

## Newtonhill School Nursery Day Care of Children

Newtonhill Primary School  
St. Michael's Road  
Newtonhill  
Stonehaven  
AB39 3XW

Telephone: 01569 730597

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 29 August 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeenshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000029

**Care service number:**  
CS2003016331

## About the service

Newtonhill School Nursery has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2011. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time between 3 years of age to those not yet attending primary school.

Other conditions unique to the service:

- To comply with the current staffing schedule dated 6 May 2004, which must be displayed together with the certificate.

The service is provided from Newtonhill Primary School, which is in the Newtonhill area near Stonehaven. There is a large enclosed garden with a designated drop off area for parents. Children have access to a large playroom with a variety of resources and activities on offer. Children also have access to a large garden area with mixed surfaces and resources. The service is within easy access to the local schools and amenities such as the library, community centre and various parks.

The aims of the service include:

- 'We aim to enable all children to realise their full potential by providing a varied and motivating curriculum.'
- 'To provide an environment where each child is valued and has the opportunity to develop his/her individual potential, to foster ambition and achieve success.'
- 'To promote emotional wellbeing, social skills and self-respect in an inclusive school environment.'

We found the service to be meeting their aims, with children being encouraged to socialise with others and to discover what they are capable of. Staff in the service encourage children to problem solve and to know when to take time for themselves to play, focusing on their own interests.

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 7:45am and 3:00pm on 29 August 2017. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Learning and Childcare Inspector.

We issued 20 questionnaires prior to the inspection and used information from these to inform the inspection.

During the inspection we spoke to the head teacher, staff, children present and parents. We observed the care given by the service and looked at a number of documents including health and safety records, children's records and certificates of training.

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

There were 20 children present during the inspection. Children were confident and happy in the service. Children had a wide range of activities and were engrossed in their play. Some of the comments from children were:

- "I've made snack and we washed the fruit which we eat the skin on."
- "We get stories over here in the story area of the garden, there is a story chair where people sit to tell stories."
- "We can go play outside when we want which is fun."
- "We have to share toys as its nice to our friends."
- "I like coming to nursery as I have fun with my friends."

Two parents responded to the Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) which had been sent. They were all very positive about all aspects of the service and happy with the quality of care their child received. They all commented on the opportunities for active play outside and the variety of activities and crafts that were available.

Some comments from the CSQ's were:

- "The nursery environment and staff has been excellent. However, there has been a lack of access to my child's learning journal and records of achievements."
- "All round an excellent service with which were are very happy with. All staff we have dealt with have been excellent."

We spoke with four parents during the inspection. Parents were very happy with the service and the quality of care provided for their child. Comments included:

- "We have been here a couple of years, feel the staff support my child in their learning and keep us updated with anything specific like accidents. Parents can come in a help, for example we went to Tesco with the children and also come in for stay and play sessions which is good as I can see what my child is doing and how they play with others. Parents were also involved in things to develop the service for example I made blocks for children to play with."
- "My child has newly started and my child had settle visits before summer. Staff have been good at settling my child and my child is having a good time and keen to go to nursery even though they were not sure at first. Staff phoned on first day to let me know my child was fine."
- "My child loves it here, and staff are great and are really approachable and can help us with anything we need."

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. We discussed with the service the importance of quality assurance and reviewing practice to ensure the service is meeting the needs of children.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

Children received good care and support which nurtured them to be safe and secure whilst learning at nursery.

Children received a warm welcome to the service and staff used collection and drop off times to build relationships with children and their families. This encouraged children to become confident and excited to attend nursery. Children were supported to be independent. For example, children were encouraged to sign into the nursery and to dress themselves when going outside.

Each child was treated as an individual and staff were aware of the needs of each child and family. This information was clearly noted and reviewed in each child's care plan which was used to influence planning and activities.

Staff made observations on children's development in their learning journeys. Staff used observations to influence a wide range of activities that were specific to children's needs. This supported children to progress their learning and to explore their interests. To continue the development of children's learning, the staff should ensure that next steps are completed and focus on the development of children's achievements.

Children with additional support needs were able to access the same activities as their peers, with appropriate support provided when needed. This encouraged children to be involved in their learning and to develop relationships with other children.

Children in the nursery were supported by staff to be safe. This was achieved through staffs awareness of child protection procedures and signs that suggest a child may be in distress. Staff were confident in keeping children safe and were teaching children how to keep themselves safe in a range of situations. For example, staff encouraged children to think of the dangers involved when completing activities like crossing the road.

