

Drumoak Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

James Gregory Road
Drumoak
Banchory
AB31 5DY

Telephone: 01330 700375

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

6 February 2019

Service provided by:

Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000029

Service no:

CS2016348766

About the service

Drumoak Primary School Nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate on 4 October 2016.

This service is provided by Aberdeenshire Council and is part of the Drumoak Primary School building.

The service is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of thirty children at any one time aged from 2 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service aims include:

- we will provide a safe, healthy, supportive and positive learning environment
- we will involve pupils, parents and the local community in the life and work of the school
- we will provide high quality learning and teaching to meet the needs of all our pupils
- all members of the school will be encouraged to achieve all they can. We will celebrate success.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

During our inspection visits there were between nine and 15 children present at the sessions. The children were relaxed in the setting and engaged with the choices of resources available.

The children enjoyed playing together and at times chose to play on their own. During the second morning of inspection the children enjoyed time spent in the gym hall when they talked about healthy bodies and hearts with the practitioner and were all enthusiastic about the activities.

Seven parents returned Care Standards Questionnaires before inspection and we had the opportunity to speak with a further three parents during our inspection. Parents told us that the service was welcoming and inclusive towards children and their families and some parents particularly enjoyed the stay 'n' play sessions when they could spend time in the service with their children.

Parents' comments included:

- "My child is very happy at nursery developing skills for example, crafting and physical activities."
- "There is always time/opportunity to speak with staff and there is a detailed plan available which shows the activities."
- "We love the Learning Journey information."

- "I would like there to be further emphasis on the outdoors and discussion of learning when the children get back to the nursery."
- "The service could use more electronic communications with parents, for example email or their Facebook page. Generally we're very happy with the care given in the setting."

Self assessment

We had not asked the service to complete a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. We looked at the service's own improvement plans and quality assurance processes. 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children received a very good quality of support from staff who took into account children's changing support needs which staff discussed with parents on a regular basis. Staff were knowledgeable about individual children's care and support and how children's needs had changed since they started with the service.

Each child had a personal plan record which indicated how staff met each child's changing support needs. The plans recorded this information in a clear and easy to read format. Plans were arranged effectively, information was easy to follow and implemented consistently by all staff. Children's care and support was right for them.

Staff maintained effective records and practice in relation to the administration of medication. Medication records reviewed were clear and included accurate symptoms.

Staff had good awareness of what made children vulnerable and in discussion demonstrated appropriated child protection knowledge about their procedure should they have a child protection concern.

Staff were respectful and responsive towards children and encouraged children to be kind towards each other and where appropriate to take turns and to share. This supported children's personal development including their social skills.

At the last inspection we recommended that in order to support children's individual learning and development needs, effective recording and planning systems needed to be in place. It was clear that children were involved in determining the direction of their learning and staff were responsive to children's choices and preferences. Planning was responsive to children's developmental needs and interests.

Staff continued to review and amend the systems they were implementing in order that they were as efficient as possible.

Staff had processes in place which supported children and parents to make a smooth transition to primary school. Staff were currently reviewing and amending this process, with input from the local authority principal teacher, in order that it may start earlier in the school year 2019/20 and more comprehensively support children and families with the transition.

Staff supported children to be as independent as they could be which included during snack. Children were supported to take turns making snack, serving and tidying. Children enjoyed an unhurried snack in a relaxed atmosphere.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The nursery was accommodated within Drumoak Primary School. The purpose built one storey building had a secure nursery entry and outdoor space. Staff demonstrated appropriate practice and awareness when securing the exits and those who entered and exited the building; this promoted the safety of children.

Both indoors and outside staff cared for children in an environment where children were safe but not overly protected. Staff raised children's awareness of risk in an appropriate manner and supported children to take positive risks which enhanced the quality of their lives. This promoted children's decision making skills and developed their knowledge of acceptable personal risk.

Staff had arranged the playroom resources in a manner that encouraged children to explore and experiment. Staff supported children, where appropriate, to extend their learning and make good use of the readily available natural materials.

Indoors and the secure outdoor area had very good space for children to explore and investigate the environment and activities offered. Children had opportunities to be outside in the fresh air and to participate in a good range of activities that promoted a healthy lifestyle. Trips outside included a weekly walk to the local woods where the children spent most of the session exploring the natural environment.

