

St. Mary's Primary Nursery Centre Day Care of Children

Skye Walk
Lanark
ML11 7NT

Telephone: 01555 678013

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

17 October 2019

Service provided by:

South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003481

Service no:

CS2003015361

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 with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The provider of St. Mary's Nursery Centre is South Lanarkshire Council. The service is registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 44 children at any one time from 2 years to those not yet attending primary of whom a maximum of 10 children may be aged from 2 years up to 3 years. The service operates 50 weeks of the year. There are currently 62 children attending the service with a mixture of attendance patterns.

The nursery is situated within St. Mary's Primary School in Lanark. The nursery provides spacious accommodation with its own entrance, cloakrooms, playrooms, toilets and outdoor area.

Included in the service's aims and objectives is to provide a "welcoming and engaging learning environment where all are encouraged to reach their full potential and are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We checked the service was 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. It supports them and their parents to work with the services that 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

We observed children who were happy and having good fun playing and exploring with their friends inside and outside. Children responded very well to the staff caring for them. Staff were respectful and sensitive in their interaction providing support and assurance when needed.

Children took part in the inspection and wanted to know who the Inspector was and why she was there. They were excited to tell us about their nursery and how much they enjoyed attending. Their favourite activities included playing outside, football, construction and painting.

During the inspection process we seek feedback from parents who use the service via care standards questionnaires. We issued the service with 24 of these to distribute to parents, 11 of which were returned prior to the inspection. We had the opportunity to speak with a further two parents during our visit. Both written and verbal feedback was extremely positive and confirmed that parents/carers were very happy with the quality of care their child received and the range of activities provided. Staff were praised by parents for the nurturing and caring approach to the children.

Comments included:

"The staff are an asset to the nursery. They provide a fantastic nurturing approach to the children and parents. I have 100% always felt relaxed leaving my child in their care."

"Staff have been a great help to my child and myself. They have supported my child so well and myself when I have struggled. Their actions and kind words really helped me."

"This is a great service which is provided by all staff members. It allows my child to feel safe when in their care. I cannot think of anything to fault in the whole of the nursery."

"Our child has thoroughly enjoyed their time at St. Mary's Nursery. The staff have created a wonderful environment for the children to develop and grow. The one to one development has been great for my child and his keyworker has been excellent in the role she does."

"The staff and facilities are superb. I cannot praise the nursery highly enough. Everyone I have had the pleasure to deal with have been absolutely fantastic. They all go above and beyond."

"Staff are very approachable and dedicated to the children's needs. They are always available to discuss any concerns and are reassuring ."

"My child has enjoyed nursery and had a wonderful experience in his first learning years."

"Staff are very welcoming and I am happy to leave my child in the knowledge that they are in a safe environment."

"My child's learning, confidence and skills have improved greatly since starting the nursery."

"I could not have chosen a better nursery for my child."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of this inspection. We discussed their own improvement plans and quality assurance procedures to determine their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision in 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	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children continued to receive a very good quality of care and support in this service. Management and staff had created a very positive, nurturing ethos with the children and their families needs placed at the heart of everything they do.

Children were settled and confident in the nursery. They were engaged in their play and activities were well planned to take account of their interests and learning needs. The playrooms and outside areas were set out to promote children's choice and independence. To ensure all children had a voice and could make choices about their day at nursery the staff had introduced Makaton sign language. This had been particularly beneficial to the children attending who had English as a second language.

Staff valued and respected children and parents and knew them well. Meaningful and trusting relationships had been established with parents which provided opportunities to share information about children's health and wellbeing. Personal plans were used to support children's wellbeing and development as each plan was tailored to the individual child's needs. Staff used a variety of ways to involve parents in their child's learning and progress including online journals and outings.

To support children to discuss their feelings, the staff had used the book Lucy's Blue Day. This story was about a little girl who had magic hair which changed colour depending on how she was feeling. This project allowed staff to encourage the children to speak about their feelings. Evidence on the wall demonstrated that this had been a success with children saying what made them sad, angry and happy.

Management and staff spoke confidently about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children in their care including the approaches in place to follow up children's non attendance at the service. Annual training and regular reviews of these practices supported staff in keeping their knowledge up to date.

Staff had created a calm and purposeful learning environment. Children's work and achievements were attractively displayed and celebrated. This contributed positively to building their confidence and sense of belonging in the nursery.

To encourage active play and outdoor learning the children had access to outdoors throughout the day. We saw children developing their curiosity and inquiry skills through making an obstacle course with loose parts.

To further develop outdoor learning children had the opportunity to participate in Forest school by visiting local woods. This allowed children to learn about nature and the world they lived in. For example on one outing the children collected leaves and when they arrived back at nursery used books and the internet to discover the names of these. Staff and children carried out risk assessments for the woods and outdoor area. This encouraged children to learn about risks and how to keep themselves safe.

The nursery was very involved in the local community by using facilities such as the library and loch. They also took part in projects such as Lanark in Bloom and Flowerfest.

What the service could do better

Through discussion with management it came to light that the nursery did not have their own qualified first aider. The first aider within the school was used to support the nursery. As the nursery operates fifty weeks of the year this means that the nursery has no access to a first aider during school holidays. The benefits of the nursery having their own first aider were discussed, with the management agreeing to take this forward.

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
16 Oct 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment
		5 - Very good Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings
		Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
18 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
12 May 2014	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
13 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
14 May 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
29 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
24 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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