

BASK (Before & After School Kilmacolm) Day Care of Children

St. Columba's Junior School
Knockbuckle Road
Kilmacolm
PA13 4EQ

Telephone: 07984 149 544

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 June 2022

Service provided by:
Andrew McEwing trading as BASK
(Before & After School Kilmacolm)

Service provider number:
SP2020013600

Service no:
CS2020381521

About the service

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 22 October 2020.

BASK (Before & After School Kilmacolm) is based within St. Columba's Junior School. The service has use of a hall, gym hall and the surrounding outdoor grounds. The main hall is bright with a range of play equipment, an area set up for snack and children have easy access to toilet facilities. The service is located within walking distance of local schools, shops, and bus routes.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 primary school age children at any one time. Adult: child ratios will be a minimum of 3 years and over -1:8 if the children attend more than 4 hours per day, or; 1:10 if the children attend for less than 4 hours per day.

If all children are over 8 years old and over 1:10. The service will operate during school term time Monday to Friday between the times of 07:30 to 09:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00.

During the operating times the service will have the exclusive use of the Livingstone Hall. From 1 to 12 August 2022 the service will operate from 8am to 6pm during the summer holidays.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 22 June 2022. The inspection was carried out by two early learning and childcare inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the service registered.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with and observed children using the service
- contacted families through email to gather their views
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were confident, happy, nurtured and supported throughout their time at the setting.
- Planning approaches were child centred and responsive to children's interests and experiences.
- Premises were well maintained and accessible to all.
- Staff encouraged and promoted outdoor play and physical activities.
- The service had a shared vision, values and aims that were supporting positive outcomes for all.
- Management were very visible and engaging with children and families and worked alongside and in partnership with the staff in ensuring they delivered a quality service.
- Staff have different interests and strengths which they utilise to the benefit of children.
- Staff were caring towards children and worked very well together.

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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator - 1.1 - Nurturing care & support

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, an evaluation of very good applies to a performance that demonstrates major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

Children were confident, happy, nurtured and supported throughout their time at the setting. On the day of the inspection staff had arranged a beach party and had taken children's views and ideas into account for example, outdoor and indoor games, setting up a mocktail station where children had the opportunity to make a variety of different drinks, children were excited and enthusiastic to take part in all activities on offer. Children accessed the experiences independently and were supported by staff when required.

Children were encouraged to be responsible, and respectful to their peers and staff. This was supported by the warm and caring relationships staff had with all the children, resulting in children feeling included and valued.

Through recent consultation with parents and children the service had developed healthier snack options for children attending the service, this included funky fruit days where children got the option to try new fruit they hadn't had before for example pineapple and pomegranate. Children were keen to tell us about this and we observed all children enjoying the options on offer during inspection, parents also commented that their feedback from recent survey had been taken into account they told us,

"BASK listen to parents' views, an example of this being the introduction of a lot more fruit into the food offering at the request of parents".

"They have taken on board parents' comments and made changes to things".

The service has recently developed a handbook for parents and children joining the service, this was following a suggestion from staff, this was viewed as a positive introduction for children and families joining the service giving them some valuable information on how the service delivers fun experiences, healthy snacks, and key information on who will be caring for them.

Children took part in circle time each day, this enabled staff to discuss the activities on offer, share news and check in with children on how they were feeling. Children were respectful at listening to others, taking turns and also developing relationships through valuing all contributions shared.

Each child had an individual file which held registration, medication, children's care plans and all about me information which contained relevant core information about children's individual needs. Some plans detailed strategies on how best to support children with individual needs. Through discussions with staff, it was very evident staff knew children well and were responsive to their needs. Parents told us, "Both my children have been very happy at BASK and I have no concerns at all about their needs being met. There is regular two-way communication between us and the staff and any issues/concerns are resolved quickly and effectively".

To ensure a consistent approach to documenting children's needs and how these will be met in line with current legislation and guidance we have asked the service to continue to monitor and streamline recording methods to reflect 'how' staff are meeting and supporting individual needs.

Also ensure these are being reviewed every 6 months or if any changes occur during this time.

