

Auchterellon School Nursery Day Care of Children

Auchterellon Primary School
Millwood Road
Ellon
AB41 9FA

Telephone: 01358 720863

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 8 March 2018

Service provided by:
Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000029

Care service number:
CS2003016305

About the service

Auchterellon School Nursery operates from the primary school. The service is provided by Aberdeenshire Council and is located in the rural town of Ellon, Aberdeenshire.

The nursery has been operating for a number of years and has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2011. The service operates between the times of 8:45am to 11:55am and 12:20pm to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. They can offer extended care to support the needs of families.

The service provides for a maximum of 50 children aged three years to entry into primary school.

The overall aims of the service include being: "committed to providing a safe, secure, stimulating environment in which every child is made to feel valued and in which parents can put their trust." The aims and objectives of the service are reviewed with parents/carers and updated regularly.

What people told us

Parents/carers comments:

Twenty parents/carers returned a completed care standard questionnaire. We spoke with one carer and three parents individually during our inspection. They described how well their child received an educationally, stimulating, caring and trusting experience. Some mentioned they had built very good relationships with staff who are approachable and will act on their suggestions. Some said that staff provided them and their child with further support when required.

Similar comments were provided by parents and carers. These are recorded below:

"Staff are really wonderful."

"Fantastic service."

"Lots of opportunity for outdoor learning and play, which my child loves."

"Great home/school links."

"I would highly recommend the nursery to parents/carers."

"My child has really come on since coming to the nursery."

Childrens' comments:

During the inspection we observed children taking part in a variety of activities indoors and outdoors and taking on key support roles during certain activities. We found children to be happy and confident, enjoying activities, snacks and the lunch time experience. The older children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing. They told us:

"I like writing my name when I come into the nursery - my mummy is here."

"I like playing with the Lego. I have Lego at home. This Lego is good fun. It's got a hospital and small parts. It's fun to play with the small parts."

"I like playing outside with my friends."

"We are making pretend cakes, would you like one?"

"I like baking at the nursery and at home."

"My mummy teaches at a school and I am going there soon."

"I have a twin brother and they are nice."

We had contact with a couple of agencies involved in the service and overall they considered that:

There is a welcoming, friendly ethos and staff are inclusive. The majority of staff attended some training in regard to specific topics to support children's learning.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their improvement plan submitted to us and discussed this with the head teacher. The plan 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Management and staff work jointly to deliver a vision that ensures children are at the centre of learning. We found the management team and staff placed children at the heart of all they do.

We found parents/carers were very happy with the level of care and support provided. Parents told us they felt their child was safe in the service. Management and staff encouraged parents/carers to provide suggestions on how to improve the service and become involved in the life of the nursery.

The service's inclusive and welcoming approach meant parents/carers and staff work together to share significant information and to make decisions in order to give children a positive experience.

Parents/carers accompanied by their child were seen to view the children's attractive displays and information boards. These all contributed to an open, warm, friendly environment for children and families.

Staff referred to published guidance such as, 'Setting the Table' to develop their practice. This area has significantly improved since the last inspection. For example, visual aids supported children to make choices and supported them to have a positive snack experience. We noted parents and children were much more involved in snacks than before.

Staff referred to other good practice published guidance, such as, 'Building the Ambition' and 'My World Outdoors'. We noted these were implemented in practice. Staff evaluated the environment and this confirmed the physical space focused on the child's learning experience.

The outdoor area has been significantly developed since the last inspection. Children benefitted from the opportunity to experience stimulating outdoor play, in a safe, caring environment. We noted that resources indoors and outdoors were accessible for children. This supported their curiosity and creativity.

Children with identified additional support needs were cared for in a way that met their needs. Staff respected and worked with other professionals to ensure a positive result for individual children and their family.

The nursery and school staff work together to provide a flexible, child centred transition programme which involved all key people. This confirmed the commitment of staff to work together for the benefit of children moving on to school.

Overall, the service identified through their Improvement Plan their main priorities for development. They adapted the plan when necessary to accommodate the changing needs of the service. We consider that the management team and staff are committed to improving outcomes for children and families.

What the service could do better

During the inspection process we directed staff to Education Scotland, National Improvement Hub web site (<https://education.gov.scot>) and the Care Inspectorate, Hub web site (www.careinspectorate.com). There they will find some good practice documents, such as, 'Our Creative Journey' (Care Inspectorate 2017). This will further support their very good 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	
20 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
28 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
31 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
13 Mar 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

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