Children were supported in keeping themselves healthy and to make choices that would benefit their health and wellbeing. Children were involved in the creation of snack menus and offered healthy snacks which children prepared for their peers promoting their independence. Children were able to be active and healthy in the

outdoor environment and the local community through walks and outings. For example children regularly walked to local shops to buy items for snack and activities.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

Children were provided a good quality of environment that encouraged them to explore and develop their learning.

Children had access to an environment that was welcoming. For example, children's work was displayed throughout the nursery making the nursery feel like their own environment where they could celebrate their achievements with their friends.

Children were offered a wide range of activities and experiences which promoted challenge and stimulated creativity and problem solving. They were able to select equipment freely and accessed resources like card board boxes and loose parts to make their own games with their friends. Children also enjoyed quiet areas to relax. One area enjoyed by children was sensory area where a range of resources like playdough and sand were used regularly by children. The nursery could further develop the home corner which was lacking resources. Staff were aware of the lack of opportunities in the home corner and discussed how they planned to work with children to develop the area.

Staff supported children to develop their awareness of how to keep themselves safe during play. For example, while accessing climbing apparatus children were encouraged to think about the dangers involved and how they could keep themselves safe during the activity.

Children were provided with a safe environment to play in with procedures in place which staff followed to keep children safe and active. Staff used risk assessments and accident and incident forms to inform parents how children are protected whilst in the nursery. To further develop children's awareness of risk, staff could involve children in the development of risk assessments.

In the outdoor area children were offered a range of exciting activities. Some activities children were engaged in involved measuring and weighing. Children enjoyed experimenting with size and weight and were supported by staff to further develop their learning and understanding. The nursery had recently developed the outdoor area with input from parents and children, encouraging them to be involved in the development of the nursery.

Children were active exploring local services like local shops and community events. This developed children's sense of belonging as they were able to interact with members of the community during trips. For example

children were encouraged to make lists for snack and then to pay for items at the shop developing their responsibility and social skills.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

Children received a good standard of care from a confident and caring staff team who had children's interests at the centre of their work.

Staff were empathetic to children's circumstances and needs, with staff treating each child as an individual. Staff focused on children's needs throughout the session and tailored activities to be specific to each child's needs. Children were supported by staff to solve conflict and discuss their feelings. This was achieved through encouraging children to talk about their feelings and to think about how others may feel.

Children were cared for by a staff team who were trained and professional. Staff used their training in outdoor play to ensure children were safe and active when accessing activities. Staff were able to discuss training needs with the head teacher who encouraged staff to engage in their learning to further develop skills to use in the nursery. Staff were reflecting on their training to ensure they were using the knowledge they had gained to provide enhanced outcomes for children. Staff could further progress children's learning through accessing further training on floor books and taking observations.

Children and parents were involved in the development of the garden area to ensure children had an environment that challenged them. Parents commented on the hard work carried out by the staff to involve families in the nursery development. This made parents feel the nursery was integrated and involved in the community.

Children benefitted from a stable and confident staff team that had been working together to establish clear direction and learning opportunities for children. To further develop their practice the nursery should look at developing opportunities for staff to reflect on their practice.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

Children were cared for in a service that had a good quality of management, providing children with an environment where they could be involved in developing their own learning.

Children were cared for by staff who were empowered by the head teacher to make decisions to develop creative and exciting learning opportunities for children. For example staff were given the responsibility of liaising with parents and children to develop the outdoor area. This encouraged children to make choices and to be included in the direction and development of the service.

The head teacher had a focused improvement plan in place for the service, which was used to ensure the nursery was improving learning opportunities for children. The improvement plan in place was for the whole school including the nursery. The head teacher and staff were acting on areas of improvement to further develop opportunities for learning. The head teacher should summarise the improvement plan to focus on the specific areas for development for the nursery. This would allow staff to understand the specific areas for development and how to evaluate improvements made in the nursery.

Children were a part of the wider community and were able to access a wide range of experiences which were shared by parents. Parents attended stay and play sessions allowing them to share their experiences with children. For example one parent was able to share their wood working skills with the children to encourage them to make blocks to build with. Parents felt this was a great opportunity to support children in their learning and to find out more about their child's development.

The head teacher and staff were aware of core self-evaluation documents like How good is our early learning and childcare and Building the Ambition. These documents were used in the nurseries improvement plan. Staff informed us that using these documents allowed for the staff to focus developments with children's needs at the centre.

## 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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

### Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://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	
21 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
30 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
19 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
10 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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