

Cowie Nursery

Day Care of Children

St Margaret's Primary School and Cowie Nursery
McSherry Court
Cowie
Stirling
FK7 7FE

Telephone: 01786 237954

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

23 November 2018

Service provided by:

Stirling Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002689

Service no:

CS2003043672

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

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

Cowie Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 96 children aged from birth to primary school age. The provider is Stirling Council.

The service is situated within purpose-built premises which are shared with St Margaret's Primary School and the local community centre. The service has secluded entrance areas and sole use of dedicated playrooms, rooms for quieter activities, toilets, nappy changing rooms, hallways, cloakrooms, offices, staff room and outside areas. In addition, the service can use an onsite community hall for physical activities. Strong links with the school and community centre have enhanced children's presence and pride in their community.

The vision and aims of the service include:

- Provide a safe, nurturing, inclusive and fun learning environment
- Promote wellbeing and respect amongst our Nursery community
- Support children to reach their full potential valuing wider achievements
- Engage children in the highest quality learning experiences through responsive curriculum planning
- Value and empower children ensuring children's rights are embedded in practice
- Work in partnership with families and our local community.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

Throughout the inspection, children were very happy, relaxed and busy playing and exploring the activities and experiences available. Children were deeply engaged in their play, showing confidence and enjoyment in the nursery.

Children happily played on their own and with others, demonstrating a feeling of belonging and security in the nursery environment. As children chatted with staff and each other it was evident positive relationships had formed.

Children spoke to us with ease, sharing what they were learning, telling us about their nursery and inviting us to join in their games. One child proudly showed us around the nursery describing each area and what they liked to do at nursery. This demonstrated children's feeling of ownership and responsibility in the nursery.

We sent 10 care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents and carers of children who attended the service. Five were completed and returned to us before the inspection visit. In the returned questionnaires, all parents strongly agreed that overall they were happy with the quality of care their children received in the service. Parents written comments included:

"Amazing nursery, very happy to be part of it. My kids love it."

"Cowie Nursery is a home from home, the relationships my son and us as parents have with all the staff are fantastic. I am involved in my son's time at nursery through many different ways and feel part of the community. My son continues to be nurtured and challenged in his learning and runs in the door every morning."

"The service that Cowie Nursery provides for our son is second to none. Staff are fully supportive of his individual needs whilst giving encouragement to learn and develop new skills."

"I feel able to discuss concerns at the time with staff and they have always been happy to try and work around these."

"The support and education they show my children are outstanding. Any queries or concerns I have with my child's learning or development are dealt with to the best of their ability and to suit my child's needs and interests, nothing is too much for them. The staff are great and very supportive of myself also, families are encouraged to participate in activities and experiences often and communication is excellent."

During the inspection we spoke to three parents. They were very positive about the care and support provided to them and their child. They were also very complimentary about communication and the level of information shared about their child and the nursery.

We also spoke to a visiting specialist who worked with the service and families to support children with additional support needs. The specialist was extremely complimentary about the support given to children and their families by the nursery. They described a very positive working relationship. The specialist informed us that due to the excellent support given by the nursery that in some cases they had withdrawn their services as they considered the nursery to be fully meeting the specific needs of the child and their family.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection.

We looked at the service's improvement plan which demonstrated its priorities for development and how staff were monitoring the quality of the provision within 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	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Throughout the inspection children experienced high quality, warm and nurturing interactions from a dedicated and caring staff team. Children were supported very well to remain happy, settled and secure in the nursery environment.

Children continued to develop as their needs were regularly assessed and evaluated, contributing to the highly effective planning of daily activities. Staff knew the children extremely well and worked together, sharing important information that would ensure positive experiences and individual outcomes for children and their families.

Continuous opportunities to express their views and influence the planning and provisions of activities showed children they were listened to, respected and valued. This, and staff interactions, demonstrated a very child-led environment where children were trusted and empowered to lead their own play, learning and take ownership of their time in nursery.

Throughout the inspection children freely choose activities and confidently moved around the nursery as they explored the wide range of open-ended activities and experiences. This promoted exploration, discovery and contributed to sustained interest and achievement.

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing was a particular strength within this service. Staff were mindful of children's differing needs, level of understanding and specific attachments to staff and each other. Staff members' very strong understanding of the importance of promoting positive relationships and attachments supported children's confidence, self-esteem and sense of belonging in the nursery environment.

Strong, embedded links and positive relationships with parents and other professionals further promoted children's wellbeing. Staff respectfully worked with parents and other professionals to develop strategies to support individual development, achievement and continuity of care.

Staff confidently engaged in leadership roles, supporting their professional development. They remained committed to gaining new skills and sharing their learning with each other to secure continuous improvements and positive outcomes for children. A strong example of this was members of staff and management researching and implementing new initiatives to support communication, attachments, emotional wellbeing and ensure a strong nurturing environment. It was evident, throughout the inspection, that this was having an extremely positive impact on children and their families.

Children's physical wellbeing was encouraged as they enjoyed daily outside access and long periods of active and outside play. Children of all ages were exploring, climbing, moving at different paces and heights and, where possible, joining in racing games. Their learning of healthy eating and positive choices also encouraged an understanding and interest in their own physical wellbeing. Children excitedly told us how they had planted, grown, harvested and cooked vegetables to make soup. During the inspection, the children enjoyed healthy snacks and meals. Their high level involvement in the preparation and serving of snacks and meals encouraged self help skills such as cutting, peeling, spreading and pouring. Children also took responsibility for setting the table and clearing away their own dishes and cutlery.

What the service could do better

Children of all ages enjoyed exploring and discovery as they engaged in risky play. This is an aspect of play and provision which could be taken further. The service demonstrated a strong understanding of the benefits to this type of play and were keen to enhance current opportunities.

We discussed enhancing children's opportunities to have space and time to be on their own, with specific friends or with staff. For example, more dens or places of secrecy. This could enhance the already excellent work carried out to support attachment and children's emotional wellbeing.

The highly skilled staff team remained enthusiastic, reflective and knowledgeable of current best practice and professional guidance documents. We shared the current document My Creative Journey, which can be accessed on The Hub section of our website. This document will enhance the current very good provisions and children's achievement and enjoyment as they discover and develop their creativity.

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	
20 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
8 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
12 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
16 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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