

Care service inspection report

Quality themed inspection (day care for children)

Fossoway Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Drum
Kinross

Service provided by: Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number: SP2003003370

Care service number: CS2003016065

Inspection Visit Type: Unannounced

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and set out improvements that must be made. We also investigate complaints about care services and take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

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1 About the service we inspected

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

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

Fossoway Primary School Nursery was registered for a maximum of 20 children at any one time. The age range of children was from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery operates from a spacious, bright, open plan area within Fossoway Primary School. The accommodation is shared with children in the lower primary classes.

We carried out a 'themed' inspection. This targeted approach means that we looked at identified aspects focusing on children's experiences under each Quality Theme.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they get the best start in life, are ready to succeed and lead longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It's a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and how they can act to help deliver these improvements. GIRFEC is being threaded through all existing policy, strategy, and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the GIRFEC approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are - Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included - often referred to as SHANARRI.

What we did during the inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection. This was carried out by two inspectors. The inspection took place on Tuesday 19 April 2016 between 8:30am and 3:30pm. We gave feedback to the head teacher on 19 April 2016.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the completed annual return and self assessment forms that we asked the provider to complete and submit to us.

We sent ten care standards questionnaires to the head teacher to distribute to parents and carers. Parents and carers returned seven completed questionnaires before the inspection.

During this inspection process, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

We spoke with and observed:

- twenty-three children
- four parents/carers
- the head teacher
- two early childcare practitioners
- play assistant
- student
- development teacher.

We looked at:

- the quality improvement plan
- planning
- children's learning journals
- minutes of staff meetings
- parent and child questionnaires
- evidence of meetings with other professionals
- accident and incident records
- floor books
- staff induction
- staff's interactions with children
- the environment and equipment.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

We spent time talking to and observing the children as they played in the nursery as well as outside in the garden. All children were observed to be very confident, settled and engaged in the nursery. Below are some of their comments:

"We wash our hands before snack... to get the germs away."

"I'm making cakes for snack."

"I need to put them in the oven."

"I've got flowers and grass and I made mine blue."

"I am making a picture frame. We need to wear building goggles."

"We are making play dough. We are going to pretend it is cement."

"I've had my turn. It's now your turn, then [another child] needs to get a turn at mixing."

Taking carers' views into account

During the inspection we spoke to three parents and received seven parent questionnaires prior to the inspection. We have included parents' comments throughout this report.

Additional comments were:

"The nursery is fantastic. The only thing they could improve would be the outdoor environment, but they are already working on that."

"Mrs Forster and nursery team cannot do enough to help [my child]. Nothing but praise for Fossoway School."

"A very innovative team, know all the children, make a point of speaking to every parent; approachable and listen. Excellent."

"My daughter thoroughly enjoys her time at Fossoway Nursery and has built up good relationships with the staff and other children."

"The service has developed significantly and positively in the last three years or so"

"A new feature is show and tell, once a week. A very enabling way for them to build confidence; to chat about a favourite thing or event to a small group of peers. A happy, confident, achieving boy returns."

"The level of care and individual attention that my son has received from staff at Fossoway Nursery has been exemplary."

"I believe the head teacher truly has the best interests of each child at the heart of what they do."

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment document from the provider. We were satisfied with the way the provider completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under.

The provider identified what it thought the service did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The provider told us how the people who used the care service had taken part in the self assessment process.

2 The grades we awarded

We grade the quality of care and support, quality of the environment, quality of staffing and quality of management and leadership. In each case, we award a grade on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent.

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	5 - Very Good

3 Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We focused on how the team planned children's learning and shared this with children, parents and carers. We concluded that the service had sustained the very good standard of care identified at the last inspection.

Staff had a very good knowledge of each child and used this to support children effectively. Learning experiences were identified based on children's interests and developed in partnership with children. One parent commented: "I have never seen it so child led. They have covered some complex subjects". Floor books were well established which showcased children's learning and recorded their feedback along with that of parents and carers.

The service displayed information on the overall topics of interest in the nursery so parents and carers were kept up-to-date and could continue discussions at home. Parents told us they received good information about their child's learning, however, would appreciate "a little more detail about what they have actually been doing daily". They appreciated the Stay and Play sessions which gave them further insight into their child's time at nursery.

Children's individual achievements were recorded and shared with parents through learning jotters, where parents were actively encouraged to provide feedback. The service should ensure it dates children's next steps to help with the tracking of learning.

Grade

The quality of care and support is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

4 Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We focused on the quality of the environment and learning resources with a specific emphasis on the outdoor learning environment. We concluded that the service had sustained the very good standard in relation to this quality theme.

Children benefitted from having access to a large, safe, bright and spacious room which provided a range of play spaces which children accessed independently. A wide range of natural resources complemented other traditional toys and equipment.

The nursery is part of an open plan space shared with the primary 1 class room. We observed how this worked in practice and found it worked very well.

Children were kept healthy and active through daily access to the nursery garden which was of a very good quality. A mud kitchen had been introduced with the help of parents, which was popular with the children. The garden area continued to be developed with further introduction of literacy and numeracy to the environment.

One parent commented: "The nursery is well structured, has a great outdoor space and I am confident that the staff are preparing my daughter well for the transition to Primary 1".

Grade

The quality of environment is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

5 Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We focused on the quality of the staff induction and how staff interacted with children in the nursery. These areas were chosen due to the changes within the staff team since the last inspection. We concluded that the staffing of the nursery continued to be of a very good standard.

All staff had received a robust induction which was led by the head teacher. Staff discussed the content with us and we observed how settled the team were after a relatively short period of time. Relevant training was accessed as part of the induction process such as first aid and staff were supported to undertake formal qualifications where appropriate. Staff told us that they felt supported by the school management team and that they had worked hard together to ensure the high standards continued during changes to the staff team.

Children benefited from good quality nurturing interactions with staff. One parent commented: "The current team are happy, enthusiastic, working together as a team, confident that they are part of something good." This was evident from our observations. Staff used positive language with children in everything they did.

Grade

The quality of staffing is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

6 Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We focused on how the service ensured it continued to provide quality early learning and childcare and how leadership was promoted throughout the staff team. We concluded that the service had sustained the very good standard of management and leadership.

The service had a range of effective methods in place to assess the service and identify areas for development to ensure a quality service was provided. These included:

- observations of the service
- opportunities for staff discussion
- variety of meetings
- feedback from parents and carers
- develop plans
- access to a development teacher
- staff supervision.

These methods had enabled the service to identify areas of strengths and meaningful areas for development.

The head teacher had supported staff to take on specific leadership responsibilities within the nursery. These were based on staff interests and areas of expertise. Although this was at an early stage, it was already having a positive impact on the service and staff were committed to leading on their areas.

Grade

The quality of management and leadership is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

7 What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at our last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

8 What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at our last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

9 Complaints

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

10 Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

11 Additional Information

There is no additional information.

12 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
2 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and Leadership	5 - Very Good Not Assessed Not Assessed 5 - Very Good
22 Sep 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and Leadership	5 - Very Good 5 - Very Good 5 - Very Good 4 - Good

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