care inspectorate

Grange Pre-School Playgroup
Day Care of Children

Grange Primary School
Grange Road
Monifieth
Dundee
DD5 4LU

Telephone: 07704 121 162

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
7 February 2019

Service provided by:
Grange Pre-School Playgroup

Service provider number:
SP2003000562

Service no:
CS2003002868

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

About the service

Grange Pre-School Playgroup registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2002. It provides a day care of children service to a maximum of 20 children between the ages of two and a half to five years at any one time, or a maximum of 22 children between the age of three and five at any one time.

The service operates from a dedicated space within Grange Primary School, Monifieth. The accommodation consists of a playroom, cloakroom area that provides additional play space, children's toilets and a large garden area.

A voluntary group of parents and carers who form the committee runs Grange Pre-School Playgroup.

The aims of the service include 'provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which each child is respected and valued as an individual, and where children are viewed as competent and active learners who are curious about discovering the world'.

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.

What people told us

We observed all the children to be very happy, relaxed and settled within the service. Children were confident at including us within their session and telling us about their time in the service. We saw children to be fully engaged in directing their own play and learning activities with support from adults. We saw children utilise all areas of the service and experience the range of activities on offer.

We provided the service with eight Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to distribute to parents/carers. We received seven completed questionnaires before the inspection. We also spoke to parents/carers during the inspection. All parents/carers strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received within the service. The responses from our other questions were very positive, with no areas for improvement identified by parents/carers. Comments from parents/carers included:

'Grange Pre-School Playgroup is a fantastic friendly playgroup. The staff are amazing with all the children. Each child has their voice heard and listened to and their ideas are used in future plans.'

'We were so delighted with our child's experiences at Grange Playgroup last session that we chose to leave him here for his pre-school year. The staff are wonderful, so committed to providing a very varied environment for the playgroup children. There has been a great deal of outside play this session, even on wet and windy days. It's great having the opportunity for us to do playgroup duty and get to know the other children better. Our child has formed strong friendships which will help him as he transfers to P1 in the summer.'

'Both my children have had the privilege of attending Grange Playgroup and the experiences they have had are priceless. Myself and my children have built positive, lasting relationships with all staff. The consistent nurturing approach used by staff has created a safe, secure environment for my children to play and learn happily. The reggio approach that is delivered at Grange Playgroup shows the quality of expertise in the staff. I believe in the huge impact of this approach so much so that I value and use some strategies at home as a parent.'

'My child loves Grange Pre-School Playgroup. He is settled and secure in the setting and has developed good relationships with peers and the staff. This child centred approach evident in planning responsive care and loving ethos is fabulous. My child is valued as an individual for all that he brings to the setting and the skilled, patient and fun staff provide support to facilitate his development.'

'My child loves his playgroup family and feels happy and secure with them. I love that I can be so involved with his learning and development. Grange Playgroup provide lots of individual and personal touches to the experience and I can't wait for my second child to have the same experience.'

'Grange Playgroup is a safe, friendly and nurturing environment for my child. My child feels incredibly happy and secure at playgroup. He is thriving and growing in confidence. The committed staff led by an inspirational leader ensure the children are all included and feel part of the playgroup. The planning and documenting approach ensures children and families are involved. The environment is stimulating and regularly changed to reflect the children's interests. The links to the local community are strong. My child has had a wide experience, yoga, emergency services. The playgroup use the outdoor environment daily which my child loves.'

'My child settled instantly in the calm, supportive environment at Grange Playgroup. He was invited and encouraged to attend two settling in visits. From this point I was certain that this was the right environment for his pre-school year. I have been continually impressed by the quality and quantity of communication from staff. Parents are encouraged to give honest feedback via the feedback book available at the entrance. His personal diary shows his individual progress, learning and development. It gives clear examples of his development and supports his next steps. My child is very proud of his diary and enjoys that this also includes information about, for example, his October holiday. The vast range of activities which my child has been able to engage in have allowed him to express his creativity i.e. the loose parts project. He enjoys the opportunities for outdoor play and I can see high benefits to his development as a result of these chances. Staff are amazing professionals.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated how the service was monitoring the overall quality of the service and outlined their priorities for developing the service further.

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

Children were cared for by staff who were very knowledgeable of their individual needs. Children and staff had very close and nurturing relationships that we saw throughout the inspection. Children were very comfortable approaching staff for help, support and reassurance that staff were very happy to provide.

Children had excellent opportunities to make choices and contribute to the overall plan of the service. Children had been empowered by the staff to feel confident in doing so. At the start of each session a quality discussion was held with all the children to support them to decide what they wished to do during their time in the service. Children had full control over this and enjoyed making these decisions. We saw children request that their ideas be added to the plan for the following day as they knew this meant they could continue their play and learning.

Children sat together at snack time and received a very healthy snack. Children were able to be involved in preparing snack if they wished. This included setting the table. The whole snack experience was very child centred and focused on providing children with key skills and experiences such as independence and motor skills. Staff generally sat beside children and provided assistance when required. Staff were aware of the range of best practice guidance that was available to support snack experiences and were working through these to review their practice.

Staff respected children's choices at all times. We saw some children who wanted to move to the breakout area outside the main playroom. This was a quieter and more relaxing space for children to relax, play in smaller groups or experience a story. This was supported very well by staff who instantly accompanied children to this area.

The service had introduced a number of bears to the playgroup that linked to the wellbeing indicators as described above. This very simple idea was an excellent way to help children understand the meaning of the wellbeing indicators and link these to their play and experiences. Staff told us that initially they had led the thinking and discussions around the bears, however children had taken more ownership of these as their understanding of wellbeing has developed. Children and staff celebrated the success of using the bears for example, if someone has included their friends or have acted responsibly which further reinforced these ideas.

Children were cared for by staff who were safely recruited and inducted into the service. We spoke to the newest member of staff who told us she felt very well supported when she joined the team. We were confident that safe recruitment practices were followed to ensure the correct person had been employed in the service.

Parents and carers spoke very positively about the staff team. They felt that the relationships that families had built with staff were one of the key strengths to the service. Children benefitted from having continuity of care, as the staff team was very stable and consistent.

Staff worked hard to ensure they were providing the best possible care and support to children. This was achieved through regularly reflecting on the practice and using a wide range of evidence, guidance and best practice to make decisions about the service. This was supported through the excellent leadership of the manager and the support staff provided to each other.

What the service could do better

Overall, the service should continue to provide the excellent quality service to children that we saw during this inspection. This will include the service continuing to put in place the improvements identified as part of their improvement plan.

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	
14 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed
2 Dec 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent
5 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent
6 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
22 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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