

Edzell Pre School Class Day Care of Children

Edzell Primary School
High Street
Edzell
Brechin
DD9 7TA

Telephone: 01356 648245

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 20 March 2018

Service provided by:
Angus Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000043

Care service number:
CS2003016850

About the service

Edzell Pre School Class has been registered since April 2002 and is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 10 children at any one time. From 21 November 2017 until 1 July 2018, when caring for the child referred to in the variation request submitted on 9 November 2017, the service may provide care to 11 children at any one time. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The ratio of adults to children will be 1:10.

Edzell Pre School Class is a day care of children service operated by Angus Council that offers morning and afternoon sessions. It is situated within Edzell Primary school, in the village of Edzell.

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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

There were 11 children present in the morning session and eight children present during the afternoon session of the day of inspection. We saw the children were confident, happy and engaged in their play as they used the different areas of the nursery and make extensive use of the outdoor play facilities.

We spoke to most of the children throughout the inspection. Their comments included:

"I can make fire using this (a stick and stone), this is my fire".

"I'm making a pretty thing for animals to be safe and warm; I'm making it pretty for them".

"I'm now five, I go to school soon".

"I've been to Primary one and we played and did gym".

"I play with books; we wear jacket and trousers outside (when we play)".

"I'm looking for worms; they go in the worm farm".

"Look at our worms, we found them and made a home for them".

"I can jump really high; I use my arms to help".

"This is dinosaur world, it's full of mud and we dig to find the dinosaurs".

"It's fun (at nursery), we get to play".

"These are hot tubs and the pine cones are the buttons to make it work" (Loose Parts Play).

"This is my nursery".

We spoke with four parents and carers during the inspection who spoke very positively about the service provided and about the staff. They liked how staff kept them up-to-date with information about any changes at the nursery and appreciated how they were always made to feel welcome and included. We received four completed questionnaires from parents, who all told us they were very happy with the service their child receives.

Comments from the questionnaires and discussion with parents and carers included:

"Excellent, can't fault anything. 100% amazing and wonderful".

"So happy with everything".

"Support for my child was great, had other agencies involved and the staff were wonderful at supporting this".
 "Staff are great, always take time to speak to me".
 "Stay and play sessions are really good".
 "Mother's day tea where the children served up food and gave gifts was lovely".
 "Always kept up-to-date and kept well-informed".
 "They are very welcoming".
 "My older children have attended here, I wouldn't go anywhere else".
 "Wonderful".
 "My child is having a fantastic experience at Edzell Nursery; there is a strong outdoor influence with play".
 "It's very exciting to hear of these latest plans for the Geopod!"
 "My son loves his time at nursery".
 "The staff take time to learn about all the children in the class and encourage them all to do their best".
 "The staff are all enthusiast, caring, friendly and have provided my son with a great start to education".

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 systems. These identified the services priorities for improvement and development and detailed 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	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support and from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as excellent. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as very good.

Staff knew the children and their families very well. Staff supported children to be respectful of all the children in the school and their environment by role modelling positive behaviours, whilst encouraging children to be responsible for their own behaviour. The staff provided a high level of encouragement and praise, celebrating children's achievements and development whilst building their confidence. Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities for keeping children safe and protected. Accident and incident records were well maintained. Care plans were in place detailing medication and additional support information where necessary.

Staff provided an environment that was welcoming, fun and friendly for children and their families. We saw positive and nurturing relationships between the staff and children throughout the inspection. The staff providing individual support to each child whilst taking account of additional support needs. We found the nursery to be an inclusive environment, with children's ideas and choices determining the flow of the session. Staff provided children and parents with opportunities to be involved and included in developing the service, inviting family members into the nursery to see what the children learn. Parents spoke enthusiastically about how they could be involved in the nursery through stay and play sessions and a recent Mother's day tea.

There was lots of evidence to show how the children's voice is listened to and their interests taken into account; this was reflected in the outdoor play activities such as dinosaur world and worm farm. Children were very confident and happy throughout the visit and took pride in explaining what they do at their nursery. They were fully engaged in their play throughout the inspection and demonstrated determination to learn and develop their skills. Staff supported the children very well to be independent and reflective in their play activities. We saw the staff facilitate the children's experiences, and the children taking responsibilities for developing imaginative play opportunities.

Children's learning profiles were in place and used to track children's progress and learning during their time at nursery. These are reviewed in partnership with parents on a regular basis, and used by staff when working with the children to identifying on going progress and further opportunities throughout the school year. Staff were clear about how they envisage the folios to develop, ensuring a very inclusive approach to supporting learning involving all children and their families.

The environment was well organised, safe and maintained to a high standard. It was bright and welcoming with children's artwork displayed throughout the nursery. The children benefited from having access to a fully enclosed area accessible from the nursery room and to the wider school playground which allowed them freedom to explore and develop relationships with the school children. We saw the children enjoy playing with the school children, hiding in the wooded area and playing catch in the playing fields. Plans for a Geo-dome outdoor classroom were in the final stages with the installation planned for April 2018; this will provide a further outdoor play space for children to explore creatively.

The children made very good use of 'Loose Parts Play' in the nursery outdoor play area. The children thoroughly enjoyed the free flow opportunities as they moved freely between activities indoors and outdoors with the support of staff. Staff took every opportunity to support children with their learning of literacy and numeracy when playing outdoors, as they went digging for worms, splashing in the water developed their creative and imaginary play using sticks, stones and lots of natural resources.

What the service could do better

We discussed different options for hand washing when the children have snack outdoors. We saw that although children were very aware of good hand hygiene, there were not always opportunities for this to happen naturally when outdoors. The staff agreed to review what would work best for the children ensuring the flow of play is not disrupted whilst promoting good hand hygiene.

The management team discussed proposals for extending the whole school building. We discussed the plans and agreed that consideration should be given to preserving the current nursery outdoor space due to the high quality benefits gained by the children when using the established space.

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
26 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
3 Apr 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
28 Feb 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
16 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
16 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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