

Stow Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Station Road
Stow
Galashiels
TD1 2SQ

Telephone: 01578 730218

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 6 December 2017

Service provided by:
Scottish Borders Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001976

Care service number:
CS2003017382

About the service

This service has been registered since 2002.

Stow Primary School Nursery is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 14 children between the ages of 3 years and entry into primary school.

The service operates within Stow Primary School. They have a secure outdoor play area, use the school play grounds and the yurt garden.

The ethos of the service includes:

"We aim to provide a welcoming, caring, safe and attractive environment in which all members of the ELCC community know that they are both valuable and valued".

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by the Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families. 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 indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children. Information on SHANARRI can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What people told us

We observed the children enjoying a variety of activities and experiences available to them both indoors and outdoors. We saw they were confident and content during their play and interactions with staff and each other. Children were keen and happy to chat with us and were able to tell us about what they liked doing when they came to the setting. For example "building things with my friends" and "going to the yurt garden". They were able to talk us through the outdoor area and how they used it, for example the water feature.

We sent 13 care standards questionnaires to the service for them to give to parents to complete and 11 of these were returned to us. Ten parents strongly agreed and one agreed with the statement 'overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service'.

Some of the written comments received through the questionnaires included:

"My child's confidence since starting Stow Nursery has improved considerably. They are very happy. Staff support them and make time to nurture them."

"Overall I am happy with my child's time in the nursery."

"Very caring staff."

"My child loves this nursery."

"Be great if there was more space and facilities as well as resources."

A parent mentioned they thought transition to primary school could be improved and another said the height of the nursery fence could be higher. We shared all the parents comments confidentially with management and staff. We spoke with five parents and grand parents who were all supportive of the service and happy with the quality of care their child received. One parent commented on happy they were that their child was given opportunities to "play outside a lot". Another told us how smooth transitions into primary school were as nursery children were given many opportunities to visit the school and take part in school initiatives, for example the 'toast bar'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. Prior to the inspection the head teacher sent us a copy of the current nursery improvement plan. Management told us about the improvements they had planned and the developments that were currently in process.

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

The experienced and skilled staff team were focused on creating a fun, happy and stimulating child led learning experience for children. We found staff had a genuine regard for all of the children in their care. We saw the relationships between staff, children and their parents were respectful, kind and nurturing. Staff knew all the children well and how best to support them in order for them to enjoy their time in nursery. We suggested that staff ensured additional records were kept of current individual care needs and significant conversations with parents and other professional in order to promote the best outcomes for children. This would ensure consistency between their home and nursery.
(see recommendation 1)

Children were encouraged to make and maintain friendships with their peers. Confidence and independence were promoted as children were able to support each other through their play and learning. There were good links with the whole school and because of this children's transitions to the primary one class were seen to be smooth.

Children were involved in designing their own learning and development and we saw evidence of this in their Learning Journeys and through observations we made. Children were able to print their own photographs and stick them in their books, giving children ownership of their learning journeys. We found staff valued, respected and encouraged children's views and ideas and supported them well to take responsibility for developing their

interests. We saw lovely examples of children taking ownership of their play and staff trusting them to lead and develop their own activities. A recent successful example of child led activity was the promotion of loose parts play in which children were able to create richer learning experiences through using their imagination and creativity.

We saw staff encouraged good hygiene practices and children were learning about healthy lifestyles. Children told us "we wash our hands to wash away any germs". Daily snack menus were healthy and varied and took account of children's preferences and allergies. Children could get involved in the preparation of snacks and the growing of fruit and vegetables for consumption.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. It is recommended that children's records contain up to date information on how they were to be cared for. This would include keeping chronological records of conversations with parents and meetings with other childcare professionals in order to promote consistency in their care and well being.
National Care Standards for Early Learning and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - health and well being

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The atmosphere in the nursery environment was calm, happy and nurturing. Children were aware of boundaries and used the environment productively. Children made good use of additional corridor space to good effect. We saw they were engaged in a range of cooperative play opportunities with their peers. Free flow outdoor play provided children with choice of how and where they would like to play. Children were involved in on going risk benefit analysis which encouraged them to balance any risks with the benefits of their well-being and keeping themselves safe. This included assessing areas such as the yurt garden before play.

We joined the children and staff in the yurt garden for a play session where children could use their imaginations and be creative in natural surroundings. Not all nursery children were benefiting from accessing this area and there were a number of missed opportunities to extend children's outdoor learning and enjoyment.
(see recommendation 1)

Staff supported children in the creation of their play spaces and only intervened to enable them to extend their play and, if wanted, offer advice. Children were confident in approaching staff if the resource they wanted to play with was not already out. Staff were aware of the Playwork Principles and we suggest they build on this by writing a play policy which would incorporate the aims and objectives of the service.

Children were able to influence what happened in the nursery by allowing them to mix their own paint and make the playdough. This encouraged confidence in and ownership of the nursery environment.

By allowing children to decide what colours of paints they would like to use and by letting them make their own play dough children influenced what happened in and could take ownership of the environment. Staff told us that at the moment making salt dough was children's favourite as they could paint their creations once it had hardened.

