

Auchinbee Nursery and Out of School Care Day Care of Children

Auchinbee Farm Road
Cumbernauld
Glasgow
G68 0ET

Telephone: 01236 737 444

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 August 2024

Service provided by:
Auchinbee Care Limited

Service provider number:
SP2015012600

Service no:
CS2015341973

About the service

Auchinbee Children's Nursery is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 116 children as follows:

13 children aged zero to two years

53 children aged two years to those not yet attending primary school,

50 children attending primary school.

The manager is not included in the adult to child ratio.

The nursery is a private organisation and the provider is Auchinbee Care Limited. The service works in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council to provide early learning and childcare to children aged two to five years.

Care is provided from two renovated farmhouses within the locality of Craigmarloch in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire. The service is close to local shops, parks, transport links and other amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place between the 12 and 14 August 2024. The inspection was carried out by one inspector 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 a small number of children using the service
- gathered the feedback from 17 families members of children using the service
- spoke with staff and management present on the days we visited the service
- gathered written feedback from two staff using a survey
- observed staff practice and children's experiences on the days of our visits
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The service was warm and welcoming and the playrooms had a calm and relaxed feel.
- The premises were clean and well maintained.
- The provider had continued to develop the play spaces, this included further development of the nursery gardens and new flooring and room layout in the two to three years playroom.
- Children were settled and having fun playing and learning. Staff had created a variety of play experiences, that supported the children's needs and interests.
- The management had a good understanding of the service strengths and where further improvements could be made to further enhance the outcomes for children.
- Staff had worked hard to create an environment to meet children's wellbeing needs, they were now at the stage to further develop children's play and learning experiences.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and settled throughout the setting. Children were being cared for by staff that knew them well and had formed positive bonds with them. Relationships were a key strength within the setting. Children were welcomed with cuddles and were confident being comforted by staff, when needed. Children told us staff kept them safe and gave cuddles if they were upset.

Interactions between children and staff were positive. We saw staff and children with lots of smiling eyes, positive facial gestures and heard lots of laughter. This told us they were happy. Parents shared they were very happy with the interactions and relationships with staff. One parent told us 'The staff team are great and so approachable, they know my child so well. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them. They are supportive and I know that I can go to them about anything' and another shared 'Staff are very friendly, positive and supportive. My child loves attending the nursery and gets on very well with them.'

New children starting the service, or transitioning into a new play room, were being supported by caring staff. We witnessed staff to be nurturing and responding to children's wellbeing needs. Staff recognised the importance of listening to children and responding to their needs at these times, to ensure they felt safe and secure.

Mealtimes were healthy and nutritious; throughout the service they had continued to improve children's mealtime experiences. Children and staff sat together at tables, this created a positive social experience for children. Children were able to select when they wanted meals, rolling mealtimes were working well. Children were learning new skills and eating independently. Staff were nearby and providing help if needed. Good hand hygiene practices were being followed and staff asked children if it was ok, before they washed their faces. We did discuss that, on reflection, maybe to consider some of the equipment being used. For example, using dessert spoons rather than a ladle, would make it easier for children to self-serve.

New personal plans were being implemented for the nursery children, the changes made had helped staff plan more meaningful care and support, to meet children's needs. The personal plans used for the school age children, were cumbersome, resulting in not being kept up to date. The manager agreed to support staff working with the school age children to implement the new system. Parents told us they were happy with the information they received about their child's experiences and progress, however a few parents mentioned they would like more regular feedback on the app used to share information. The management agreed to ensure parents were informed and had an understanding of the type of information to expect.

The service had worked hard to create a positive family culture within the setting. Various events welcomed families into the service from Father's Day tea to stay and plays. The service planned to continue to develop parental involvement through further consultation.

Quality Indicator 1.3 Play and learning

Throughout the setting, the atmosphere was calm and relaxed. The changes made to the playrooms, especially for children under three years, had had a positive impact on the children's daily experiences. For example, for the children aged two to three years having a new room layout and better access to materials. As a result, children were more settled and engaged in their play.

Staff had made improvements in listening to the children's voices and used this to influence their day. Staffs understanding of children's development, and use of observations had further improved the play experiences offered. We agreed that staff were in a good place to further develop their skills to support children's learning through play. The service had plans to further support staff skills in analysing observations and using this to create and enrich the learning environments.

