

## Mid Calder Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Mid Calder  
Livingston  
EH53 0RR

Telephone: 01506 882 092

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 19 January 2018

**Service provided by:**  
West Lothian Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002601

**Care service number:**  
CS2003016162

## About the service

The nursery is provided by West Lothian Council and managed by the head teacher. It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 54 children at any one time aged from two years to primary school entry, of whom no more than 10 children are aged two years. At the time of the inspection it had not started to enrol children under three years of age.

The service is provided by West Lothian Council and operates as part of Mid Calder Primary School. The nursery class is located in a new building within the Primary School campus. It has a secure entry system, large cloakroom area, playroom and a separate smaller room which is intended to be used for two year olds but is currently used for rests and sleeping children after lunchtime. The premises has a kitchen area, toilet and outdoor play area with direct access from the main playroom. The service offers morning and afternoon sessions during term time and provides full time places.

We compiled the report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on 10 January 2018 and 19 January 2018. Feedback was given to the head teacher (hereafter referred to as "the manager") and to the nursery teacher. The inspection was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector.

The nursery aims "to prepare all our young people for the challenges of the future. Our learning environment aims to stimulate, challenge, support and provide opportunities to develop life skills. We celebrate attainment and achievement gained not only in school but within the children's personal lives."

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). This was set up by the 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.

## What people told us

Twenty-five children were present during the inspection. We spoke to approximately ten children and some of their comments during the inspection included:

"I've been playing with every kind of toy - lego. I was in the garden . We don't have a back door. I was in the house. It's made of solid wood."

"I'm going to choose a book."

"This ice is like a rectangle."

"I've brought my scooter today and my helmet."

We sent out 15 Care Standards Questionnaires and at the time of writing the report we had received 11 completed questionnaires. Comments from parents and carers showed that they were happy with the service provided. Comments included:

"The staff have created an environment where my child can explore and strive within the nursery . The new building and the staff cater to the development of my child."

"Can not praise the staff highly enough, engaging enthusiastic and friendly. The child centred approach is evident and key to my child's ability to settle and thrive."

"We are very pleased with the level of professionalism and care shown by the nursery. It has been great receiving updates from the learning journal and blog. Our child has learnt so much in a short space of time which reflects massively on the nursery staff."

"I have watched my grandchildren develop physical, emotional and social skills which have helped their confidence and abilities in many ways."

"The new nursery which has been built is bright, welcoming and it provides large areas inside and outside for the children to play. My experience of the nursery staff is that each member is approachable and knowledgeable of my grandchildren."

"The nursery is excellent. All staff have a great relationship with the children."

"My child took a while to settle into nursery but I strongly believe because of the teacher's encouragement and the bond she has made with the staff it has made her into the confident little girl she is now. I could not ask for a better nursery. My child loves coming to nursery now and is beginning to look forward to starting school."

"The new nursery is fantastic."

"The nursery do a lot to encourage parents to come into the nursery and see how their child is getting on. I feel confident leaving my child in their care and she loves the nursery and the teachers."

"Staff are enthusiastic and seem very experienced. My children always enjoy going."

"Wraparound staff are also experienced and extremely caring."

"New building is fantastic with incredible and stimulating resources and equipment."

We spoke directly to parents on the day of inspection and they were very satisfied with the service. Comments included:

"It's brilliant. She cried for six weeks and the staff made it so much easier for her settling. They put the child first. They helped her to write her name and I've heard about other nurseries in the area and realise how lucky we are. They really respect the children and she really looks forward to coming."

"It's an excellent nursery. The children are always happy when I come and the staff are so approachable. The new toys and all the space is great."

"I'm a childminder and I get lots of information. The children love it here."

"It's brilliant. So much better than the old nursery. He loves it. Staff are brilliant and the facilities are lovely."

"Lovely notice boards. Staff are so approachable. I'm very positive about the nursery. Teachers' are really forthcoming and approachable."

"It's such a pleasure to come here now. There's so much space. I'm 100% positive about everything."

"I think it's fantastic. Staff are really friendly and helpful. She wanted to come every day over the Christmas holidays. We get lots of feedback, regular emails, the learning journals and the floor books give us lots of information. Her reading and counting is coming on well and I've nothing to criticise at all."

## 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 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	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

Management had helped create an inclusive environment where families felt welcomed within the nursery and staff felt motivated. This had led to children feeling confident, valued, and eager to learn new skills within a happy environment.

Staff were skilled in their interaction with children encouraging them to choose freely to help enhance their learning in topics which interested them. Staff ensured that the planning was responsive to children's interests and floor books helped illustrate the learning and development which the children were enjoying in nursery. We saw that children were encouraged to talk about what they were learning about, and we saw that their achievements were recognised and that they were praised for doing well. "Pegs of Pride" were displayed on the wall to highlight children's achievements during the year. There were opportunities throughout the day for children to become independent and resilience was encouraged.

In the nursery class, children moved confidently between activities making decisions about where, who and what to play with. They had enjoyed a number of outings to places such as; Calder Woods, a Bear Hunt, Mid Calder Gala Day, Beecraigs, Five Sisters Zoo, an Autumn Walk and a Village Walk focussing on road safety. A paramedic had been in to visit the children as well as the fire service to help them learn about people who help us within the community.

We observed an interesting, stimulating, free flow learning environment had been created for the children and that they enjoyed the freedom of choosing between playing indoors or out. The grounds consisted of hard and grassed areas, and a small landscaped garden. In addition the 'Wild Connections' school woodland provided children with further variety in their environment with increased opportunities to experience risky play whilst developing their skills in making sensible choices and keeping themselves safe. Active play indoors included opportunities to use the gym twice per week, the drama room and enjoy activities such as Sticky Kids. This meant that outcomes for children attending were very good.

We saw that the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators were central to the work of the nursery. A clear display demonstrating how the staff ensured the children were safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included was on the nursery wall for parents, children and visitors to see. The display was responsive to children's learning, constantly being updated. Children were able to tell us confidently how they were responsible and how they kept safe in nursery. We saw the risk assessment which they had carried out and the photographs they had taken of each area of the nursery in connection with this.

Effective relationships with parents were in place. "Pop in and Play" was a popular way for parents to observe their children at work and as a result the service ensured that parents and carers could support the children's learning and feel included in the setting. This also meant that they could see the children in the nursery setting, mixing with their friends, sharing, taking turns and working together.

The Big Family Read had been a great success to encourage the family to read together as much as possible. This had led to the ongoing success of the lending library, now run by parents and being well used by whole families. This helped encourage a love of reading and interaction between the children and their families often leading to interesting conversations to further develop children's learning.

We saw open and honest responsive relationships between staff including wraparound staff, parents and carers. There was a range of very good communication methods which included newsletters, the school blog and verbal communications. Parents told us that they liked the online learning journals which enabled them to read observations about their children's learning and achievements. Parents and staff enjoyed the two way communication which this encouraged between parents and staff with comments being noted both by parents and staff.

In addition parents accessed a story of learning through 'Sway' which incorporated home learning as well as the 'Go Pro' which is used as a tool for sharing and discussing the children's learning within the setting. Staff were also aware of the need to engage children in the learning journals and ensured that ipads were available to them throughout the sessions.

## What the service could do better

Medication forms did not include the reason for medication being administered and when it was last given. These forms should be updated in accordance our Health Guidance document, The Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services.

The welcome pack had not been updated following on from the new build and it did not include any mention of the Care Inspectorate within the complaints procedure. The welcome pack should now be updated to contain all relevant information for new and current parents and carers attending the service.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
5 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
24 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
23 Jun 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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