

Kinneil Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Dean Road
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Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 13 September 2016

Service provided by:
Falkirk Council

Service provider number:
SP2004006884

Care service number:
CS2003043646

About the service

Kinneil Primary School Nursery was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. This was the first inspection following a variation to expand the service to include care for children from birth to three years.

The early years section of the campus is now divided into three areas, each with their own kitchen, toilets and cloakroom areas. There is a large playroom for children in their pre-school and ante pre-school years and separate areas for babies and toddlers. The bright and welcoming play areas provide a safe, stimulating and inviting environment for children. Each area has direct access to an enclosed outdoor play space.

The service is registered for 67 children aged from birth to those not yet attending primary school. It provides a combination of sessional and full day care throughout the year.

The campus is managed by the head teacher, with the depute head teacher and principal early years officer sharing responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the early years service. The staff team comprises, senior early years officers, early years officers and support staff. The team also have the support of a teacher on a part-time basis.

The vision statement for the campus states they plan to: Work together for success and achievement so that our children become confident, responsible and successful citizens both now and in the future.

The service aims to;

- engage our children in the highest quality learning activities
- maximise success for all our learners.

What people told us

During the inspection we spent time within each of the play areas talking with children and staff.

The older children told us they liked coming to nursery and that they had good fun playing with their friends. They described favourite activities such as 'story time' and 'making things'. Some of the children were very proud to demonstrate their achievements. For example, one child recited a large section of a story while another counted to 30.

Within the toddler and baby room we saw happy, relaxed children who were comfortable and confident in their environment and in their relationships with staff. Most of the children were engaged in story time and enjoyed choosing what fruit they would like for snack. They were interested in their environment such as the trucks in the earth and the 'smelly socks'. Many of the children were fascinated by the workmen fitting the new play equipment in their garden.

Parents participated in the inspection through questionnaires or by speaking directly with the inspector. They were without exception happy with the quality of service provided. Comments included:

"The team have been really supportive and have done everything to make my son feel happy and safe in their care. I am delighted with the care my child receives and the experiences he can take part in."

"Staff have been fantastic with my son from the start, making him feel very comfortable with the programme. It's made such a difference to his confidence and independence. Great staff to work with."

"Kinneil is a very new service however, appears to be developing well. My child enjoys the nursery experience and has built good trusting relationships with the care staff."

"I was anxious about my child coming to the nursery as he had no English but staff reassured me and they were right in what they said. It's a fantastic nursery and I'm delighted I made the right choice in sending him here."

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the service, which gave us information about what they did well and what areas had been identified for development.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The warm and welcoming atmosphere coupled with the positive and inclusive ethos helped children and families to feel valued and respected within the service. Throughout the induction process the foundations for positive, trusting relationships were established. This helped support a partnership arrangement where children's changing needs were shared and accommodated on a day-to-day basis.

Close links with other professionals such as speech and language and psychological services, helped children and families access any additional support they required. Staff worked effectively with them following guidance and incorporating strategies into the daily programme. This helped ensure consistency and supported positive outcomes for children. One visiting specialist told us; "staff here are great, they are keen to take things on board. They make my job easier as no hurdles are put in the way of children's learning. They have a 'can do' approach and nothing is a hassle."

Children of all ages enjoyed daily access to fresh air and exercise both in the enclosed play areas and in the more natural environment of the wider school grounds. They also participated in school activities such as the daily mile. Staff found that for some children being outdoors had helped ease their transition into nursery. To further extend the opportunities for outdoor learning, regular visits to the local woods were being arranged. These activities plus groups such as the buggy walking group and baby massage helped support the overall health and wellbeing of both children and families.

Parents told us they were very happy with the quality of service and gave numerous examples of how their child's individual needs were met. For one family this was their child's need for space and quiet being well-managed, while for another it was the efforts made to acknowledge and value their cultural heritage.

Within each playroom we could clearly see that staff supported children to make choices and used praise and encouragement effectively to support their learning and help build confidence and self-esteem.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Each of the playrooms was bright, warm and welcoming for children and families. Attractive displays throughout the campus kept parents well-informed about events, activities and their children's learning.

Playrooms provided a stimulating range of resources to capture children's imagination and support their learning and development. We saw that staff used their knowledge of individual children to provide resources and experiences that reflected their interests.

By ensuring the environment, equipment and resources were kept clean and well maintained, staff helped reduce the risk of infection being spread. We saw they were vigilant in keeping up-to-date with changes in good practice guidance whether this related to changing nappies or which product to use for cleaning the tables. All of these measures helped support the health and wellbeing of the children in their care.

Although staff were mindful of keeping children safe and well, this did not in any way limit the variety of activities and experiences they enjoyed both indoors and out. We saw that children of all ages participated in a variety of stimulating activities including planting and tending vegetables, searching for bugs, experimenting with water and splashing in muddy puddles. Staff encouraged good hygiene practice and provided waterproof suits to enable all children to enjoy these activities and the benefits of fresh air and exercise on a daily basis.

We found that children of all ages were beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe through discussion and activities. Smiley and sad faces had been printed to help the younger children as they checked the outdoor area with staff at the start of the day.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

With the expansion of the service a number of new staff had been recruited. We saw that the local authority induction programme had been followed with additional support from the senior management team. This helped ensure staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities and the underpinning values of the service. The service planned to utilise the comprehensive induction programme recently developed within the council for any new staff recruited.

Although the team only came together at the beginning of the year they were already a significant strength of this service. They were highly skilled and motivated, and worked very well as a team. They were passionate about their roles and routinely undertook online research in their own time. As a team they routinely shared their knowledge, experience and learning thereby supporting a culture of continuous improvement. They were fully committed to ongoing training to develop their skills and enable them to better support the children and families who attend.

Within displays, records, the environment and resources we could clearly see how staff used their learning in their work. Their commitment and determination to provide a quality service helped support positive outcomes for children and families.

As a result parents were very positive about the support provided by staff. Comments included;

"Both my husband and I were anxious about putting our child into nursery. The staff at Kinneil early years unit have been exceptional and set our minds at ease within the first meeting."

"I have found the staff friendly, welcoming and approachable and trust them totally. Nothing is too much bother when it comes to meeting my child's needs."

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Improvement through consultation and self-evaluation was already well established in this service with children and families at the heart of the process.

Staff used observations, discussions and mind-mapping with children to help plan stimulating activities, which reflected their needs and interests. The activities and experiences were evaluated on a daily basis with staff routinely taking time to reflect and consider how they could be enhanced.

Parents were invited to provide feedback in a variety of ways such as through the focus group, social media, questionnaires, e-mail and/or discussion with staff or managers. This enabled them to do so in the way which best suited them. During the inspection parents were very positive about the service. Comments included;

"Kinneil early years unit have been exceptional and set our minds at ease within the first meeting."

"After the years at Kinneil Nursery my son, among others, is very well prepared for starting primary one. Now I see how important it is to start education in the right place!"

The senior management team used a range of methods to support staff and monitor the effectiveness of systems and practice. We found that management and staff shared a clear vision for the service and were fully committed to continuous improvement. They used their knowledge of good practice, national initiatives and research very effectively in their day-to-day practice. As a result they had, within a relatively short time, created a high quality service. The team planned to continue to review and develop their service taking account of the needs of the children and families who attend.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

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.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
1 Oct 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
21 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
24 Mar 2009	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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