Childrens access to materials had improved along with the changes in the environment, inside and outside. The increased use of natural, open ended materials allowed children to direct their own play and use their own imaginations to extend their thinking. Some areas were still to be developed, however the service were heading in the right direction. Now that the playroom layouts were working well, staff now need to further enhance the play areas within. They should consider staff taking an aspect of play such as block play, early literacy, mark making and developing this throughout the playroom. To achieve this the planning system should include reflection on the environment and how children used materials.

Overall, active and exploratory play continues to be a strength, especially outdoors. The service now needs to ensure that children can access high quality materials, led their own play and learning, no matter where they choose to play.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Overall, the premises and facilities have improved since the last inspection. The provider had taken significant steps to address the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection in relation the the facilities.

On arrival, the premises was found to be clean, tidy and well presented. The entrance and playrooms were bright, airy and well ventilated. The premises provided a warm and welcoming environment for children and families.

The provider had continued to refurbish the premises. This included new flooring in some areas, wood work around touch points being repainted and a full refurbishment of one of the nappy changing areas. The playrooms for under threes had been fully refurbished and the improvements had created a better space meeting their needs. For example, more free flow for children to choose where they wanted to play and easier access to materials.

The outdoor play areas had been further developed, as planned. Parents and children told us that they were happy with the outdoor play opportunities. One parent told us 'I feel since the outside play area has been developed it has been a better nursery.'

The baby room outdoor space was now fully refurbished providing all year round play for the youngest children. In addition, there was increased large physical equipment for all ages creating opportunities for children to learn different ways of using their bodies. To further extend children's outdoor play, staff had increased their access to materials to inspire their natural curiosity. Children were having great fun transporting water and digging in mud holes. Children's access to outdoors was a strength and staff should continue to enhance children's play and learning experiences outdoors.

Through the nursery staff hard worked hard to created a welcoming and nurturing environment. To further support improvements for children, they could increase children's access to a wider range of materials to further extend their thinking and learning.

Throughout our visit the kitchen door was observed to be closed and secured when not in use. As a result, children did not have access to hazardous materials.

We were informed that a new cleaner had been employed and they seem to be working well. The management monitored the cleanliness throughout the building to ensure it is kept at a high standard.

Staff told us that they were pleased with the improvements to the premises and recognised the benefit of keeping materials and the premises in good working order.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The management team had a good understanding of quality assurance. They had worked hard to increase staffs understanding of self evaluation and working towards a shared vision. The staff were more reflective of their practice and were working together to ensure better outcomes for children. Each playroom had worked well to achieve their goals and had a good base to focus on further enhancement.

The seniors roles within the playrooms were more established and they had taken on more responsibilities. For those new to the role, support was provided.

The systems used to monitor and audit the quality of service provided had supported the positive changes, found at this inspection. Management shared that they had made some changes to the tools used, going forward. For example, when observing staff practice to make it more meaningful to support their development needs.

The service had further enhanced consultation with staff and parents. They had found the feedback provided had helped to influence the quality of service being provided. The service plans to further enhance parental and staff involvement in the service.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 4.3 Staff deployment

The staff team had continued to work well and drive forward positive changes. This included working together as a team and within the playrooms. Staff were at different stages of their careers, with some staff doing further training and others new to the role.

Staff used new learning to enhance children's experiences. For example, forest schools sessions now being provided and children learning to ride bikes through the play on pedals scheme. Staff communicated well, shared tasks and the daily routine had a better flow. Having now created a nurturing and caring environment, they should focus on planning how to enhance children's play and learning.

Staff interactions were caring, kind and loving towards the children. They need to be mindful of their interactions to support and challenge children's thinking and learning. Further development on staff communications for example, on high order thinking skills would be beneficial.

Over all staff team and deployment working well.

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

To keep children safe and secure, the provider needs to ensure appropriate safety measures and infection prevention and control measures are in place. This should include but is not limited to.

- The kitchen is secured so that children do not have access to hazardous materials.
- Consider the location of equipment in courtyard to reduce likelihood of children climbing over fence.
- Nappy changing facilities follow good practice guidance.
- Staff facilities are clean and tidy.
- Cleaning products are used following manufactures guidelines.
- Touch points are clean and if needed repainted.
- Areas used less often or behind units are cleaned regularly.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe.' (HSCS 5.19) and 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.' (HSCS)5.24'

This area for improvement was made on 23 August 2023.

Action taken since then

On arrival at the service we had a tour around the premises. We found significant improvements throughout the premises. This included new flooring and refurbished nappy changing area. All the areas identified at the last inspection had been addressed. **As a result, this area for improvement had been met.**

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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - Good

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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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