

Liff Pre School Class Day Care of Children

Liff Primary School
Liff
Dundee
DD2 5NJ

Telephone: 01382 536650

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
5 November 2018

Service provided by:
Angus Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000043

Service no:
CS2003016861

About the service

Liff Pre School Class is a local authority nursery in Angus. It is registered to provide care to a maximum of 14 children from the age of three to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery class is situated in a building with primary one which is separate from the main school building. Within the building the children have access to the school gym hall and they sometimes visit primary one. The children also have regular weekly access to the school library and the outdoor play areas. Trips to the nearby woods facilitated alternative outdoor learning environments.

What people told us

We spoke with children throughout the inspection, who were observed to be confident and settled in the nursery. We saw that they were happy, secure and enjoying their nursery experiences. Children's comments included;

'Giddy giddy up - I'm a horse - not a real one'

'I need to drive - we're going to Canada - has everyone got their seatbelts on?'

'This is our plane - we're going to fly everywhere'

'Who wants to come on holiday?'

'We can look at my pictures - this book is all about me - that's my drawing I did'

'That's us in the woods - where's me? - I like going to the woods - its not scary - its fun'

'Only grown-ups can open the door'

'Who is going to check the garden today? to make sure its safe'

'Ah no stinky socks!'

'Lets get the brushes'

'I'm learning to ride my bike with two wheels'

'That's really sparkly - shiny like a diamond'

'I'm the special helper today - I'm helping Miss Clarkson'

'Can I switch the light of when we leave?'

'Sometimes my dad puts his pen behind his ears - he is always doing funny things - why does he do that?- look I can put my pencil there'

'We can both have a turn - there's room'

'Did you like coming to our nursery? are you coming back tomorrow?'

We spoke with five parents and carers during the inspection, who all spoke very highly of the staff and the care and support that their child received. Parents told us;

'It's fantastic - we're just so thrilled to be coming here'

'We just love it here - its great'

'The nursery is fabulous'

'She just loves coming here - the staff are amazing - she talks about them all the time'

'Its just brilliant - they are fantastic - they often take them to the woods to play - she includes nursery staff when she talks about her family at home - she adores them'.

We also received completed care standards questionnaires from three parents and carers who spoke highly of the service. Two of the parents who returned questionnaires to us 'strongly agreed' and one 'agreed' that they were overall happy with the quality of care that their child receives in the service. Their comments included;

'I can find no fault with the service. The facilities could be better but the staff use the space they do have to its best advantage'

'We are delighted with Miss Clarkson and all the staff at Liff Nursery. We could not ask for a better learning environment for our child'

'The nursery building is safe and secure, but the playground and surrounding area can easily be accessed by anyone.' This parent also had some reservations about photographs being shared on social media.

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 systems. These demonstrated the service priorities for improvement and detailed how they were monitoring the quality of the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
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 excellent. We also looked at the quality of staffing which we evaluated as very good.

Liff nursery staff had created a most welcoming, inclusive and homely atmosphere, where children were seen to be very happy and secure. Families were greeted warmly as they arrived and children settled quickly at play. Children were respected and valued and the nurturing and enabling ethos supported children very well and set a positive climate for learning.

The flexible, free flow sessions were organised in a manner that enabled children to make choices, develop their own interests and to actively lead their own learning. Children were very well consulted and involved in planning and decision making, with their ideas and suggestions promptly acted upon by staff. Children were seen confidently accessing their learning folio's and putting pieces of work on their individual learning panels. We saw that children felt included and had a pride and sense of belonging to the nursery. They were busy and focused at play throughout the observed sessions and motivated by the learning environment. Literacy and numeracy were very well supported in a manner that was naturally woven into play. Our observations and conversations with children concluded that they were developing confidence and a range of skills and knowledge. They used wide vocabulary, expressed themselves well and engaged in meaningful conversations with adults and peers. They counted confidently and were developing their understanding of number, shape and size. Children had excellent opportunities to explore, investigate and problem solve. Outcomes for children were seen to be excellent, they were happy, thriving and enthusiastic for learning. They welcomed the challenges and extended opportunities that were offered by skilled and observant staff.

Children had very good access to the inviting outside play area, where they were seen to be enjoying a range of resources and experiences. This included access to many natural and open -ended materials that promoted their creativity and sparked their imaginations.

We saw that children had excellent opportunities to be independent and responsible. They were involved in carrying out nursery tasks, for example, completing risk assessments for the outdoor play area, serving their own snacks and cleaning up the snack area. Children were encouraged and praised for their achievements and helpful behaviours, which further boosted their confidence. Children were sociable and respectful to others, they had made good friendships, were sharing and learning to work cooperatively together. Children's emotional wellbeing was very well supported within the warm and caring setting.

Children's health was well supported through the varied and healthy snack menu, daily fresh air and active play, good approach to hand washing and the routine discussions that reinforced healthy habits and safe behaviours.

There was a consistent and clearly embedded code of staff practice that ensured staff were respectful, caring and responsive. Staff were skilled and knowledgeable and they spoke to the children with kindness and enthusiasm. They valued children's contributions and demonstrated genuine passion in their work with the children. Staff had formed strong relationships with children, they knew them very well and were responsive to their individual needs. They used observation skills well and intervened effectively to add value to children's play and learning. They had ambition for the children and were offering them broad experiences that challenged them, routinely using appropriate challenge questions to support learning. Staff had great fun with the children, they smiled and laughed and were always warm and approachable. Very good teamwork was noted that ensured that children's needs were met and that information and daily reflections were shared to support the smooth running and continuous review of the service.

Staff spoke positively about their roles, they felt well supported and were committed to enhancing their expertise through professional development opportunities. They were aware of current guidance and reflected good practice principles in their daily work. For example, extending opportunities for outdoor learning that included visits to local woodland.

We concluded that children were thoroughly enjoying their rich nursery experiences in which they were secure and thriving. They were very well supported by nurturing and motivated staff who worked well together.

What the service could do better

The service should continue building on the high standards of care and excellent learning opportunities observed at this inspection. Staff could provide parents with more informal feedback about their child's experiences at the end of each session. They should continue to review their procedures for any long term medication in line with current Care Inspectorate guidance.

The service should continue to work with parents in developing their safe practices for the use of social media.

Although we were not assessing the theme of environment at this inspection we did follow up on previous recommendations made at the last inspection. One recommendation regarding infection control measures in relation to the children's toilets had not yet been met. The service must now take steps to ensure a more permanent solution is sought to ensuring good infection control measures between the children's toilets and the playroom, as recommended at the last inspection. **(See requirement 1)**

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. The service must ensure that effective measures are taken to ensure children's health and safety through a more robust and permanent solution to the barrier between the children's toilets and the playroom.

This is ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "my environment is secure and safe" (HSCS 5.17) and in order to comply with regulation 4 (1) (a) Welfare of users of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

Timescale: 1 May 2019.

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
19 Jan 2016	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>
15 Mar 2013	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>
2 Feb 2010	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>

Date	Type	Gradings

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