

Law Primary School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Law Primary School
Lawhill Road
Law
Carluke
ML8 5HA

Telephone: 01698 350816

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 24 January 2018

Service provided by:
South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003481

Care service number:
CS2003015309

About the service

Law Primary School Nursery Class is registered to provide day care to a maximum of 50 children age 3 to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery class is part of Law Primary School, based in the village of Law, near Carlisle, South Lanarkshire.

Sessional places are offered during term time. The provider is South Lanarkshire Council.

The building provides well-resourced playrooms and outdoor areas for the age range of children who attend. In addition office, cloakroom, kitchen, gym and staff facilities are available. The service is close to shops, local amenities and bus routes.

The aim of the service is to provide a caring, stimulating environment that nurtures inquisitiveness, imagination and enthusiasm.

What people told us

Over the 2 days of our inspection, approximately 96 children used the service. We observed children enjoying their play and saw they enjoyed being there. The children were confident happy and engaged. They described what they had been learning about and showed us what they enjoyed.

Carers include parents, guardians and relatives. They do not include care staff.

We gathered the view of 27 parents/carers of children using the service. Eleven carers' returned care standard questionnaires and 16 parents took part in the inspection. All parents told us they were happy with the care and support provided and that their children enjoyed attending. Some parents wanted to be kept more up to date and be given more information about e.g. staff changes, the Forest school initiative and changes in the routine. Parental comments included:

"I am confident to leave my child in the staffs care as I know my child is well looked after".

"My child has settled well into nursery with help and reassurance from staff".

"The range of activities are good but the nursery does not take into consideration the cost of uniform and t-shirts that are constantly stained they should invest in proper coverings".

"My child's keyworker left and another member of staff left and we were not informed of this. My child became very unsettled and experienced a few unsettled nights. I am aware that staff were aware of this prior to school holidays, it would have been better practice to inform us of the changes to better prepare my child. The loss of this member of staff has had a significant impact. The structure at the beginning of the sessions has changed which again I am unsure if this is because staff changes".

"Wonderful nursery".

"Our child is enjoying their second year and is growing in confidence every day".

"My child particularly likes the outdoor activities, unfortunately the staff who did the Forest schools has moved so my child will not experience this for this term".

"I am of the opinion the loss of two staff without a replacement could have been dealt with more efficiently".

"Children are out in the garden, even in the rain".

We have discussed these points with the management team who agreed to take these forward. We have advised them to take further steps to allay parental concerns.

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 and quality assurance paperwork. These 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	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Particular strengths were the amount of free play offered and the drive of the management and staff team to progress the service.

We saw happy, confident, independent children involved in a range of play activities. Free play happened for most of the session meaning a child led approach to early learning and childcare was promoted. Children sought staffs support as required. Staff listened to what children had to say and respected and acted on their views. Children's success was recognised and celebrated. Staff applied the wellbeing indicators of (SHANARRI) from the national framework 'getting it right for every child', and incorporated the language of the wellbeing indicators into everyday activities and experiences.

In accordance with their development plan, health, wellbeing and safety were given significant importance. Staff encouraged and supported children to be healthy. Children had access to outdoor play and used these areas regularly. Staff were stationed here as part of the routine and the staff plan to extend the time children spend here. The natural environment provided children with a range of interesting areas to freely explore. We discussed with staff how to extend the amount of time children spend outdoors. More experiences are planned as part of the Forest School initiative and evaluations have been carried out.

Tracking records and reports ensured each child's learning story could be followed. We looked at learning journals and discussed these with the staff. Staff had identified these for improvement. We provided ideas about how to streamline documentation given the extended hours of care provided, duties implemented away from caring for the children and the working patterns of staff.

There were opportunities for the staff team to discuss children, their needs and how they could be supported to continue to achieve. The management and staff team were aware of strengths and where to make improvements. They understood the aims of the service and were confident in carrying out their role. They had identified areas of improvement and were in progress of using 'how good is our early learning and childcare' to evaluate aspects of the service. We found that the whole staff team have worked extremely hard to evaluate and reflect how well the service has performed.

The staff team should continue to provide a quality care service.

What the service could do better

Staff have worked hard to ensure that the play children experience is child led.

Although the amount of free play offered in each session was beneficial, at times the play was noisy and hectic. Some spaces that were not used as well as others and some play areas would have been better placed elsewhere. To ensure the environment always provides best outcomes for children and staff, the whole staff team should:

- Utilise better, all areas and space available including outdoors.
- Ensure the space provides more suitable areas for children to experience relaxing and quiet activities.
- Further involve the children in the planning of any changes to the way the space and play areas are situated, set up and used. See recommendation one.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The environment should always provide best outcomes for children and staff. All areas should be used and free flow to the outdoor play area should be fluid. Children should experience relaxing and quiet activities and be fully involved in planning for changes about the use of space and play areas.

National care standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 13: improving the service.

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
26 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
1 Sep 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
9 Oct 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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