

Kirkcudbright Primary School Nursery Class

Day Care of Children

Kirkcudbright Primary School
Kirkcudbright
DG6 4JT

Telephone: 01557 332610

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 9 February 2018

Service provided by:
Dumfries & Galloway Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003501

Care service number:
CS2003015476

About the service

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 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.

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

Kirkcudbright Primary School Nursery Class is situated within Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway. It is registered to provide pre school education for a maximum of 50 children each session aged 3 to 5 years of whom no more than 10 will be 2 to 3 years. The service provider is Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The nursery is based in Kirkcudbright Primary School with its own secure door entry system. One large playroom accommodated the needs of children aged 3 to 5 years with a separate playroom for 2 to 3 year olds. Both playrooms had direct access into outdoor areas - a large, secure and well-resourced outdoor play area for the 3 to 5s and a smaller area for the 2 to 3s. The service is located in the centre of Kirkcudbright close to other areas of interest including parks, woods and the harbour.

The aims and objectives of the service included:

"To provide a caring, stimulating and challenging environment where the needs of all children are met."

"To recognise achievement, celebrate success, promote self esteem and build confidence."

"To encourage an environment of mutual respect and fairness."

A full statement of the service's values, aims and objectives was available to people who used the service.

What people told us

The Care Inspectorate issued sixteen questionnaires to the Nursery to give out to parents. We received fourteen completed Care Standard Questionnaires prior to the inspection. All respondents agreed that they were happy with the quality of care provided.

Some comments we received were:

'The nursery is proactive in identifying areas of need and works with other professionals to achieve a holistic approach. My child has had areas of needs identified and nursery were quick to pick up their difficulties and talk to me about them. My child feels safe, nurtured and has loads of fun at nursery.'

'I am extremely happy with the service and level of care received by my child, and am very confident they are safe and happy every day they attend. The staff are friendly, approachable and always willing to share details of my child's progress and development.'

'My child loves Kirkcudbright nursery and can't wait to go every day.'

'My child, who is very shy and quiet, loves nursery. She always comes home excited to tell me things she has been learning and her confidence has grown over the past few months. Staff are great and always very helpful.'

'My child loves nursery and is very happy there.'

'My child has developed so much in the last year. His overall confidence has grown and he likes to get involved with different activities that he would shy away from before. We are very pleased with his progress.'

'The nursery has worked wonders with a shy child. They were exceptionally supportive when my child developed the need for an eye patch. It is down to the staff that my child is happy to wear it every day. My child loves the nursery, so much so that child is annoyed when it is the weekend and they cannot go!'

'My child is very shy and reserved yet from the minute she entered Kirkcudbright nursery she felt confident and happy in that environment. She is 100% comfortable talking to the staff who seem to always bring out the best in her. The environment in the nursery is relaxed yet has just enough structure and discipline to help encourage the child to know how to follow rules and be independent doing things for themselves. An excellent place for any child to start their educational journey.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their 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	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The headteacher, the nursery teacher and staff had successfully established a warm, nurturing and inclusive care environment. We observed children and parents being welcomed and included into the nursery.

The headteacher and nursery teacher recognised the importance of working in partnership with parents. Parents told us that staff engaged with them effectively and encouraged their involvement. We saw some examples of staff supporting children who were less confident in expressing their views and preferences.

Communication between staff and management, parents and children was effective.

Children and their families had access to a nurturing approach, from staff who understood nurturing principles and delivered these.

Parents and partner agencies were actively engaged, when necessary, by the nursery in order to ensure all children benefited from the right support at the right time. We saw some evidence that a clear picture of each child was being built, this information should be formally recorded in children's personal plans. The nursery put children, and their families, wellbeing at the heart of all they did. We observed some examples of this in practice.

Staff spoke to children with respect, at child level and showed keen interest in the child's views and opinions. Children were respectful of each other. We saw examples of this throughout the inspection visit. One example included the lunch time session where children were encouraged to support each other, with help from an empathetic staff member.

A range of training had kept staff skills up to date. Outcomes for children were being affected by training that staff had attended. Staff showed some awareness of this impact.

The staff had established effective health and safety procedures. The service had risk assessment in place; however we suggested that these be updated, along with the policies and procedures to reflect the very good work practices in the nursery. Links to best practice local and national guidelines should also be adhered to particularly with regards to medication, and accident and incident recording.

What the service could do better

The Headteacher and staff should build on existing practice in ensuring that personal plans for each of the children clearly set out how the plan will meet each child's health, welfare and safety needs. The Personal Plans should be reviewed with the child and parent at least once in every six month period. The personal plans should also show progression, and be linked to the planning cycle, where appropriate.

Further development is required to ensure that children's learning experiences are extended to ensure breadth, progression, balance and diversity. Children's creativity should be encouraged to develop fully; in an environment where staff avoid the use of templates.

Staff had allocated some resources to the fully enclosed outdoor area. We suggested that the staff develop this area further. The outdoor learning environment should support different types of play and be accessed freely by the children.

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	
10 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
13 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
16 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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