

Killermont Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

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Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 October 2022

Service provided by:
East Dunbartonshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003380

Service no:
CS2003014693

About the service

Killermont Early Years Centre is located within Killermont Primary School. The service is provided by East Dunbartonshire Council and is located in a residential area of Bearsden.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 80 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The service has two large playrooms with direct access to an outdoor play area.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 25 October 2022 between 9.15 and 15.15. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with 10 people using the service and 27 of their family
- spoke with 8 staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children received nurturing care and support from staff who knew them very well.
- Staff worked effectively as a team to meet children's individual needs.
- Children of all ages and abilities were developing their curiosity, imagination and problem solving skills through high quality play experiences.
- Children benefitted from a nurturing, inspiring environment.
- A culture of reflection and self-evaluation supported staff to plan improvements.
- Children were empowered to be fully involved in their play and learning through the skilled interactions and actions of staff.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm and nurturing care to support their wellbeing. They were cared for by kind and caring staff who knew them very well. Staff demonstrated a genuine interest when interacting with children. They engaged effectively with children to extend discussion and facilitate learning. Children told us that they enjoyed coming to nursery and playing with their friends.

Parents' comments included;

"The nursery has excellent relationships with children and parents and I really can't fault them. I have had nothing but positive experiences."

"I feel they know my child very well - I have always been really impressed by their knowledge of him as an individual."

Staff had gathered lots of information about children which was contained in personal care plans. Staff worked closely with families to gather key information, and care plans were reviewed regularly to ensure they reflected children's individual preferences, likes and dislikes. Staff used information contained in care plans to promote consistency and continuity of care. We asked the manager to support parents, where necessary, to fully complete children's wellbeing assessments contained in care plans.

Children's Learning Journals were informative and demonstrated next steps for learning. The leadership team was efficient in tracking children's learning and development to ensure positive outcomes for children.

Parents' comments included;

"I'm really happy with the information sharing. We get lots of newsletter and emails with updates from the nursery as well as very frequent posts to his online learning journal. I love seeing them because it helps me facilitate more conversations with my son about what he is learning at home."

Staff managed children's transitions well. Children and families were involved in decision making and settling in was tailored to the individual needs of children. This meant that most children transitioned into nursery without difficulty.

Children enjoyed mealtimes that were relaxed and unhurried. Lunch areas were homely and welcoming and staff sat alongside children to ensure that they enjoyed a calm, sociable experience. Children were developing their independence by pouring their own drinks and clearing away their plates after lunch. Staff were considering the best use of the large lunch table to ensure a nurturing environment for children.

Staff had a good understanding of children's health needs. Several staff were trained in first aid should children require medical assistance. Medication was very well organised and documented and was safely stored.

1.3 Play and learning

Children were actively leading their play and learning in a stimulating, challenging and creative environment. This was encouraged through a balance of spontaneous and planned, high quality experiences that promoted children's choice and independence. There was a strong focus on children's rights, promoting the safety and protection of children.

Planning approaches to play and learning were child centred. 'Provocations' (resources or activities that promote thoughts, creativity, and learning) were used to capture children's interests and support high quality play and learning experiences. Children were supported to reach their full potential through carefully planned activities and targeted interventions by skilled staff.

Outdoor play and learning was fully embedded in the service. Children enjoyed the well resourced outdoor area with an extensive range of natural, open ended and loose parts play materials. They also regularly accessed forest school in a woodland area where they learned about nature, risk and safety. This allows children to develop self confidence, independence and self esteem.

Activities indoors and outdoors supported children to develop their curiosity, be creative, and build on their interests. Children had lots of fun exploring a pumpkin using a hammer, playing imaginatively, playing with sand and playdough. Children told us, "My favourite is the playdough, we make it" and "I like playing on the climbing frame."

We looked at the service Twitter page and were very impressed by the inspiring activities available to children. Children used problem solving skills to build dolls furniture, explored emotions when taking 'selfies', learned how to keep safe when using tools, observed nesting birds in their bird box, planned, designed and built a pond to encourage wildlife. Children had enjoyed black history month where they explored different skin tones using skin tone paint and read books about ethnic minorities. They participated in the Scottish Storytelling Festival, Book Week and Human Rights Day. They learned about road safety and plans were in place for anti bullying week.

Parents' comments included;

"It is wonderful and I feel privileged that my child can attend such a great nursery".

"An excellent, welcoming, friendly and nurturing environment."

"The environment is excellent, I love the garden in particular with lots of opportunities to play and have fun!"

"Nurturing and inspiring. I'm impressed by the outdoor space and that the children always have access to it."

