About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

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

Strathaven Community Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 18 children 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service will be provided at Wester Overton Primary School, Ashkirk Road, Strathaven ML10 6JT.

The care service will operate Monday to Friday between the times of 8.45am and 11.55am and 1pm and 4.10pm during term time.

During the operating times the service will have exclusive use of the premises.

The service has exclusive use of a playroom with direct access to an enclosed outdoor play area, with timetabled access to the school gym hall. The service is currently only operating in the mornings.

The service aims include:

“Our aims and objectives are based on giving and developing opportunities for all children to be caring, active, valued, have fun, be part of a team, explore outdoor learning, to learn from and be part of the community within an inclusive and supportive environment to gain as much as possible from the opportunities and experiences which Curriculum for Excellence can provide.”

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that 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 (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 parents to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke to individual and small groups of children who experienced care at the service over the course of the inspection. There were 11 children present.

We saw that all children were happy and settled in the care of staff. They told us what they were learning about and their favourite activities, as they played indoors and outdoors. Their comments included:

“Come and I’ll show you.” (child leading me to the outdoor area sandpit)

“I like the hoppers. Watch me bouncing.”

“We’re going to the gym. I like it. You can play.”

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‘Look! There’s stones and a shell. What’s happened? It’s full of water now.’ (investigating a bucket of stones and shells which had filled with rainwater)

‘The wind blew everything over.’ (talking about outdoor area).

We sent eight Care Inspectorate care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents. Four of these were returned before the inspection. We also spoke to six parents/carers as they dropped off their children at nursery. All parents spoke very positively about the service and highlighted the quality of staff and experiences their children participated in. Comments included:

‘Excellent nursery. We are very happy with the care and teaching provided. Our child thinks the staff are all brilliant.’

‘This is a fabulous nursery that has brought out the best in my children. The staff are dedicated and each have their own strengths to bring out and encourage the children.’

‘I would say the changes have been that the children are more active now, getting outdoors more.’

‘We are very happy with everything. We have spoken with the staff about our child’s needs and this has been taken on board. We can see the changes and improvements in them.’

‘My child settled really well and loves nursery. I am happy with everything. We meet with staff to set a challenge for our child which they work on. I know they are looking at ‘pets’ as a theme just now. It was ‘dinosaurs’. They take the ideas from the children’s interests.’

‘It is quite a small nursery, but I like that. I feel the children get much more individual care and the staff get to know the children and us really well. I am always recommending it to people.’

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own improvement plans and quality assurance procedures to determine their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

| Quality of care and support | 4 - Good |
| Quality of environment     | 4 - Good |
| Quality of staffing        | not assessed |
| Quality of management and leadership | not assessed |

What the service does well

Staff had created a safe, welcoming, nurturing environment for children and families. This included having a secure entry system with a member of staff welcoming families as they arrived.

The manager and staff team knew the care and support needs of all children very well. Keyworker groups assisted staff in getting to know a smaller group of children better as individuals, supporting their individual needs and including them in planning and identifying next steps in learning. Parents confirmed that they were included in agreeing targets/next steps for their children and staff highlighted their child’s individual achievements, learning and progress.
Children’s learning journals had been reviewed and updated to include reference to the wellbeing indicators of ensuring children were safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible, respected and included. These folders were now much more visible and accessible to children and parents to enable them to revisit and reflect on their individual experiences and learning. A learning wall display in the foyer further informed families of the overall experiences and activities children had been involved in.

Staff were knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe and annual training for child protection had just been completed. This contributed to children’s safety, health and wellbeing. Relevant information was displayed for parents to ensure the importance of safeguarding children was highlighted to all adults.

Throughout the week, children had an opportunity to sit together as a large group for snack and at other times choose when to have their snack during the session. This offered a balance of opportunities for children to socialise with friends, be included in setting the table, preparing, serving and making choices independently. The children determined what was for snack the following day by using a voting system. This included the children in making decisions and discussing healthy choices.

We acknowledged that children had daily access to the outdoor area and that the outdoor space had been improved to extend outdoor learning experiences. Children had assisted in building a stage, a den, fairy corner and explored the properties of sand in a large outdoor sandpit. Parents had been consulted about contributing to ‘loose parts play’ and a weekly visit to a variety of natural environments in the local community had just been introduced. This included parents and extended children’s social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity, using open-ended and natural resources.

Children had been involved in planting and growing vegetables and strawberries. Strawberries were made into jam for snack and potatoes were picked and sold by the children at their ‘nursery shop.’ This included children in having responsibility for caring for plants, finding out more about food and opportunities to handle real coins in a meaningful situation. The children then added the money and decided as a group what to purchase for their outdoor space.

**What the service could do better**

We noted that the toilet door was wedged open throughout the session. As this area was in close proximity to where snack was prepared and served, we advised this should be risk assessed, taking advice from environmental health and ensuring children’s safety when opening and closing the door. Revised risk assessments and procedures should be discussed with children and staff to ensure their health and safety. (see recommendation one)

Although we did not fully assess the quality of staffing theme, we sampled safe recruitment procedures as part of our inspection procedures. We noted that although two satisfactory references were in place for one member of staff, one was not dated and one had been obtained after the person was in post. This was not in line with safe recruitment guidance. (see recommendation two)

We advised the service to review the structure of the day and the balance of child-led activities and adult-directed activities to ensure outcomes for individual children was promoted within the service.

Although all required information was in place within children’s personal plans we advised where recorded information could be improved:
- ensuring at least one emergency contact is in place for children other than their parents
- where external agencies are involved, details of the agreed strategies/next steps should be included. Having this clear, detailed information would contribute towards meeting the care and support needs of individual children.

The use of the outdoor area could be improved by having a member of staff stationed in this area as recommended at the last inspection. As two members of staff were attending an outdoor learning course on the afternoon of the inspection and the manager was keen to visit other establishments where indoor/outdoor free flow play worked well, we felt this was an area the service would introduce. This would improve outcomes for children by having a choice of where to play and what to play with.

**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 2

1. The main door to the children’s toilets should be closed at all times as the toilets are in close proximity to where children’s snack is prepared and eaten. We advised the service to look at information within the document ‘Space to Grow’, ‘Infection prevention and control in daycare of children and childminding settings’ and take advice from the local environmental health department. We also asked that the door should be risk assessed by manager and staff to ensure children can open and close the toilet door safely. This would contribute to children’s health and safety.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: ‘my environment is safe and secure (HSCS 5.17) and ‘I can easily access a toilet from the rooms I use and can use this when I need to’ (HSCS 5.2).

2. The provider and manager should ensure recruitment policies and procedures are in line with good practice guidance ‘Safer Recruitment through better recruitment.’ This includes ensuring two satisfactory references are in place prior to the person being employed in the service.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: ‘I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited’ (HSCS 4.24).

**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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>15 Sep 2015</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support Environment 5 - Very good</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing 5 - Very good</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership 4 - Good</td>
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<td>30 Oct 2012</td>
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<td>Care and support Environment 4 - Good</td>
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Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren’t good enough.

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