

Arnprior Nursery Day Care of Children

Arnprior
Stirling
FK8 3HA

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Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 February 2017

Service provided by:
Stirling Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002689

Care service number:
CS2003015599

About the service

Arnprior Nursery is a Stirling Council Nursery. It has a wide catchment area covering the villages of Arnprior, Kippen, Buchlyvie, Gargunnock and Port of Menteith.

The service links in with another Council Nursery at Croftamie. Both nurseries are integrated services.

Both Arnprior and Croftamie nurseries are currently led by an acting head of nursery who works between the two settings and is supported by an acting depute (peripatetic between both settings). There is a senior early childhood educator in each setting.

Arnprior Nursery is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 42 children aged over two years up to the age of 12 years and to a maximum of 32 primary school children during school holiday periods.

The nursery's vision, ethos and values, alongside their pedagogical approach is; "making learning visible ensures that Arnprior Nursery delivers high quality learning experiences that promote children's rights and the principles and design of Curriculum for Excellence."

We focussed on two aspects throughout each quality theme and these were:

- Care and support: How the service provided for children with additional support needs.
- Environment: How well the staff provided for children and families with additional support needs.

What people told us

Children:

During this inspection we focused our attention on children who had additional support needs. Their aged range from two years to primary school age. One of our inspection days was during the school holiday period. This gave us an opportunity to see all ages of children playing together.

The children were observed to be very happy in their surroundings.

Staff encouraged the children to play and interact with one another. They provided the children with an excellent selection of toys and resources that were appropriate for their interest and stage of development.

We noted the children enjoyed their lunch together and were encouraged by staff to talk to one another. This interaction supported the development of their social skills and provided an opportunity for enjoyment.

We could see that staff knew the children really well and understood their communication style and responded with care and attention.

Parents/carers comments:

"My child has support needs and uses a walker to assist his walking. The rooms in the nursery are wide and spacious as well as the long corridor. My child has plenty of space and freedom to explore the learning environment. My child has been able to access outside the nursery with ease. The nursery regularly assessed my child's needs in terms of accessibility. My child has a particular seat that he uses for snack and lunch, equipment to help him access the bathroom, a seat for the computer as well as equipment as part of his therapy programme. My child has always been included in the life of the nursery and has participated in sports activities, end of term celebrations and outings."

"As parents, the communication with us on all matters has been excellent. We are always consulted and what is best for our child has always been at the heart of decision making in conjunction with the necessary relevant professionals."

"I'm really pleased with Arnprior Nursery. I can see my child is developing really well and what is most important to me is she is happy there."

"The care my daughter receives is second to none. She is in a caring educational and fun environment. As a parent I feel that the staff really know my child and go 'above and beyond' to provide an individual learning experience. Not only is my daughter progressing in an active academic life but is becoming a kind and caring individual with the support of her peers and staffing. Would highly recommend to other parents."

"Excellent nursery, my child is extremely happy here. As parents, we are involved and encouraged to participate in nursery life."

"My child looks forward to going to nursery and enjoys being there. The staff are very good and update me daily in what she has been doing."

"Staff are all extremely committed, hard-working and highly engaging with both children and parents. All three of my children have attended the nursery and my youngest is in his preschool year. I will miss my interactions with the nursery as they provide such a brilliant environment."

"Having used private care previously we feel the nursery provides a much more personal service with higher staff to child ratio."

"We are thrilled to have such a wonderful nursery so close to home. We only wish the child led approach was continued in the local primary schools."

"The quality of experience my child has at Arnprior Nursery is exemplary. I am delighted to have access to such a fantastic place for my child to start their education."

"I feel so lucky that we have Arnprior Nursery at our doorstep. My third child has recently started nursery there - all my siblings have attended. Fantastic nursery, inclusive in every sense of the word. Nothing is too much trouble. Children develop fantastically. I have every confidence in the staff".

Other agencies working with the service:

We received feedback from other professionals who are involved with the service. We have briefly outlined some of the comments we received below:

"The team are exceptionally efficient and always disseminate minutes from meetings in a timely manner. Meetings are arranged efficiently and meetings themselves are very friendly, welcoming and professional at all times. The team communicate very effectively, clearly within themselves and also with me, raising appropriate concerns always with information sharing and confidentiality in mind. I have a huge amount of respect for the work the team deliver."

"I have found Arnprior to be very engaged in the support process, giving great care and attention to the strategies needed to support particular children. Key workers and management are always well-informed about the child and know the child and family in great depth. This building of relationships is crucial to effective support being in place and a key factor in supporting transition into school."

All staff are willing to engage fully in discussing the child's next steps and in effectively carrying out agreed programmes of support, strategies and recording of evidence as suggested."

"Staff are skilled, experienced practitioners who engage well with the support offered by my service. They seek to understand deeply the needs of the children in their care and demonstrate excellent skills in analytical thinking about problems they encounter. The leadership team have a solution focused approach, which is effective in bringing about positive changes to the lives of the children and families they support. Parents regularly feedback that the nursery staff are a source of invaluable support."

"Nursery staff worked to share the learning developed through this project with other nurseries throughout Stirling, and nationally at the Scottish Learning Festival."

"I have always found the staff to have a very positive and proactive approach when it comes to promoting sport and physical activity within the nursery. They are always keen to be included in any taster sessions that are available and happy to support a session that we deliver. I support them in the delivery of a wide variety of different sporting opportunities as part of their summer holiday programme which is well received by the children."

Self assessment

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.

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

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we assessed the care and support as excellent.

Comments from parents/carers and professionals supported the evidence that communication with staff was excellent. One of the principal benefits was the fact that the support was consistent, helping children to have a meaningful structure to their day and parents had confidence in the service.

A key strength of the service is they work in partnership with parents to develop a child centred learning plan that challenged and supported their child. The learning plan ensured the child and parents aspirations were clearly recorded.

We could see the service provided a flexible ethos which meant they worked around any problems that may have arisen. In particular, with regard to effective and sensitive communication with parents that linked to individual children's learning and development. Parents value the fact that staff were a source of invaluable support.

Parents and those involved in the service told us there were strong, caring relationships between staff, parents/carers and these supported children to be challenged to support their overall well-being.

We could see many examples that children were happy, engaged and learning. An excellent example of this took place during lunch time, children and staff sitting together and chatting and making real friendships.

The overwhelming positive responses provided by those involved in the service highlighted that children and families benefited significantly from the excellent service provided.

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we assessed the environment as excellent.

The environment was thoughtfully adjusted with parents and professional input to accommodate the needs and stages of the children attending the nursery. This included children and staff being able to access additional space to support the child's specific needs, such as a quiet space. This enabled some children to better focus or play on a one to one basis.

We could see that resources within the nursery were clearly labelled to enable children to identify and support them to choose a particular resource that supported their interests.

One of the key strengths of the service is their inclusive approach. This supported all children to access many of the resources. An excellent example of this approach was the number of water trays available at different heights which accommodated the age and stage of the child's development.

We could see that children used all areas of the nursery and this provided further learning experiences such as joined activities. This approach supported children to be included and forge positive caring relationships with other children and staff.

Funding from Educational Scotland enabled staff and children to create a cooking space and progress their food education curriculum. This is linked with parents and the local community and has provided some really good cooking experiences, where children and adults came together to cook, learn and have fun within the nursery environment.

We noted the bathroom area was particularly well developed which encouraged children to be independent and supported staff to provide for children's dignity.

Overall we found that children with additional support needs were truly integrated into the nursery environment.

What the service could do better

The service will continue to use best practice.

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	
29 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
12 Mar 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
25 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
23 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
16 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

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