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children were cared for in a safe, secure, and well organised environment. Each playroom was well designed and resources were suitable for the age range of children present. Play spaces reflected children's current interests, curiosity and investigation. We saw a very good range of natural and open-ended materials, craft,

construction, books, sand and water. Children were settled and confident within their environments, accessing and taking part in the experiences on offer.

All areas were clean, ventilated, and regularly maintained. At the time of inspection two toilets in the woodland room were out of use requiring maintenance. The manager had actioned this and was awaiting repair.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. This included supporting children with good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of spreading infection. We asked the manager to ensure that toilet doors leading from the playrooms were always closed in accordance with infection control guidance.

Children could access toilet facilities within the playrooms. Where children needed support, this was carried out in a designated changing area meaning children's dignity and personal preferences were respected. Children could choose their staff member to assist with personal care needs.

Risk assessments were in place and reviewed regularly to ensure children were safe and secure. Staff worked well together to identify and minimise risk to children within the setting, both indoors and outdoors. This meant that children's activities were not compromised and they were supported to enjoy challenging, fun experiences.

Accidents and incidents records were completed and shared with parents. Monthly audits were carefully completed to identify any areas of potential risk or concern.

Children's information was stored securely within the office and children were monitored by staff when using IT equipment.

Parents' comments included;

"Light, bright, clean, welcoming, rich and varied learning settings, extensive outdoor play area and varied outdoor play settings, quiet areas."

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Management and staff worked well together to create a culture of shared responsibility and continuous improvement.

We could see, and staff told us, that there was a strong sense of teamwork within the staff team and an open and honest ethos in the service. Clear leadership from the senior leadership team supported staff to deliver a shared vision, values and aims. Children and parents were meaningfully involved in the service through 'child's voice' and activities such as 'play and share' and 'coffee and chat'. Parents were regularly consulted for their views and inputs into service developments.

Regular staff meetings ensured that all staff were involved in planning for and tracking children's learning and self-evaluation of the service. Staff participated in peer evaluation to share good practice and

professional dialogue. The senior leadership team observed practitioner practice termly and provided feedback to practitioners to celebrate and develop practice.

Quality assurance and continuous improvement arrangements were in place and supported the delivery of the service, ensuring very good experiences for children.

The senior leadership team and staff met monthly to evaluate quality of practice, the environment and learning opportunities. Various national frameworks including; Curriculum Benchmarks, How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare, Realising the Ambition, Health and Social Care Standards, My World Outdoors and Space to Grow were used to reference best practice. Self-evaluation outcomes influenced the improvement plan and direction of the early years setting.

Parents' comments included;

"The team are so great, any questions I have have been answered so quickly and they have always had time for me no matter how small my question or concern."

"The nursery has excellent relationships with children and parents and I really can't fault them. I have had nothing but positive experiences."

"The nursery is excellent at making us feel our daughter's care and education is of utmost importance. I feel she receives a great level of care physically, emotionally and educationally."

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

4.3 Staff deployment

Staff were appropriately deployed throughout the day which ensured they met all children's needs at the right time. Effective use was made of the differing experience, knowledge and skills of the staff group to ensure children's experiences across the whole day were positive and they were safe. Transitions were seamless and well planned with children being comfortable about what was happening next.

Staff were effectively supported by the senior leadership team who spent regular time in the nursery. This helped to build positive working relationships and allowed time for professional discussion. Staff were happy, engaging and sharing tasks through working as a team. Staff breaks and lunches were organised to minimise disruption, ensuring the day ran smoothly to support the play, care and learning of the children.

Arrangements were in place to promote continuity of care across the day and ensure positive transitions and communication with families. Keyworkers were available to chat and exchange information with parents. Parents could contribute to children's learning journals and easily follow play and learning activities on twitter.

There was a very respectful ethos in the service with staff treating children as individuals. Staff communicated well with each other and worked together to ensure effective supervision and quality engagement with children across the day.

Staff had time each day to discuss children individually and, as a team, plan for the following day. This gave staff the opportunity to reflect and use these reflections to bring about positive change to outcomes for children.

All staff had a clear understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe and protected. Child protection training had been completed, supporting staff to keep their knowledge up to date. Staff were clear on reporting and recording procedures.

Parents' comments included;

"The staff and management are very engaging and caring. I really couldn't ask for a more professional and supportive team."

"My experience of the nursery, so far, is that it is well managed and organised. All staff have a remit and know who is responsible for what. Staff and running of the nursery appears very well organised and considered."

Complaints

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

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	6 - Excellent
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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