

Poppies Pre-School Ltd

Day Care of Children

The Old Surgery
Blackiemuir Avenue
Laurencekirk
AB30 1DX

Telephone: 01561 376274

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 27 November 2017

Service provided by:
Poppies Pre-School Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2006008567

Care service number:
CS2006134446

About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Poppies Pre-School Ltd moved to a new location in February 2017 to 'The Old Surgery' Blackiemuir Avenue, Laurencekirk. It is registered to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 42 children at any one time aged from birth to those not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than nine may be under two years of age. The service supports a Froebelian ethos with aims and objectives which included; 'The child is at the heart of our nursery. We nurture each child in our care by providing an environment which is calm and homely'.

The building is on one floor with direct access to the garden to the rear where children can access the garden to the side of the property. There are two playrooms which are used flexibly to meet children's individual needs and capabilities. Children have access to the kitchen area for snack. There are also toilets, a nappy change area, a quiet room and a cloak room. The local and wider community is also utilised well, for example, the local woodlands, library, shops and care home.

We are carrying out a pilot using the Short Observational Framework for Inspection (SOFI 2) tool. The tool supports inspectors to carry out focussed observations of children's experiences while at nursery. We carried out a SOFI 2 observation as part of this inspection which has informed our findings. The findings are threaded throughout the report.

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.

Please note that all parents and carers will be referred to as 'parents' throughout the report.

What people told us

We found children to be comfortable, happy and confident in the nursery. They relished the play opportunities and utilised most areas of the gardens and rooms. Children were able to move resources around to suit their needs, play with a mixture of friends, help younger children and develop their skills. Some children enjoyed showing us their folders which held information and photographs of their learning. They were able to recall information, learning and the positive praise they received from staff. Children's interactions with staff were mutually respectful and helpful throughout our visit. We found the team were very enabling in their interactions with children.

We sent out 12 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to parents of children who used the service. We received nine completed questionnaires before the inspection. All nine parents 'strongly agreed' that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in this service.

We also spoke with some parents as they collected their children. We have included some comments below which represent the parents' views:

'Our family has used this service for two years. Both children have loved the experiences within the nursery. They treat each child as an individual and caters very well for their needs. The transition for my daughter going to school was excellent. When my son was having some trouble with eating the nursery helped him so much to overcome this. They worked in partnership with us. A fantastic nursery for children and great communication with parents'.

'Probably one of the easiest forms I have ever had to complete. This is my second child to attend the nursery and things are always exciting and creative for the children. I really liked the old poppies but I am so impressed with the layout of the new building. My child loves baking and being outdoors. It is unfortunate that the school environments are so different to the environment they start off in. I am always comfortable with the team and my child adores them. My older child in primary 3 still wishes he could go back there'.

'The level of care our child receive is outstanding. They are engaged in an impressive range of stimulating and relevant activities and staff are always keen to nurture individual interests. Every child is an individual and poppies strongly support this, providing encouragement and opportunities for children to learn in their preferred style. The staff are exceptional; warm, friendly and approachable. Sharon's leadership and up to date knowledge of all things 'early years' provide a sound foundation for her staff to build on and effectively support the youngsters in their care. We trust Poppies implicitly which is hugely important when leaving our most precious little ones in their care'.

'Poppies house is a caring and loving environment for my child to spend her day. It is a very relaxed and warming nursery to come to at any time of the day. All the staff will be able to tell me something that my child has achieved that day. I feel my child is given brilliant opportunities to grow and learn daily as the play pattern changes to suit each individual child. Debbie the cook does an amazing job making delicious and hearty meals and exciting snacks. The outdoors area is exceptional, and the learning adventure continues to excel monthly, as the staff are so passionate about learning outdoors'.

'Sharon and her team are absolutely wonderful and incredibly inspirational in terms of child care and child development. We are lucky to have such a fantastic child care facility on our doorstep. They are a dedicated team, constantly looking to improve and develop the environment for the benefit of the children. I wouldn't wish for my children to go anywhere else and I am delighted that my kids have such a positive and enhancing beginning to their early years care'.

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the provider. We looked at the service's own improvement plan and discussed this with the senior management team.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support

6 - Excellent

Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children were being cared for in an excellent service which recognised and supported their individual needs very well. Systems to identify and ensure children's needs were met were exceptional. Staff understood and supported the unique circumstances for every child in the service. Children's verbal and non-verbal cues were highly respected, helping them to feel included and responsible for their learning and development. Children were at the heart of all planning and this was focussed on developing skills for life. They were recognised as capable and responsible and were developing a love of learning and nature through play experiences.

Interactions between children, families and staff in the service were warm and nurturing. A welcoming, open and honest ethos ensured everyone felt involved. Staff listened carefully to the views of families and this impacted very positively on how the service improved. Parents confirmed they supported the ethos of the service which valued play and positive relationships. Joining in the nursery sessions and information sessions were some ways parents gained a deeper understanding of children's learning experiences and outcomes.

Highly skilled staff interacted with children in a way that recognised the potential learning, emotional benefit and value they could add at opportune times. The excellent, high quality interactions observed contributed to children's emotional wellbeing and confidence. Children's experiences and contributions were valued above routines which were altered when needed.

The extremely motivated staff team had built strong attachments with children and trusting relationships with parents. As a result children were confident, articulate and able and showed a sense of ownership and pride in 'their nursery'. Some children showed us around 'their garden' and explained what they used the areas and resources to accomplish in their play, for example practicing fire safety by recreating the fire pit out of large blocks.

The 'home from home' style of environment supported children to feel nurtured and safe. The move to the new building; enhancements; approaches to encouraging children to play through free flow play opportunities had all been well considered. Children were able to access resources, peers and experiences across playrooms and outdoors which reflected both their age and stage of development. Experiences available helped children to remain active, healthy and challenged.

The passionate team had worked hard to further enhance the outdoor area to offer extended opportunities for children to explore the natural world; work on skills (such as tree climbing) and be able to negotiate risk in play. This demonstrated that children were viewed as able decision makers who could follow their internal motivations and curiosities in a meaningful way. The outside areas contributed to children learning to keep safe, build resilience and persevere in a naturally changing environment. It was evident that staff remained confident and dedicated to their core principles and beliefs of how young children learn through the learning experiences they offered and supported.

What the service could do better

We supported the provider's own areas for development within their improvement plans. We suggested that literacy and mark making opportunities could be made more obvious to the children when outside. Although we

could see children could ask for these, it could make naturally occurring opportunities more likely to be followed through if materials were visible.

We also suggested that all children's personal plan information be streamlined in all folders (including location within folders) to make it easy for staff and new staff to gain relevant information on children in their care with ease.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings								
9 Mar 2016	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	6 - Excellent	Environment	6 - Excellent	Staffing	6 - Excellent	Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
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27 Feb 2014	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	6 - Excellent	Environment	6 - Excellent	Staffing	6 - Excellent	Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
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14 Aug 2012	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	6 - Excellent	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
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Date	Type	Gradings	
25 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
30 Sep 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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