

The Community School of Auchterarder Day Care of Children

New School Lane
Auchterarder
PH3 1BL

Telephone: 01764 662182

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

2 October 2018

Service provided by:

Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003370

Service no:

CS2003016091

About the service

The nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2002 and is based in a spacious purpose-built building within The Community School of Auchterarder Campus, in the centre of the town of Auchterarder. The nursery benefits from direct access to a large secure outdoor area and from shared facilities across the community campus.

At present the nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 80 children aged two years to those not yet attending primary school.

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

The nursery shares the whole school vision, values and aims with the motto - 'Strive to Excel'. Vision - 'Our vision is of a confident and ambitious school community where attainment and achievement are valued and encouraged in a safe, happy and supportive environment.'

A list of values and aims is available by contacting the service.

What people told us

We provided the service with 30 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents of children using the service. Fourteen completed questionnaires were returned to us before our inspection.

The majority of the responses were very positive however one or two indicated they 'disagreed' with some of our statements. We explored these statements through discussions with staff and our own observations during the course of our inspection. We had the opportunity to speak with a number of parents on the day of inspection. All of the parents we spoke to and the parents who completed our questionnaires agreed that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child receives while in the service and confirmed some of the written comments received. These included:

'My child is not a very outgoing child however he has settled without issue, does not look back and is enthusiastic about going each day. This was not at all expected and must be down to the staff and the environment created.'

'The nursery itself is beautiful. Spacious and well equipped. There is a great range of things to do for all children. All staff are exceptional in the way they always have a big smile on their face and welcome my child every day. I cannot thank them enough for giving my child the best start to his educational life.'

'As a mother with a child that needs extra care and support, I cannot fault TCSOA nursery. I am completely happy with the service they provide.'

'Fantastic staff, very experienced, skilled, courteous and caring. My son has amazing opportunities at TCSOA nursery. Well organised and good forward planning.'

On the day of inspection 47 children attended. Eighteen of whom accessed the full-day provision and stayed for lunch. During the inspection we observed the children at play and found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities, lunches and snacks. The children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing there and to involve us in their play. They told us:

'We wash our hands in case they get germs.'

'A scarecrow scares birds from the sky, I've got two and they're up high.'

'Hi, what's your name? My name is XXXX. Do you want to play with this?'

'It's a tongue and then it transforms into a gun. It's a tongue gun!'

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 paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for 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	5 - Very Good
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, from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as very good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as very good.

We spoke with staff about the service's child protection policy. We were satisfied that they had a good working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that service users were protected. Staff told us that they had yearly updates to refresh and inform their practise.

The outdoor environment was a strength of the service. We observed children to be busy and purposeful, interacting well together and making good use of the space and resources available to them. We saw how they were able to use a wide range of 'loose parts' (the provision of open-ended resources) and more traditional resources to work collaboratively and creatively.

The outdoor area provided children with very good opportunities to explore the natural environment as well as providing them with experiences using more traditional resources. The staff confidently encouraged children to assess and explore risks which helped them to find out more about their capabilities. This gave children responsibility and freedom, with guidance, to experiment and learn naturally through play and to learn from their mistakes.

The indoor environment, sectioned in bays, was bright and airy offering children space to engage in large or small group play. Children were all familiar with the nursery routines, few interruptions to the session ensured children were able to engage in their own play and learning for prolonged periods of time.

We saw that staff know their children well and use what they know to communicate with and meet the needs of all children. This was especially evident in the support given to children with additional support needs. Staff worked well with parents, carers and partner agencies to provide targeted support.

Parents and carers were actively encouraged to be partners in learning through the service open door policy, opportunities to comment on personal profiles and planned parental engagement opportunities. Staff in the 'strong start 2's' provision had recently introduced the use of a computer application, which instantly shared children's learning and experiences. Feedback from parents and carers was very positive and staff have planned to introduce its use to another keyworker group.

What the service could do better

Regular observations had been recorded in children's journals. Staff should ensure that these are significant and record children's learning rather than descriptions of the activities they had been engaged in. Staff should consider whether next steps are required and where recorded, these should be measurable, achievable and revisited on a regular basis. Staff should begin to involve children in reviewing and assessing their learning as well as in the writing of next steps.

To further support children's natural drive of curiosity and enquiry the service should continue to provide more natural, open-ended resources across the indoor environments.

Staff should consider ways they could encourage children to become more independent. We observed some learning activities where children were directed in their play and learning by staff. We discussed, during feedback, a number of simple changes which would not only support children's independence and responsibility but also promote creativity. Staff told us of their plans to support children in becoming more independent during the lunch time provision, through the promotion of self-help skills and opportunities to develop responsibility. We would encourage them to do this at their earliest opportunity.

We found some staff to be very task orientated and occasionally lacking in an awareness of what was going on around them. Greater awareness would have minimised some incidents of unwanted behaviours, especially those taking place in the walk way.

We looked at accidents and incidents and found these to be completed and shared appropriately. Staff kept an audit however, we asked them to include a record of how the risks to children had been minimised through, for example, changes to the environment or behaviour strategies put in place.

We discussed the recording of allergies and food intolerances and asked the service to make this clearer, especially for new or relief members of staff, to ensure children were kept safe when enjoying snacks and lunches.

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
29 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
25 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
18 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
21 Jan 2009		Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

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.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.