We sampled administration of medication forms and storage of medication and found these were in the process of being updated, management should ensure medication is being audited in line with current best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services'

Quality Indicator - 1.3 - Play & Learning

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, an evaluation of very good applies to a performance that demonstrates major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

The service was set up with a variety of play-based learning, we found planning approaches were child centred and responsive to children's interests and experiences. Children could free flow between the main hall, outdoors and the gym hall, most children were very good at communicating with staff while moving between areas. Children could choose from a wide range of resources all suitable for their age. The service has a big focus on physical and outdoor play with much of the focus being about having fun. We observed children engaging in conversations with staff, having fun with friends and developing relationships. Children were continually given praise and encouragement by staff all helping to create a supportive caring environment.

We observed children having opportunities to enjoy one on one time with staff as well as in groups. Children were respectful of boundaries and self-regulating in their behaviours. Staff discussed building on children's ideas and interests for example, playing chess, Pokémon cards and baking. The large outdoor space allowed for children to explore, play, and engage in some risky play. Following feedback from parents and children the service has arranged two weeks during the summer term which includes day trips to Blair Drummond, Finlystone country park, the science centre and also days within the service where they plan to-do a variety of activities. This has given all children attending the opportunity to experience something new and build on interests.

Children would benefit from having a dedicated quiet area established which staff had discussed at inspection and plan to develop further in the next year, Parent's spoke about children given support to complete homework and that there is a particularly good variety of activities that consider children interest when at the service parents commented,

"I particularly like the range of activities on offer, and the ability for children to play both indoors and outside, and have the opportunity to play sports in the games hall".

" There are a range of activities for the children to choose from. The variety of these, and the ability for my son to select how he spends his afternoons, makes BASK a very engaging and enjoyable experience".

"I feel the needs of my child are met entirely. My son has the ability to play, as well as managing to find time to do his homework".

To build on children's experiences further in play and learning the team would benefit from accessing the Play work principles through Play Scotland website which gives further ideas, theory, and links to best practice guidance.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator - 2.2 Children's experience high quality facilities.

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, an evaluation of very good applies to a performance that demonstrates major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

The service operated from a hall situated within St Columba's junior school, this room offered ample space for the number of children attending. Premises were well maintained, and children used toilet facilities, that were clean and easily accessible and close to the hall. Children had daily access to spacious outside play spaces and used the school gym hall. The service had ample storage facilities, and resources were labelled and visible to children which they were given on request. Staff had an area to store food and prepare snacks, and children had access to fresh water throughout their time. We found the facilities were spacious and met all the children's needs well.

The hall was well ventilated, in a good state of repair and furniture was appropriately sized for the children accessing the service. Staff demonstrated very good practice in infection prevention and control for example, they modelled good hand hygiene and children were regularly reminded to wash hands at appropriate times such as before and after eating which encouraged them to develop healthy habits. Tables were appropriately cleaned before children had their snack. These infection control measures were all helping to keep the environment clean and children healthy and safe.

Outdoors children enjoyed exploring the large play area, developing skills as they climbed on trees, had space to run and play. Children could also choose from a selection of resources such as bats and balls, skipping ropes, the parachute, and footballs. Children also accessed the gym hall, where they could play indoor football, bounce on the large mats, play in groups or on their own. All areas accessed by the children were effectively resourced and took account of children's stages of development and promoted curiosity, imagination, and energetic play. Parents commented, "I can honestly say that I'm grateful to BASK for creating such a caring and fun environment which enables me to have peace of mind that my son is safe and enjoying himself so that I can concentrate on my work without any concern".

"I particularly like the range of activities on offer, and the ability for children to play both indoors and outside and have the opportunity to play sports in the games hall".

To make sure children were safe and secure, staff conducted daily checks of both the indoor and outdoor environment and risk assessed all areas. There were clear policies and procedures in place to ensure consistent approaches across the setting.

We discussed with management strategies around monitoring children's movements, we could see the use of walkie talkies was supporting staff to communicate, we would ask staff to continue to monitor children's movements when arriving and accessing the toilets.

