

# Aberlour Primary Nursery School

## Day Care of Children

Mary Avenue  
Aberlour  
AB38 9PN

Telephone: 01340 871255

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

14 June 2018

**Service provided by:**

The Moray Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003001892

**Service no:**

CS2003016011

## About the service

Aberlour Primary Nursery School is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 15 children aged 3 years to not yet attending primary school. The service was previously registered and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service operates during term time from a large room situated within the main building of the Aberlour primary school. A secure outdoor play area is situated close to the nursery room and they also used the school playing field. The nursery also had weekly use of the hall/dining room for active play and the school library.

The aims and objectives of the service are:

- providing a happy, secure and stimulating environment (both indoors and outdoors)
- encouraging independence and also learning to share and interact positively with others
- allowing each child to develop at his or her own pace
- offering a varied but balanced curriculum and encourage learning in different ways
- working together with parents and other agencies to provide the best opportunities for the child's progress in their education

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 GIRFEC, safe, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included (also known as SHANARRI).

## What people told us

There was a total of 20 children using the service during the inspection. We observed the children were relaxed, confident and happy during play activities, which included, creative, imaginary and sensory play and having active fun at gym time. We talked with four children. They all said that they had fun at nursery. Specific comments included:

- 'I am building a fairy castle'
- 'I have made a robot, it can spin and jump'
- 'I have made a picture, sticking different things on paper'
- 'we are going to gym today'
- 'I can change my clothes all by myself'
- 'I can balance all by myself'.

Six parents returned completed care standards questionnaires. We spoke with three parents during our inspection. They all told us that they were happy with the nursery; it was a friendly and caring place for the children, staff were easy to talk to and knew their child really well. Specific comments included:

- 'I would highly recommend to anyone'
- 'children are always happy when collected from nursery and go outside and exploring no matter what the weather'
- 'the hard work and dedication of the staff is obvious'
- 'I am very happy with the nursery, good communication and I like the on-line journals'
- 'staff are very good at keeping me informed and know my child well'.

## 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 discussed quality assurance processes. These demonstrated their priority of 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	4 - Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

## What the service does well

Children experienced a happy and vibrant environment where they were able to make choices from a variety of activities, which included crafts, imaginary play, water play and construction - wooden blocks. A quiet reading corner enabled children to rest or just take a break from the hub of activities. Children were cooperating well with each other during play and being encouraged to see each other's point of view. We saw that children enjoyed gym that consisted of an obstacle course; they waited patiently for their turn whilst chatting to each other. Kind words, encouragement and praise from staff to children, contributed to the build of self esteem and confidence.

Children's physical and emotional wellbeing was being promoted during healthy snack and active play. Children took pride in being able to get changed for gym and being able to balance, climb and jump on the school sports equipment. Although cut short due to inclement weather, children also enjoyed running and racing on the playing field in preparation for their sports day.

Children received appropriate levels of support and staff liaised with parents/carers and other professionals, advocating early intervention, with well co-ordinated plans for transition from nursery to school being agreed. The holistic approach to the wellbeing of each of the children, encompassed Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). The friendly, attentive and sensitive approach of qualified and motivated staff, helped to create a caring and positive environment that supported children's health and development. Parents told us that they had confidence that the individual needs of their child were being well met by dedicated and caring staff.

A child protection policy was in place; the staff had sound knowledge of child protection procedures through annual awareness training, to help safeguard children.

The head teacher maintained close links with the nursery and formal, minuted meetings with the senior staff member, helped to maintain an overview of the strengths of the nursery and areas for development. The head teacher demonstrated a commitment to improvement through self evaluation that utilised the framework - how good is our early learning and childcare. More recently evaluation had included collating the views of parents/carers and staff with a view to making adjustments to make the service better. Surveys would also be used to help monitor and measure the success of the improvement plan.

## What the service could do better

There was recognition that planning could be more child led and included in developments of the service. It was anticipated that wider use of floor books (to encourage thinking skills through talking together in a group) would be beneficial to actively involve children in a meaningful way.

Due to changes in the outdoor play space a wild and natural play area that had previously been used by the nursery had been relocated. At the time of the inspection it was very much under construction. It was intended that the erection of a fence would enable it to be securely and safely accessed by the children. The area was very much a blank canvas, although a mud kitchen had been built, it therefore provided an opportunity to include children and parents/carers in its development. Reference: my world outdoors and loose parts play toolkit - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com). It was also anticipated that the school and nursery's planned focus on outdoor learning/forest school approach would enhance outcomes for children through holistic health and wellbeing.

There had been changes to the small staff team within the nursery. It was considered that assigned roles/responsibilities linked to training/professional knowledge, would support practitioners in improving their own skills and further enhance the culture that valued staff.

The head teacher considered that involving staff in the evaluation/re-organisation of the play space would be beneficial, so that it remained conducive to children's learning and exploration whilst promoting choice. We would encourage staff to include the children in the evaluation of the environment, responding to children's interests in a flexible way as they test out possibilities.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
28 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
25 May 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
9 Jun 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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