

# Kindergarten Huntly Ltd

## Day Care of Children

Unit 34  
Steven Road  
Huntly  
AB54 8SX

Telephone: 01466 794525

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

26 July 2018

**Service provided by:**

Kindergarten Huntly Ltd

**Service provider number:**

SP2012011817

**Service no:**

CS2012307942

## About the service

Kindergarten Huntly Ltd is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children aged from birth to attending primary school of whom no more than 20 are primary school age and nor more than 5 are cared for in the baby room. The service was previously registered and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service operates from a modular building on the edge of the industrial estate in Huntly. It has its own secure outdoor play area attached to the building. It also has a small wooded area to the rear of the premises which is used regularly by the children; a mobile library also visits the service.

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).

The aims and objectives of the service are:

- activities are organised to suit the needs of the children
- offer children the opportunity to be amongst others and to grow as individuals
- enable each child to grow and stretch, develop their imagination, make friends and learn to cope with their emotions
- to recognise the role of the parent in educating and caring for your child and to help you develop that role
- to value parents' input whilst taking care of your child.

## What people told us

There was a total of 19 children present during the inspection although numbers fluctuated slightly due to the nature of the service and it being the school holidays. We observed the children having fun during play activities, which included investigation, creativity, sensory and active play both indoors and outdoors. We talked with pre-school and primary school age children. They all said that they liked being at Kindergarten and had lots of fun and in particular enjoyed playing outside. Specific comments included:

'we have lots of fun'

'it's nice because I get to see and play with my young sibling in the holidays'

'we have built a den, it took us a long time because we needed to plan how we would do it'

'we are building the tower bridge with these blocks, it's not easy'

'I like playing in the hairdressers and doing my friend's hair'

'it's fun playing with the water, look it goes lots of different ways'

'I like running and jumping'.

Fourteen parents returned completed care standards questionnaires. We spoke with three parents during our inspection. They all told us that they were very happy as the managers and staff kept them well informed. They all knew the children well and it was clear that they really cared for them. Activities were varied and met the different age ranges and children played outside a lot in all sorts of weather. Specific comments included:

'staff are all absolutely fantastic, the bond the children develop with them shows how great they all are, would give them a 5 star'

'a first class nursery, wouldn't send my children anywhere else'

'I feel confident that my child is well cared for at Kindergarten, I am very satisfied with the service the nursery provides'

'staff always go the extra mile, they listen and react to my child's viewpoint, I have been impressed by the hard work the managers have put in at college, you can see the impact in the environment and staff'

'despite some changes in staff, the change/transition has been well executed and new staff have totally stepped up and are absolutely brilliant, the managers do a brilliant job running the place, Kindergarten is our family'

'it was the sensitive, patient and child-led support the staff provided that helped my child overcome a myriad of different anxieties and enabled them to develop confidence'.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own quality assurance processes and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very 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 play and find things out together, to use their imagination and be creative. Children's physical health and emotional wellbeing were recognised as being important in helping children to develop and learn. Children clearly enjoyed the freedom of playing outdoors with various activities such as a mud kitchen, water wall, various scrap materials to invoke exploration and challenge. A small group of children had fun creating a den with wooden planks and tyres, learning about gravity and flow on the water wall and playing tag. The younger children enjoyed being outside too, hiding and running in the ribbed metal tunnel and building with chunks of wood. Children tested out their co-ordination when clambering on wooden pallets, balancing on planks and kicking balls.

Children's contributions were clearly valued and respected, with their ideas and views being sought and recorded through floor books (encourage thinking skills through talking together in a group), daily conversation and engagement with staff during activities and self-directed play.

The manager and staff knew the children very well and liaised closely with parents/carers and other professionals as necessary, supporting early intervention. Children's individual needs were clearly being met as staff had a holistic and inclusive approach to their wellbeing, that encompassed Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). The sensitive and responsive interactions of motivated and enthusiastic staff, along with the nurturing environment, helped to promote the best possible outcomes for children. Staff provided positive role models that encouraged motivation and self-confidence. Parents told us that the friendly, competent and child led support of the staff helped to create a thriving environment for their child(ren).

Snacks and meals consisted of a range of healthy, home cooked foods which were nutritious and complied with

children's dietary and religious needs. They promoted good eating habits and supported healthy growth and development.

The manager and staff had an appropriate understanding of child protection and safeguarding children; their knowledge was kept up to date through training. Staff had also got to know the children and families very well, helping them to be aware of changes and potential stress. Chronologies were being used to record specific issues/changes related to a child to help with the monitoring and identification of need.

The clear aspirations of the managers helped to provide a focused direction for the service. The staff team worked effectively together, sharing roles and responsibilities that helped to create a culture where staff were valued. The managers provided effective support to staff so that they were able to improve their skills and knowledge to enhance quality learning experiences for children. The managers had made a concerted effort to achieve a relevant qualification so that they provided skilled leadership and a commitment to improvement. We noted that the framework - How good is our early learning and childcare (HGIOELC) had been introduced for the purposes of evaluation and a focus on improvement.

## What the service could do better

The managers recognised that the process of self evaluation whilst continuous, would benefit from a more in-depth approach on a specific area that collated the views of all those involved. Planned quality assurance of training, practice, assessment and recording systems, for example, would also support continuous improvement. This would make for better analysis and reflection on what was actually being provided, to help identify what had worked well and what needed to improve, leading to better outcomes for children.

Children clearly enjoyed playing outdoors; its continuous expansion and regeneration utilising abundant loose parts, natural and real life materials, would remain beneficial to learning through the sense of adventure and excitement. The managers anticipated that the recently released sharing of good practice document: our creative journey with a focus on expressive arts, would be used to further inspire children's experiences.

We suggested that information related to the child's personal plan should be well arranged and include known strategies, so that it helped to provide an accurate and current reflection of the child's needs that contributed to responsive care.

## 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	
26 Aug 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
23 May 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
20 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

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