

Alsorts Borestone Out of School Care Day Care of Children

Borestone Huts
Borestone Primary School
Newpark Crescent
Stirling
FK7 0QA

Telephone: 01786 449339

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

10 January 2019

Service provided by:

Alsorts Borestone Out of School Care
Management Committee

Service provider number:

SP2003001114

Service no:

CS2003005373

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.

Alsorts Boreston Out of School Care is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 56 children aged 4 years 6 months to 14 years.

The service operates from two wooden huts based within the grounds of Boreston Primary School, Stirling. In each hut, children have supervised access to a kitchen area and free flow play between two playrooms. Toilets are situated between the playrooms.

In addition to the school playground, children also have access to grassy areas to the side and rear of the playrooms, the school playing field and a nearby adventure playground. This supports opportunities for physical and active play.

The aims of the service include:

'Alsorts aims to provide a welcoming, safe and fun environment that meets the needs of the children and parents attending the provision. Children and parents will be welcomed, valued, respected and treated in a polite, professional and efficient manner.'

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 happy, relaxed and confident as they chatted, played and had fun.

A group of children excitedly showed us around, telling us about each area and where they liked to play. This demonstrated their sense of pride, responsibility and ownership of the service.

Children spoke to us with ease, showing us what they were doing and inviting us into their play. As children shared their views and experiences within the service, they made positive comments about staff, snacks and the activities on offer. They told us staff were kind, listened to them and looked after them well.

Other children's comments included:

"I like doing painting and colouring in. Sometimes we are allowed to play with the iPad and make stuff."

"I have lots of friends in the club, even children from other schools."

"It's ok, it's good that it opens on summer holidays."

"Outside is fun, especially the climbing wall."

We sent 20 care standards questionnaires (CSQs) to the service to distribute to parents and carers of children who attended the service. Eight were completed and returned to us before the inspection visit. In the returned questionnaires, all eight parents 'strongly agreed' that overall they were happy with the quality of care their children received in the service. Parents' written comments included:

"I am very happy with everything staff have done for my child."

"The attitude of staff is always child centred. They really want to do the best by every child and work hard to understand their individual needs and preferences."

"There is a broad range of activities available at Alsorts that ensure our children remain engaged. The staff are always looking to develop ideas and further activities and we find this is an excellent service."

"The quality of care is excellent and the facilities provide a stimulating environment."

"A very good out of school service that offers children plenty of opportunity for outside, explorative play and adventure."

During the inspection we spoke to six parents. These parents confirmed they were very happy with the care and support given to their child. They made positive comments about staff, activities, outdoor play, communication and information sharing and the feedback received about their child's ongoing development.

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 which 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	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Throughout the inspection children enjoyed nurturing, respectful and positive interactions. The level of engagement between children and staff demonstrated positive relationships with some children forming secure attachments to specific staff members. Children cuddled staff during the day and when leaving. This demonstrated the children's fondness for staff and feeling of belonging and being well cared for.

As children chatted, staff carefully listened to them, showing genuine interest. This demonstrated respect and value of children's thoughts and contributions. Consistent praise and encouragement promoted children's confidence and self-esteem as they learned and developed new skills.

Staff knew the children very well and skilfully adapted their interactions to meet each child's differing preferences. For example, lively chats suited the older children however, some of the younger children preferred soft and gentle tones. Responding to these preferences further encouraged positive engagement, supporting children's emotional wellbeing.

Working with parents and other professionals to develop specific support strategies contributed to children's continued progress and enjoyment in the service. Including children in building and maintaining individual care and support plans also ensured positive experiences. This demonstrated staff members' deep understanding of the children's right to be involved and have a say on decisions made about their care.

Children's rights were a reoccurring theme. Encouraging children to learn and understand the level of care they should expect promoted positive self-awareness and identity. Feeling valued, respected and trusted encouraged children to take responsibility to promote a pleasant environment. Most children successfully resolved disputes and conflict in a calm manner. When needed, staff intervention was sensitive, supporting children to develop caring attitudes and an understanding of each other's feelings.

A particular strength within the service was children's experiences of outdoor and risky play. Throughout the inspection, children enjoyed playing outside, running around catching each other, using the climbing wall and playing football. Regular opportunities for outside and physical play promoted children's health and emotional wellbeing. Children and staff positively described risky play opportunities. This included climbing trees, adventure playgrounds and building fire pits. Enabling children to access positive risk supported the development of important life skills and understanding of making effective assessments of how to stay safe. This also enabled children to follow their natural desire to explore, discover and stretch their abilities.

The professional and motivated staff team worked well together to ensure consistent and positive experiences for the children. Support from management, and remaining reflective of practice, encouraged staff to regularly increase their knowledge of current guidance and relevant childcare issues. This further promoted positive outcomes for children and their families as staff embedded new learning into practice.

What the service could do better

Snack was a positive experience with healthy options, however children's involvement in the preparation and serving of snack could be enhanced. This would further promote independence and responsibility.

Although children's involvement in making improvements was good, they could be further empowered to express their views and take ownership of their time in the service. Children told us they would like more opportunities to share their thoughts and make decisions. They told us about the Children's Committee which some had previously been involved in. This was a good opportunity to engage with children and consideration should be given to how this can be taken further.

To further promote children's emotional wellbeing and resilience, consideration should be given to the opportunities for children to be alone with staff, themselves or their friends. We discussed how this could be enhanced, for example, small dens and private spaces. We also shared current guidance about supporting children to develop resilience, this is something staff were interested in and should take further.

Children had some opportunities to enjoy natural and creative play. We spoke to staff about how this could be increased and shared professional documents to support this. For example, My Creative Journey and Loose Parts Play toolkit. These documents can be found on The Hub section of our website.

To maintain staff motivation, management should now enhance the support and supervision process. For example, encouraging staff to evaluate their achievements and consider what could be taken further to promote continued success.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

Please see our website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

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 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
14 Sep 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
14 Aug 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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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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