care inspectorate

(Torridon Education Group's) Little Learners Day Care of Children

23a King Street
Lossiemouth
IV31 6PZ

Telephone: 01343 813342

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
15 January 2019

Service provided by:
Torridon Education Group Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2003001914

Service no:
CS2003008902

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

About the service

(Torridon Education Group's) Little Learners is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 30 children at any one time aged from 3 months up to 8 years of age, of whom a maximum of 6 children will be aged between 3 months to under 2 years, of whom no more than 3 will be under 12 months. At the time of the inspection only children aged under 3 years of age were using the service, only one was under 12 months.

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

The service operates from a detached one level building with direct access to a secure outdoor play area. It is located in an urban area in the coastal town of Lossiemouth, close to local amenities.

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 GIRFEC, safe, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included (also known as SHANARRI).

The aims and objectives of the service include:

To create a safe, stimulating environment where children can learn, play and have fun.

- build strong foundations in the learning process across the curriculum, giving every child the opportunity for development.
- treat each child as an individual and allow them to progress at a rate that they are comfortable with, whilst stretching their imagination and creativity.
- increase each child's confidence, self-esteem and independence, to enable them to make decisions for themselves and be responsible for their actions.
- work in partnership with parents and other professionals in the best interest of each child - abide by our statements in our "parents as partners".
- be committed to training and staff development, which will enhance the quality of learning and the overall effectiveness of the nursery team.

What people told us

There was a total of 17 children present during the inspection. Children enjoyed a wide variety of activities. They clearly had positive relationships with staff who were well skilled and experienced. Children also had lots of fun outside, despite the somewhat inclement weather as they had appropriate clothing to keep them warm. It was difficult to ascertain the views of the children due to their young age, however, specific comments included:

'this is a fire engine, I like cars'
'I am making pasta'
'I am making pizza'
'I will make you a cup of tea'
'I am rolling a ball' (playdough)
'we are having snack, I like wraps'
'I am stirring the flour it's pink'.

Six parents returned completed Care Standards Questionnaires. We spoke with five parents face to face during our inspection. They all told us that overall they were very happy with the service, information sharing was really good, especially the protected parent on-line media page. Parents particularly liked that the children were outside playing every day unless the weather was really bad. They considered that staff provided lots of different play activities for the children and they were very happy. Specific comments included:

'I would not consider placing my children anywhere else, it's great'
'staff are lovely and friendly; they have helped me a lot with my child'
'I love seeing what my child has been doing and learning, they have come on so much'
'my child is having some wonderful experiences'
'staff are fantastic and could no do more to make both parent and child feel happy and confident'
'it has a superb balance between indoor and outdoor activities, staff are amazing'
'staff have made a great impact on our child and when I have the opportunity to see them at nursery I am always grateful to witness this'
'we are delighted with the confidence and learning our child has developed over the time at the service'
'lots of outdoor and messy play, children always having fun whilst learning something new'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own plans for improvement and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision.

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

Children experienced a vibrant and stimulating environment that had a variety of age appropriate play that resulted in lots of enjoyment. The space had been thoughtfully arranged so that children could move around safely and independently. Children had clear pathways and floor space to and were able to make choices from interesting resources. Staff encouraged children to communicate with each other and they played well together. An inviting cosy/quiet area encouraged children to recuperate through calm play, such as looking at books or listening to stories.

Sensory, tactile and imaginary play, helped to support children's exploration and consolidate patterns of learning. For example herbs had been added to the role play kitchen, playdough included sticks, pine cones and mixed pots, emptying and filling containers in the water tray. Children had fun sitting on the floor by the multi-purpose tray, making and mixing moon sand, adding colour and sprinkles to the mix before making patterns and shapes. The outdoor play area consisted of a mud kitchen, water wall and growing area. Ride on toys, swing set and ball play supported children's balance and co-ordination. Children practiced independence skills when getting dressed for outdoor play. They played happily outside; pasta in the mud kitchen and bubbles were particularly popular.

The manager and staff knew the children very well; individual needs were being appropriately recorded and monitored within the personal plan. Staff liaised closely with parents/carers, and other professionals, advocating early intervention. The holistic approach to the wellbeing of each of the children encompassed Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). The attentive, sensitive and nurturing approach of the staff helped to support positive outcomes for children. Parents told us that staff provided a range of different experiences for the children and always shared information with them. Their professional, friendly and helpful approach was much appreciated.

Clear line management responsibility was in place for child protection. Staff had completed local authority training so that they had sound knowledge of safeguarding children. Staff understood medication procedures and appropriate systems were in place for the management of medication. Infection control procedures took account of good practice guidance. For example, children washed their hands before snack and safe nappy changing.

Snacks consisted of a range of healthy foods which took account of the nutritional guidance 'Setting the table' which supported children's growth and development. They complied with children's dietary needs and food preferences, as identified by parents. Staff provided positive role models as they sat with the children and helped them to learn good social skills and behaviours associated with eating and drinking.

What the service could do better

The manager and staff recognised the benefits of continuing to expand the use of natural and real life resources, as change opens up new possibilities.

Following a discussion with the manager, the snack routine would be adapted taking into consideration the numbers of children attending. For example, on quieter days whole group snacks may be incorporated instead of flexi snack.

We advised the manager to review as required medication at least every 3 months, as per the service procedure. This confirmed that medication was still required, remains in date and that the dose has not changed.

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	
20 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
6 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
28 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
6 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
12 May 2009	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent

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