

# Strathallan Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Strathallan Primary School  
Strathallan Drive  
Kirkcaldy  
KY2 5YP

Telephone: 01592 583434

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

14 December 2018

**Service provided by:**

Fife Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2004005267

**Service no:**

CS2006140978

## About the service

The nursery is based in a purpose-built wing within Strathallan Primary School, in the western area of Kirkcaldy. The nursery benefits from two large, interlinked playrooms, direct access to a secure outdoor area, a general purpose room and from shared facilities across the school.

The nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2007 and is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children from the age of three years until they are of an age to attend primary school.

Other conditions unique to the service state - Adult:child ratios will be maintained as follows: 1:8 for children who attend for a period of four hours or more in any day and 1:10 for children who attend for a period of less than four hours in any day, providing individual children do not attend more than one session per day. Two adults must be in attendance at any one time. Only adults in contact with the children for the majority of the session may count towards the ratios.

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 a vision with the school which states; Strathallan Primary School and Nursery will work together with all stakeholders to ensure all our children have opportunities to become:

- Successful Learners.
- Confident Individuals.
- Responsible Citizens.
- Effective Contributors.

We will provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment in which all children, families and staff are equal and respected. We will strive to deliver the very best learning opportunities possible. We will support children to understand environmental and cultural issues.

A list of values and aims is available from the service.

## What people told us

We provided the service with 30 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents and carers of children using the service. Twelve completed questionnaires were returned to us before our inspection. Those who completed our questionnaires agreed or strongly agreed that overall they were happy with the quality of care and support their child receives while in the service.

In two of the questionnaires received parents disagreed with two statements around the nursery's use of the local environment and opportunities for children to sleep or rest. We explored these responses through our inspection of the service. We had the opportunity to speak with a number of parents and carers on the day of inspection who confirmed some of the written comments received. These included:

'The staff are very warm and welcoming to both parents and children. I feel very much at ease when I drop my child off. The nursery offers a wide range of engaging activities.'

'Fantastic level of care and attention to detail and always going the extra mile.'

'Staff are very friendly and informative.'

'Thoroughly satisfied with the care my child receives at Strathallan Nursery. The staff are very welcoming and the fact my child comes home happy and is always happy to go is very reassuring.'

On the day of inspection 16 children attended in the morning session and 14 attended in the afternoon session. No children attended over the lunchtime period on the day we carried out our inspection.

During the inspection we observed the children at play and found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities, snacks and lunches. 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:

'It's a heart, that one's yellow, a rectangle.'

'You have this one (pen) and draw like my picture.'

'I'm going for snack, its cheese and crackers, my favourite.'

'It was my birthday, I was four and he came to my party.'

'Would you like mine (pen)? You can use it to finish my picture.'

## 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.

We saw that staff know their children and their families well and use what they know to communicate with and meet the needs of all children. Children and their families were greeted at the door by a member of staff giving families the opportunity to share information. The cloakroom, which was presently being refreshed, displayed a range of information which parents found accessible and informative and shared opportunities for parents to be partners in their children's learning through take home bags and a lending library.

We observed warm and nurturing interactions between staff and children. This had a very positive impact on children as they replicated respect and inclusion during conversations and play opportunities. Staff gave children time to find solutions to problems they encountered during their play and learning. We heard staff using questions to good effect to challenge and further children's learning and thinking.

The outdoor environment was of a very high quality. Staff, children and families had worked together to provide an extensive range of experiences. Our inspection took place on a very cold winter's day, this was not a barrier to children playing and learning outdoors. 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 staff confidently encouraged children to assess and explore risks which helped them to find out more about their capabilities.

We found that the staff made good use of the local environment. Children were given the opportunity to participate in regular forest and beach kindergarten experiences. We were particularly impressed by their thoughtful risk assessments to ensure children with mobility issues were able to attend and be included in these activities.

## What the service could do better

We looked at the storage and documentation relating to children's medication. The deputy head teacher held a regular overall audit, which recorded medications held and their expiry dates. We asked staff to ensure that medication permissions are reviewed with parents and carers termly according to current best practice guidance, to ensure there have been no changes to medication, prescribing information or signs and symptoms.

We asked staff to prioritise first aid training for staff. Presently the peripatetic teacher and support staff within the school are the only members of staff trained. Accidents and incidents were recorded and shared appropriately with parents however we identified some information which was missing. Staff should include children's dates of birth, identify whether the paperwork relates to an accident or incident and where and when an accident or incident has been caused and corresponding paperwork should be completed. We would also ask the service to ensure that staff regularly audit their records of accidents and incidents to identify common features and how the service intends to minimise any identified risks to children, which may include changes to the environment or strategies put in place.

Staff had already identified a need to further develop children's personal learning journeys. We looked at written observations and suggested 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.

We would like to have seen more evidence of children's emergent and early writing skills, on displays and in floorbooks. This would help to ensure children were fully included and that their views, skills and ideas were valued.

We suggested that children could be involved in risk assessing the outdoor area, giving them some opportunity to be responsible for health and safety of their peers through identifying potential risks.

## 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	
30 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
21 Sep 2010	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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