

Lochpots School Nursery Day Care of Children

Lochpots School
Robertson Road
Fraserburgh
AB43 9BF

Telephone: 01346 415825

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

25 January 2019

Service provided by:

Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000029

Service no:

CS2003015731

About the service

Lochpots School Nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011, to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

Lochpots School Nursery is an Aberdeenshire Council service situated within a residential area of Fraserburgh. The nursery class is located in a separate building next to the primary school building. Children attending the nursery are able to use other parts of the main school including the gym hall. They have their own nursery garden and they are able to use other parts of the school grounds for outdoor activities.

Aims of the service include being committed "to provide a welcoming atmosphere for pupils, staff, parents and the wider community where we can learn together in an environment of respect, pride, enthusiasm and ambition."

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

For this inspection we received three completed care standard questionnaires and we spoke to two parents / carers. Responses indicated that parents were very happy with the service, commenting very positively about the care and support their child was given. They told us the staff were friendly and approachable and knew the needs of their children well.

"The staff are friendly and approachable at all times."

"The staff are really good with all children and treat them all the same. Best nursery."

"It's a lovely nursery. My child has settled in really well. The staff are very polite and friendly."

"The staff are really nice and friendly. I have been helped to get in the queue for speech and language support. I am really happy and my child is happy."

There were approximately eight children present during the morning and seven in the afternoon session. They were happy to come into nursery and settled very quickly. They enjoyed playing with the toys and some children took part in a baking activity. The children told us they liked playing on the bikes outside.

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 processes. 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

4 - Good

Quality of environment

not assessed

Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

The staff were very friendly and welcoming and had formed positive relationships with the children and the families in their care. This contributed to working together to meet children's needs.

Children who required additional support were well supported to achieve and progress. Staff had worked very collaboratively with other agencies and parents to develop personal plans with clear strategies and an evaluation of any progress made. This meant staff had a very good knowledge of the needs of each child and how best to meet their individual needs.

Effective systems were in place to safeguard children. Staff demonstrated a very good knowledge and awareness of how to keep children safe and protected. The child protection policy provided clear guidance in the event of any concerns. Good use was made of chronologies to assess individual children's wellbeing needs.

Procedures and systems were in place to support the safe administration of medication. Medical care plans were regularly reviewed with parents and any medicines were safely stored on the premises. This helped keep children safe and well.

The introduction of a rolling snack supported children's independence and choice. Staff told us how they had used this as a learning opportunity to develop early numeracy and literacy skills. During inspection the children enjoyed celebrating Burns Day and were able to taste traditional Scottish foods. This helped develop their understanding of local cultures and celebrations.

The children were able to play outdoors and benefitted from running around and playing in the fresh air. This supported their physical and emotional development.

The manager of the service regularly visited the nursery and provided support to staff. Staff told us they felt part of the school and that the manager was approachable and helpful. This promoted a positive ethos where everyone worked well as a team.

Regular staff meetings meant the staff felt informed about any changes and were involved in making improvements to the service. The manager and staff had undertaken regular self-evaluation using the guidance How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare. This information was used to help develop an improvement plan for the service. This included curriculum development and changes to the outdoor play areas.

The manager had undertaken some staff monitoring and playroom observations as part of her quality assurance. We discussed using the Health and Social Care Standards to help ensure it was more effective to support improved outcomes for children.

Opportunities were available for parents and families to become involved with the service. Parents were able to take part in play and stay sessions and commented positively about attending. They felt welcomed by the staff and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with their child. They had been consulted on various issues, including home activities to support children's learning. This meant parents felt included and helped build positive relationships where they felt valued and listened to.

What the service could do better

Children were not always supported to achieve their full potential. Observations of the children at play were inconsistent and were not always used to inform planning. Staff should continue to develop their skills in using observation and assessment to help support and develop individual children's learning needs.

Staff interactions with the children were warm and caring. However, at times staff were too focussed on tasks such as clearing the tables and writing the children's diaries. This meant staff were not always able to interact and stimulate children's thinking. Staff should consider ways on how best to allocate their time.

Opportunities for the children to engage in open-ended and investigative play both indoors and outdoors were limited. We discussed developing the environment with more natural materials and open ended play experiences to stimulate children's thinking, imagination and problem solving. This will help staff to extend the children's learning through discussion and questioning.

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.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
22 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
25 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
14 Jun 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
24 Mar 2011	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment 2 - Weak Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
4 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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