

# Kirkhill Nursery School Day Care of Children

Rashierigg Road  
Broxburn  
EH52 6AW

Telephone: 01506 853821

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 12 October 2017

**Service provided by:**  
West Lothian Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002601

**Care service number:**  
CS2003017495

## About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service operates from an individual nursery building located within the grounds of Kirkhill Primary School in Broxburn, West Lothian. It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children aged 3 years to entry into primary school.

Other conditions are:

Staffing ratios as stated in the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years must be maintained at all times.

A minimum of two adults must be present at all times.

The nursery is provided by West Lothian Council. Overall management responsibility lies with the head teacher of the primary school, with operational responsibility designated to a Principal teacher. The nursery is currently staffed with 0.5 nursery teacher, and a staff team of three practitioners and one part time allocated pupil support worker.

The nursery mission statement, values and aims and objectives have recently been revisited.

The mission statement for the school and nursery is "Playing, Growing, Learning Together"

The aims are based on the well-being indicators and include:

"Keep ourselves and others **safe** in a safe environment for learning  
Keep ourselves **healthy** so that our brains and bodies are ready to learn  
Never stop trying to **achieve** our best  
Make sure everyone feels welcome, secure and valued in a **nurturing** environment....."

Kirkhill Nursery School is registered to care for a maximum of 40 children aged 3 years to entry into primary school, Monday to Friday.

The accommodation included an entrance /cloakroom area, utility room, one large and one small playroom, a quiet/sensory room, office space, kitchen and toilet facilities. There was a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

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

The children present during our inspection were happy and settled in the nursery. They played indoors and outdoors during the session, choosing and engaging with the range of activities available to them. Outdoors, staff supported children's learning in managing risk, for example the decked area which became slippery when wet was not 'out of bounds' to the children but children learned that extra care was needed if they decided to play there.

We saw some children enjoyed exploring and experimenting with loose parts and water hoses, allowing them to reflect on what they had learned from a recent visit by the fire service and to develop their own imaginative play.

Children enjoyed helping and being responsible in nursery.

"We are helping with the snack today...you can have crackers and cheese and grapes"

Children were busy in the arts and crafts area, where they explored paints, craft, water play and playdough. They had fun chatting together about their activities.

"The water is blue today and it is very full..."

"I think that this stone will sink because it is heavy"

Several children played together with playdough and one child demonstrated kindness and generosity by automatically sharing her playdough with another child who came to join in. She made sure that the child had enough dough to make something with."

"Look at my butterfly! it can fly..."

"I can roll this in my hands to make a snake, but when it gets too thin it will snap off."

Parents/carers gave very positive feedback about their experiences of the service. They felt welcomed into nursery confirmed that they had good relationships with staff and that they felt that they played an active role in their children's nursery experiences. They told us of the benefits of attending the nursery PEEPS groups, (Parents Early Education Partnership). This parenting programme was very popular with parents who told us,

"It helped me as a new parent to the service get to know other parents and the staff."

" I appreciate the opportunity to have 1-1 time with my child."

"I see great benefits for my child...he re-enacts story-telling to his little sister, clearly role modelling the staff."

"I would particularly like to mention the 'ready, steady nursery programme...It was invaluable in helping children to have a smooth transition into nursery. My child spoke continually about his nursery in the lead up to him starting and his settling-in process was so easy."

"It's all about the children here."

Parents/carers who returned our questionnaires commented,

"I think this nursery ticks all the boxes for my children. The staff are always helpful and friendly, make sure my children are welcome and safe. I would like to mention XXXXX, one member of staff, who has worked with all of my children....she has always made my kids welcome and I have full trust in her ability when it comes to the care of the kids in the nursery."

Other feedback included,

"My child has just moved on to P1 from nursery, he benefited hugely from his time in nursery and loved his time there! My youngest has just started and wants to go all day, every day. She loves all the staff."

"My child enjoys all aspects of nursery and is keen to join in all activities on offer. He has gained a good understanding of healthy eating, (now loves cucumber, broccoli, custard) and personal safety, (through local walks and forest activities). The nursery works very well with the community such as the Family Centre, Library etc. The staff are all welcoming, especially when my 2 year old runs in and starts to play!"

"The nursery were very supportive when we told them at our visit that we wanted my son to have a deferred entry. They helped him adjust to being the oldest and the helper in the nursery. He is also enjoying getting different things to do once or twice per week, for example writing; helping with number games and collecting items from 'big school'."

One parent commented that her child needed more support with toileting and she would like to see a better balance between encouraging independence and ensuring on-going personal hygiene is managed.

All feedback was discussed with the senior management team as a part of feed-back to the inspection and where further action is required, we are confident that the service will take the necessary steps.

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment document from the service. They provided detailed information about what they thought that the service did well, and provided some information about areas planned for improvement.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

## What the service does well

Parents /carers had a high level of confidence and trust in the work of the service.

They confirmed how well their children settled into nursery and their progress over time. Families were clearly involved in nursery life. They though communication was very good and particularly valued the daily feedback their children's interests during the session.

The service had a strong focus on providing family learning opportunities. Examples included very well attended PEEPS groups and the Ready, Steady Nursery programme, supporting the transition of children starting nursery. Many parents had been accredited for their learning through the PEEPS programme and they were excited about the introduction of 'Baby PEEPS'. The 'Kirkhill café', provided opportunities for parents/carers to meet together in school. 'Stay and play' and 'sharing our learning' initiatives encouraged shared approaches to children's learning and families valued the early level 'family learning packs' with activities they could do with their children.

Children benefited from health and well-being programmes including tooth brushing, healthy eating, physical activity and outdoor learning. Established protocols were in place for managing accidents and incidents and for the administration of medication. Staff were aware of their responsibilities in relation to child protection and had regular training to keep their skills up to date. Systems were in place for referring children who required additional support and care plans established. Staff accessed training regularly to help them meet individual needs and to work alongside other professionals.

Staff had created a caring and nurturing approach with a very good programme of activities and experiences to support their learning. E-learning journals were just about to be launched with families and the sample we viewed, showed meaningful observations, children's achievements, progress and next steps.

The senior management team provided strong and supportive leadership. They clearly recognised the importance of the school within the community and the influence they could have in building confidence and competence in children and families. They were approachable, enthusiastic and encouraging, leading by example and promoting the skills and abilities of others. The process of achieving improvement through self-evaluation was well established.

The recent review of the school and nursery mission statement; key values and aims and objectives evidenced that consultation was embedded in practice and that the views and suggestions of children, families and other stakeholders were valued and respected.

## What the service could do better

Currently, nursery staff have a wide range of different experiences, qualifications and skill sets. Some are very well established in the nursery and some are still adjusting and adapting from other care/education backgrounds. With this in mind, we agreed with the service that it was important to monitor the rate of change and development within the service to ensure that all staff can be fully involved and can contribute to on-going changes.

Supporting staff development and building confidence through professional discussions, training, involvement and leadership opportunities will lead to a competent and consistent approach across the whole staff team, which will clearly impact on the quality of outcomes for children. From our discussions with the senior management team, we were reassured that they had already considered a variety of ways to provide sufficient levels of individual support and developmental opportunities to take this forward.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
28 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
30 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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