

Clever Clogs Childcare Centre Day Care of Children

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Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 11 May 2017

Service provided by:
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Partnership

Service provider number:
SP2011011687

Care service number:
CS2011300859

About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 10 August 2012.

Clever Clogs Childcare Centre is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 54 children under the age of eight years, of whom no more than 36 are less than two years of age. The nursery is on the outskirts of Kelty. The property was previously a dwelling house and has been converted to a high standard. The large garden to the rear of the premises provides ideal space for physical and energetic play as well as many opportunities for learning about the natural World. The service aims to offer a high quality childcare and education in a cosy home from home environment.

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). Set up by 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

During our visit we observed the children in all rooms, while they were out in the garden and for part of the preschool scheduled trip to the local woodland area. In general we found that children's experiences were very positive in the service. Children had enough time to play and explore their environments and spend time interacting with their peers.

We sent 24 Care Standards Questionnaires to the manager to give to parents of children who attended the service. We received 19 completed questionnaires. All 19 parents strongly agreed that overall they were happy with the quality of care their child received in this service. Some parents left comments which included:

'My little girl loves coming to the nursery. She is always happy when I come to collect her and the staff are always there to tell me how her day has been. I am particularly impressed that she can talk about what she has been learning. I also love the regular emails which keep me up to date.'

'Clever Clogs has been the closest thing to a second home for both my children. They have been like family. They always keep me informed of my child's progress. They have so many activities on offer, including Eco groups and activities for parents to get involved in - but they don't make you feel guilty if you are working and can't go. My child is always smiling when I pick him up. He is also filthy from being outside, again I love this as he has had fun. The staff are friendly, kind, well-organised and have helped me to get my child to eat more.'

'Clever Clogs is an excellent nursery. The management and communication is of a very high standard. Both our children have benefited greatly from their time there.'

Self assessment

We did not request a self assessment from the provider. We looked at the services' internal development plan and discussed this with the management team.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The team had worked hard to continue to provide a child-centred service. Going the 'extra mile' for families was a regular occurrence. Staff had developed strong bonds with children and mutually respectful relationships were observed. Knowing children well enabled the team to offer individualised support and care. One example of how staff helped children to achieve was when they made changes to the furniture in the room and made it possible for babies to be mobile in the garden when they indicated that they wanted to move around. This contributed to children learning to walk.

Although a daily routine existed this was flexible. A particular strength we identified was when a newer child did not want lunch with the first group. He was permitted to play in the garden a little longer until he was ready to come inside. This respected the child's choice and ensured his emotional wellbeing.

Children were empowered, included and learnt responsibility by being part of groups like the eco committee. One child proudly told us that he and his dad helped with the litter picking project. He clearly recalled this experience understood the part he played in contributing to this community project.

Very good outdoor play, exploration and learning opportunities remained. The children relished the freedom to choose to play inside or outside. Regular woodland sessions enabled children to build resilience through spending prolonged periods outdoors, work together and problem solve. The gardens provided appropriate challenge and creative play opportunities. The team confidently encouraged children to assess and explore risks which helped them to find out more about their capabilities. This gave children responsibility and freedom with guidance to experiment, learn naturally through play and learn from mistakes.

Staff practice was of a high standard. They enhanced their knowledge through training and using best practice documents to assess the impact of their work. Staff applied their knowledge and skills well which we confirmed through our observations and conversations. Thoughtful staff interactions coupled with helpful instructions resulted in a well-balanced support network for children which increased their independent learning.

The management team empowered staff to use their professional judgement to decide when to interact and when to step back to avoid stifling natural play and discovery. Children learnt through exploration, working with others and by repeating tasks until they were satisfied. This contributed to children becoming confident individuals and successful learners.

What the service could do better

We found that there had been a lapse in two staff member's Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration. We informed the manager that a system needed to be in place to check the status of staff registration regularly. We received confirmation that this was being addressed. See recommendation one.

We advised the service to ensure that all snacks, meals and puddings were in line with current early years nutritional guidelines. A substituted item which was received in a shopping delivery resulted in some puddings being higher in sugar than staff ordered. We advised the manager that if this happened again that fruit would be the best alternative. Changes were made to menus on the day we visited which reassured us that this was being addressed.

During lunch we noted that, at times, staff attention was taken away from the youngest children. We discussed with the manager that all children should have a consistently high quality experience, even at busy meal times. She agreed to ensure that either more staff were available at meal times or create smaller groups.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The provider should ensure that staff are registered with the appropriate professional body.

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 12: Confidence in Staff.

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	
18 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
8 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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