was homely and attractive, and resources were well maintained. Books in all areas of the service promoted children's literacy skills.

Areas for improvement

How good is our staff team?

Quality Indicator 4.1 - Staff skills, knowledge, and values

Staff had regular access to training opportunities. Staff are encouraged to share their learning with one another. For example, all staff had been researching and presenting aspects of the Froebel philosophy which included learning through nature and the importance of play. Staff told us about the authority's training calendar and were aware that they would be supported to attend additional training elsewhere. Recent training included updates of the impact of the pandemic on family circumstances. This supported staff in ensuring they continued to meet the individual needs of children and families during lockdown.

Staff told us about the importance of strong relationships within the service. Staff valued the good relationships they had with one another. They had regular opportunities to meet as a staff team and for a variety of purposes including planning for children's wellbeing and development as well as self-evaluation.

Staff and management understood the importance of communication with children and families. Staff introduced new ways to ensure parents and children felt included, particularly during the national lockdowns. These included Facebook live sessions and providing resources to allow children to continue learning at home. This supported parents to continue to be involved in their child's play and learning.

Quality Indicator 4.3 - Staff deployment

Management knew staff well and valued their skills and interests. To ensure children are cared for by skilled staff, management use methods such as appraisal to match the skill set of the staff with the needs of the children.

Sufficient staffing levels ensured that ratios were met across the service. We observed that in the three to five department the deployment of staff had impacted positively on children's ability to move freely between the indoor and outdoor environment at all times. Management should ensure appropriate deployment of staff across the service to allow all children the opportunity to participate in a range of quality experiences both indoors and outdoors.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

Management to review medication templates, policy and processes in line with best practice guidance and should refer to "The Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services" which details the information required.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice" (HSCS.4.11) and "I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources" (HSCS 4.27)

This area for improvement was made on 25 October 2019.

Action taken since then

Medication forms have been reviewed and now include all required information.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

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