We discussed ways in which the outdoor area could be further enhanced and staff confirmed that they were in the process of gathering child and parent feedback before purchasing further outdoor resources. Staff encouraged children and parents to be active participants in the decision.

Literacy and numeracy were embedded in the playroom and staff naturally extended children's learning in these areas throughout the sessions.

Children had use of the gym hall at least once a week where they enjoyed a range of physical activities whilst discussing with staff why it was good for our heart to pump faster.

Children's social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity were developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, which included using open-ended and natural materials.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff were kind, caring and nurturing towards the children using the service. All staff had warm interactions with the children and were appropriately responsive and involved with the children both when inside and outdoors.

Staff knew individual children well and were aware of children's individual personalities and behaviours. Staff naturally extended children's learning where appropriate and supported children to explore their environment and develop their ideas. Children had secure, trusting relationships with staff and were comfortable approaching staff when they had queries or needed comfort or support.

Children enjoyed unhurried snack times, with staff attentive to children's individual needs. Staff supported children to participate in conversation, taking into account children's individual stages of development and personalities.

Staff supported children in a way that was right for each child and interacted with children in a courteous and respectful manner. Through observation and conversation staff consulted children about what they wanted to learn, children's input was valued and influenced forward planning for the individual child and the nursery.

Staff recruitment records were not available, they were held centrally by Aberdeenshire Council. Staff were clear about their duties and responsibilities.

Staff were appropriately qualified for the roles they undertook, the lead practitioner held a BA in Childhood Practice, one practitioner held a Professional Development Award in Childhood Practice SCQF Level 8 and another held SVQ 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development and one in management. Staff were appropriately registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), this is the professional register for all social service workers.

Management supported a learning culture and staff were enthusiastic to undertake regular training and development both in respect of personal development and to better support children using the service. Staff discussed how training undertaken had improved their knowledge, promoted best practice and influenced good outcomes for children.

Staff currently undertook much of the completion of necessary records, for example children's assessment records, in their own time due to the time pressures during the working day. It would be beneficial to the service and the staff to have regular time agreed for the processing of this essential information.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Management and staff had effectively actioned the recommendations made at the last inspection and were enthusiastically building upon these improvements. For further information please refer to previous recommendations and references in the body of this report.

The staff team worked well together and we found this promoted positive relationships both within the team and between the staff, the children and families.

The lead practitioner and staff had been working closely with the head teacher and the local authority principal teacher to implement effective changes within the nursery service. In particular, staff had reviewed and improved their approach to curriculum planning and evaluation and they were now effectively undertaking observation, assessment and forward planning for each child's learning and development.

Each child's development and learning was shared with parents digitally, when parents logged into their child's Learning Journey and through discussion with staff.

Staff kept parents informed about what was going on in the service using a variety of methods. These included, a parent notice board with information about the plan for the week, important diary dates and showing how Curriculum for Excellence was linked to the planning which was then made more relevant with the inclusion of 'I Can' statements.

Children and parents feedback was gathered throughout the year and in an annual questionnaire. Staff were responsive to suggestions for improvement and were currently consulting children and parents about the purchase of new outdoor resources.

Staff together with the head teacher and principal teacher had completed an improvement plan for the nursery taking into account the recommendations from the last inspection. Descriptions of effectively implemented improvements have been included within the body of this report.

Staff were now exploring self evaluation using the best practice document 'How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare'. We discussed that the service had made key improvements which they had maintained and should continue to build upon.

The provider, manager and staff currently had a good foundation on which to build effective quality assurance strategies that involved everyone with an interest in the service. The systems were developed to demonstrate the link between identified improvement and the improvement of outcomes for children and families using the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

In order to support staff to meet children's individual learning and development needs, effective recording and planning systems need to be in place.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 5: Quality of Experience

This recommendation was made on 6 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Effective recording and planning systems were now in place and being implemented effectively to support children's individual learning and development needs. This recommendation has been actioned.

Recommendation 2

To improve outcomes for children the head teacher and staff should ensure effective quality assurance and evaluative systems are implemented.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 13: Improving the Service

This recommendation was made on 6 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Quality assurance systems were now being implemented which included an annual plan of key nursery events, timetable of training and development events and a nursery improvement plan. All of which were being effectively implemented. This recommendation has been actioned.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
19 Mar 2018	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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