We listened to staff enthusiastically telling us of their plans for developments they planned for the environment both indoor and outdoor. They agreed children would be involved in this process in order to promote ownership and respect.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. It is recommended all children are given opportunities to experience the yurt garden and all that it could offer them.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5 - quality of experience

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The caring and motivated staff team worked well together and shared roles and responsibilities within the setting, for example reviewing and updating children's journals and care plans. This included the visiting support teacher from Scottish Borders Council. Constant and meaningful communication between all staff meant there was a natural flow in the setting as they moved seamlessly throughout ensuring children could enjoy uninterrupted play.

Parents confirmed that staff warmly welcomed them and their children and this was reciprocated as she saw children were pleased to see staff. The open communication between staff, children and parents meant everyone felt included in the setting. We saw that children and parents views and ideas were valued and that they trusted the staff. A parent told us "the love given to the children is just like home".

Staff told us weekly meetings helped them to evaluate practice and discuss any current issues. Staff agreed to keep records of these meetings and any future actions they planned. Procedures were in place for reviewing staff practice and the performance review process gave staff the opportunity to reflect on the impact of any learning on their practice. Staff were familiar with good practice guidance which supported improvement. They agreed they could further develop their learning from current documents of interest, for example My World Outdoors.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found that there was a focus on improvement within the service. The head teacher, principal teacher and staff team aimed to provide the best quality of experience for the children in their care. Management were described by staff as being "supportive" as to was the visiting teacher. They regularly visited the nursery to observe practice and monitor areas within setting. It was agreed records would be kept of monitoring visits in order to inform the improvement agenda.

All staff were involved in the identification of strengths and aspects for improvement as detailed in the self-evaluation summary of the school improvement plan (SIP). They talked about sharing roles and responsibilities, recognising each others strengths and being given encouragement to develop new initiatives within the setting. Management agreed to further involve parents in evaluating the service by sharing developments and actions taken in the SIP.

Parents were involved throughout the nursery and they told us they were happy to do so. This included helping out within the setting, being additional support on outings and completing 'two stars and a wish' questionnaires. Parents told us they could access 'home room' in order to view and make comment on daily events within the setting. We saw how well this was being used by everyone.

Management informed us that the ethos of the service were currently under review and we agreed these should be reviewed in order for them to reflect the aims and objectives of 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

Requirement 1

The provider must ensure children and people who use the service have access to a safe and hygienic environment at all times. Robust cleaning policies and practices should be effectively implemented and monitored.

This is in order to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210), Regulation 4(1)(a) Welfare of users.

4. - (1) A provider must -
(a) make proper provision for the health, welfare and safety of service users.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing.

Timescale for meeting this requirement: August 2017.

This requirement was made on 23 March 2017.

Action taken on previous requirement

A deep clean of the service has taken place on two occasions. The cleaner now cleans the environment at the end of the day in order for staff to have dialogue with them. Staff were aware of the cleaning policies and procedures now in place. We saw that these were being adhered to.

Met - within timescales

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

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The provider should make arrangements to keep and review personal plans as required by the regulations. When children have an identified support or medical need a care plan or IEP (Individualised Education Programme) should be created with enough information for staff to meet their needs.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14.2 - well managed service

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Personal plans were in place and we saw evidence of reviews. Staff knew children well, including any support needs. We have made a recommendation under Quality of care and support in relation to this.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 2

The provider should ensure that the planning, assessment and recording of children's learning experiences and outcomes is clear, of a high quality, meaningful and evaluated well. This will ensure that the children's development is appropriately supported.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5 - quality of experience, Standard 12 - confidence in staff and Standard 14 - well managed service

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Individual learning journeys were in place for each child. These evidenced children's learning and development, were meaningful and were evaluated by management and visiting support teacher.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 3

The provider should ensure they adhere fully to current best practice for infection control. The following documents should inform the policies and practice:

- Health Protection Scotland (HPS), Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings), October 2016.
- Hand hygiene: information to support improvement publication date: Updated November 2014. Publication code: HCR-0414-084.
- National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 -Health and wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff adhered to best practice and were informed by current guidance.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 4

The provider should update the services administration and storage of medication policy and procedures in line with current best practice guidance. recording systems should ensure individual medication plans and personal assessments, are available, when needed to support the health, wellbeing and safety of individual children.

More information can be found on the Care Inspectorate HUB: management of medication in day care of children and childminding services. Publication code: HCR-0514-087.

National Care Standards for Early Education and childcare up to age of 16: Standard 3 - health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The policy and procedures have been reviewed and amended in line with best practice guidance. Plans were in place to support individual children.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 5

The provider should ensure that there are sufficient resources available to meet the early learning and development needs of individual children in line with Building the Ambition guidance.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 5 - quality of experience and Standard 11 - access to resources

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

A range of resources supporting child development and learning were in place. Staff were updating and adding resources in line with best practice guidance.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 6

The provider should ensure health and safety risk assessment systems are effectively implemented, monitored and specify the measures taken to reduce hazards to people who use the service on a day-to-day basis.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2 - a safe environment

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Risk management measures were in place and reviewed on a daily basis.

This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 7

The provider should fully introduce and sustain systems for quality assuring all aspects of the service. This should include submitting and monitoring action plans to meet Care Inspectorate recommendations and requirements.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare: Standard 13 - Improving the service and Standard 14 - well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 25 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Quality assurance systems were in place and action plans had been submitted.

This recommendation had been met.

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	
25 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
18 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
22 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
22 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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