

Auchtermuchty Primary School Nursery Centre

Day Care of Children

Blinkbonny
Backdykes
Auchtermuchty
Cupar
KY14 7AB

Telephone: 01334 659448

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

Service provided by:
Fife Council

Service provider number:
SP2004005267

Care service number:
CS2003015909

About the service

The nursery is situated within the primary school in the Fife village of Auchtermuchty. The nursery children have access to two playrooms, one which accommodates children up to the age of three and the other for the ante-pre and pre-school children. All of the children use the extensive outdoor area around the school, an enclosed garden, playground, playing field and woodland area.

The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 43 children at any one time aged from two years until they are of an age to attend primary school. Other conditions unique to the service state that during the operating times the service will have the exclusive use of the nursery block. Other areas of the school may also be used following a risk assessment. A maximum of 15 children age from two years until they are of an age to attend primary school may be cared for within Room 6. A maximum of 28 children age from three years until they are of an age to attend primary school may be cared for within Room 7.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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 Getting It Right For Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

In advance of the inspection we received six completed questionnaires from parents. They all agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children while in the service. During the inspection we spoke to a further five parents. The responses from parents were generally positive, they told us:

"My son loves attending nursery and that is down to the staff and the activities on offer."

"The outdoor area is great and the children have access in all weather."

"The room can feel a little overcrowded."

"The nursery facilities, environment and overall resources are really good."

"Children are always outdoors, excellent."

"Communication can be lacking. Children not always welcomed."

"Staff are always pleasant and helpful. They are caring and approachable"

"The staff here have gone above and beyond to support my child."

"This nursery is really good. I can take the learning folder home at any time. I get lots of information."

The children told us:

"We have been playing outside so we are out of energy now. We can have snack when we come back in."

"We are busy making a card for her sister. We are doing it to be nice."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. 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	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Auchtermuchty nursery offered a very good service to children and families.

The skilled nursery staff were clearly motivated to support children and to offer high quality resources and experiences to help them learn and achieve. The staff worked effectively as a team which was well supported by the peripatetic nursery teacher. The headteacher knew the strengths of the nursery team and led the improvement agenda. They had access to quality training which was having a positive impact on the experiences and outcomes for the children.

Staff were ambitious for themselves and for the nursery. We saw that the staff were all proactive and were taking responsibility for developing areas of nursery practice. This involved working with parents, supporting children with additional support needs, providing activities to be used at home by families and outdoor experiences.

Children were all treated respectfully by staff who listened to them and responded to their ideas and choices. The children's ideas were used to help the staff plan relevant and interesting activities which promoted learning.

The youngest children had a very nurturing experience. The room was set out with resources which reflected the children's interests and helped them to develop confidence and learn new skills. All of the children had personal learning journals which charted their progress through observations and photographs. Children with support needs were well supported by the staff in consultation with parents and other professionals. Care plans were regularly updated and outlined the strategies being used.

All of the children were seen to be enjoying their outdoor play. There was a very good range of opportunities for children to be active and to explore and create using loose parts. The children had a weekly forest kindergarten experience which allowed them to play freely in the woods. The children were excited about having seen a deer during their last visit. This interest was being taken forward by staff within the playroom.

Families were encouraged to be a part of the nursery. There were a very good range of opportunities for parents to visit the nursery and to participate. Communication between the nursery and families was very good. Parents were fully involved in the self evaluation process. They were regularly asked for their feedback and suggestions which were then used in nursery improvement.

We looked at the child protection procedures and practice in the service. We were satisfied that they were robust and ensured that children were protected.

What the service could do better

During the inspection we identified areas of the nursery where we considered their practice could improve.

We saw that the children were offered a snack during the nursery session. Snack time can be a rich learning experience for children with opportunities for the development of early literacy and numeracy. We would suggest that to promote learning the staff should allow the children to have some involvement in ordering the snack from the local supermarket, checking the order on arrival and preparing snack each day. Children should be given more responsibility in this area.

Some of the children spent all day in nursery. They had lunch in the middle of the day. We would ask that the staff look at the arrangements for this to offer a more relaxing and nurturing experience for the children. To promote social interaction staff might consider eating lunch with the children to encourage conversation and good eating habits.

The children's interests were taken forward by staff. There was the beginnings of a learning wall to show what children were learning. The children could not clearly talk about what was displayed. In addition we saw little evidence of children's input to their own learning journals. We would encourage the staff to promote the children's understanding of themselves as learners and to develop their involvement in setting their own learning targets.

To ensure the continued development of the nursery and the staff team we would recommend that the head teacher and peripatetic teacher agree a monitoring overview for the nursery. This should include observations and feedback to the team to include the quality of staff input to learning journals, staff and child interactions and the quality of learning experiences. While the self evaluation process is well developed it has a strong focus on inputs from the staff rather than outcomes for children.

From our discussions with the head teacher and staff we were confident that the service had the capacity to continue to improve and develop.

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	
15 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
14 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
23 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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