Some of the children's artwork was displayed which celebrated their achievements. Management and staff should continue to review ways to display information, and children's work.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator - 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are well led

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, an evaluation of very good applies to a performance that demonstrates major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

Through discussions with management, staff, children, and parents we could evidence the service had a shared vision, values and aims that were supporting positive outcomes for all. Through providing a nurturing, caring environment with stimulating and creative activities for children. Management sought children and parents' views through questionnaires and a suggestions box, results were shared with parents and children, action was taken to make improvements. Parents spoke positively in how their views were taken forward especially in relation to improving snack. One parent commented "In the last year, they have made an effort to make snacks healthier".

The newly established website was informative and easy to access enabling parents to view the services policies, procedures, newsletters, results from parent survey and also information about staff. Management was very visible and engaging with children and families working alongside and in partnership with the staff in ensuring they delivered a quality service. The manager knew each child individually and was knowledgeable about each child's individual needs, likes, interest and abilities. We found supporting positive links and good communication between the service and families was evidenced as a strength, parents' comments included; "I feel that I am well informed about my children's time in BASK. The staff are always on hand to give an update of their day, they also contact me directly with phone calls, emails, and text messages, when necessary. All the staff are very approachable. General information is also sent out via emails and on the BASK Facebook page".

"As a before and after school club, I think they have got this just right, they engage with parents regarding activities which I think are fun and interesting for the children. It is important to me that BASK allows children to have downtime, which they would if they were at home and I think Bask achieves this well".

"They are always very happy to engage with me and always accommodate my requests".

"I speak to the manager most days at drop off and she is always very helpful, and my son loves her!".

"BASK is exceptionally well managed and the manager makes herself extremely visible, approachable and available. It is clear she cares about every child for whom she is responsible and undertakes her duties with the utmost professionalism and kindness".

"I feel BASK is very well managed and organised. I see the manager on a regular basis, and she is quick to respond if I message her".

Children benefited from a culture of continuous improvement and on-going development within the service. We found that the management team was effective and enthusiastic and had firmly embedded evaluation systems and processes in place, including an improvement plan and monitoring calendar. We found the manager and the provider had a shared vision and understanding in how the service was to run, which in turn was supporting positive outcomes for children and families as well as the whole staff team. Staff were motivated and told us they felt supported and valued by the manager and the provider, comments from staff included,

"I feel my ideas are always given a chance, resources are bought that are beneficial for the children whilst at BASK. Any concerns have been addressed whenever I have raised them".

"I feel very supported by our management team, and they are always available during my working hours. My manager is in the setting every day and offers all the staff help, guidance, support and advice as and when required".

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator - 4.3 Staff deployment

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, an evaluation of very good applies to a performance that demonstrates major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and families.

The service was appropriately staffed to meet the needs of children which ensured that ratios were met across the service. Children were cared for by a small well-established team and it was evident they were close, communicated well and had different personalities that complemented each other. Staff were utilising walkie talkies to enable children to free flow between spaces ensuring ratios and that children were accounted for at all times.

Children benefited from the staff having different interests and strengths which they utilised to enhance children's experiences. Staff were caring towards children and respectful in their engagement with each other and the children which supported a positive ethos. Staff listened to children's views and helped them to develop their play. The team provided continuity of care and developed positive relationships with children and families. Parents told us

"I think that BASK have a very dedicated team who have the children's needs and interests at the centre of all that they do. The staff are very professional".

"I have the highest respect for the staff, they are all well trained and great with the kids".

"The staff are all excellent".

"The majority of parents who use BASK are obviously doing so due to work commitments. I can honestly say that I'm grateful to BASK for creating such a caring and fun environment which enables me to have peace of mind that my son is safe and enjoying himself so that I can concentrate on my work without any concern".

Regular staff meetings and one to one meetings were supporting the service and staff as individuals to continue in delivering a high-quality service. Staff meetings were used as a time to reflect as a team, share ideas and discuss any areas of improvement. Regular one to one meetings were enabling staff to discuss areas of development on an individual basis, any concerns or training. The management team would benefit from arranging training days to support staff further on their journey of development and improvement, focusing on key documents such as the new quality framework and playwork principles. This would enable them as a team to reflect and build on the quality service they are currently delivering and support them as a team moving forward.

Staff were safely recruited and were registered with SSSC to protect children and keep them safe from harm and abuse. Staff spoke positively about a supportive induction. This helped them develop their skills and feel part of the team. We discussed with management using the national induction resource to support staff further with the induction process.

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?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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