

# Miltonduff Pre-school Group

## Day Care of Children

Miltonduff Hall  
Miltonduff  
Elgin  
IV30 8TY

Telephone: 07738 159805

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

29 August 2018

**Service provided by:**

Miltonduff Pre-school Group

**Service provider number:**

SP2003001904

**Service no:**

CS2003008889

## About the service

Miltonduff Pre-school Group is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 14 children in the main playroom aged from 3 years to not yet attending primary school and for up to 16 children when the large hall is available. In addition to provide a care service to a maximum of 10 children aged from 2 to under 3 years operating from the large hall.

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

The service operates from a village community hall, consisting of a small designated playroom, a large communal hall and kitchen. There was also a large enclosed garden/play area that the children could use.

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 include:

- recognise the need for every child to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, involved
- to provide a broad, stimulating and enjoyable pre-school education for all our children which harness our unique environment, supportive community and committed staff
  - recruiting, training and supporting our staff appropriately
  - involving parents in all that we do.

## What people told us

There was a total of 18 children present during the inspection. We observed the children were happy and settling well as ante-pre children had recently started at the service. Children clearly enjoyed being outdoors on a walk and the weekly visit to the wood, where pre-school children were caring and helpful towards the younger children. Specific comments included:

'we are helping the little ones to learn about walking safely outside'  
'this is a wand (stick) it does magic'  
'I have made vanilla ice-cream' (play dough)  
'I have made a map (play dough) the cars park here, there are lots of roads'  
'I have made macaroni pasta and have shared some with my friends'  
'we have made a den for Milton' (group mascot)  
'I can balance on the log and jump'.

Three parents returned completed care standards questionnaires. We spoke with three parents during our inspection. They all told us that overall they were happy with the service. The staff were very friendly and caring. The size of the pre-school group and 2-3 group helped staff to get to know families and children well. Children had lots of outdoor activities and children enjoyed the weekly movement and dance session. Specific comments included:

'I am really happy, child has settled well, a Facebook page helps to keep us up to date and parents being invited to be part of the committee means new ideas are shared'  
 'wonderful group, really happy, wish I had known about it for my first child, staff friendly and open to ideas'  
 'very happy, not seen my child's learning folder but sure I could ask'  
 'staff genuinely care about my child's wellbeing by asking about their needs and helping them to feel included in every way'  
 'a brilliant nursery, my child thoroughly enjoys his time and staff have time and patience for every child'.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own plans for improvement and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision.

## 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 caring and nurturing environment, where they were able to move around independently and make choices about their play. The friendly and positive interaction of staff helped children to form friendships and enjoy each other's company. We saw that pre-school children took pride in helping the relatively new ante-preschool children to learn about keeping safe on a walk.

The effective and meaningful communication between the manager, staff and parents meant that the individual needs of each of the children were well known and monitored. Where appropriate early intervention had resulted in support from other professionals, with a view to providing the best support for children. The holistic approach to the well-being of each of the children by the service encompassed Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). Parents told us that staff genuinely cared about children's wellbeing and the important part family had to play.

Children's physical, emotional and social wellbeing was also being promoted during healthy snack and outdoor activities. Children enjoyed a walk in the rural community to the grounds of a local business; they talked about different animals and nature on the way. On arrival they were able to run and jump around safely and play chase. A weekly visit to the woods a short distance away enabled children to be involved in the risk assessment process, to develop their own knowledge and self awareness. The natural environment provided opportunities for exploration and creativity. We saw that children had fun building dens with branches, twigs and moss, searching for and finding woodland creatures.

The manager advised us that there had not been any child protection concerns. A child protection policy was in place. Staff had an understanding of child protection issues and procedures as a result of training that contributed to safeguarding the children. The knowledge the staff had of the children also enabled them to be alerted to changes or signs of stress.

The manager maintained close links with staff on a daily basis as they frequently worked in the service, enabling them to have a good overview of the service provision. Staff presented as being happy and motivated and were given the autonomy to use their skills and to try new things. The provider of the service was a committee consisting of parents that had used or were using the service. They met regularly along with the manager and staff to discuss, monitor and evaluate the service provision.

## What the service could do better

It was clear that children enjoyed exploring with more natural materials such as pasta in the role play kitchen. The introduction of some household items such as pots/pans and plates were also beneficial in experimental play that helped with acquiring life skills. However, increased opportunities for loose parts play inside and outside, and a wider choice of activities would help to ensure that all children were provided with challenge through exploration and creativity. During our discussion with the manager we were advised that some play equipment was being replaced that enabled children to invent and modify their own construction. It was also anticipated that plans for the service to have a designated outdoor play area would provide autonomy in its use. Therefore, there would be a real focus scrap materials and natural resources to bring a further sense of adventure and excitement to children's play. Reference: My World Outdoors and Our Creative Journey - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com)

Whilst the manager had an overview of the strengths of the service and liaised closely with staff and the management committee, we considered that there was scope for monitoring and self evaluation to be more rigorous. Following a discussion regarding improvement, there was a consensus that quality assurance and self evaluation would remain continuous, with a focus on what was working well and what more could be done to improve outcomes for children. The framework 'How good is our early learning and childcare' would be used more effectively to explore progress, development and practice to help identify what has worked well and what needed to improve.

## 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	
8 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
28 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
18 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
23 Mar 2010	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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