

# First Nursery Limited Day Care of Children

Kingsland Square  
Peebles  
EH45 8EZ

Telephone: 01721 724395

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

21 May 2019

**Service provided by:**

First Nursery Limited

**Service provider number:**

SP2003002002

**Service no:**

CS2003009287

## About the service

First Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 106 children aged from four months to 12 years at any one time. Within this number up to 24 primary school aged children can attend the service provided in the Glennie Room, Halyrude Primary School, Peebles and up to 30 children aged 3 years to 12 years can attend the service provided in the Coffee Lounge, St Ronan's Community Centre, Innerleithen.

The inspection was undertaken by two Care Inspectorate Inspectors. It took place on 21 and 22 May 2019, with feedback given to the provider, manager and depute manager on the final day. Inspectors spent time within the nursery and in both out of school care services. There are currently 161 children registered with the service.

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, included.

The service's vision and aims included:

- "Creating a stimulating environment which encourages children to use their inquisitive and creative minds".
- "Celebrate childhood by putting children and children's needs at the heart of everything that we do".
- "Provide a wide range of learning opportunities to develop confident children, happy and excited by the world and all its opportunities. Freedom with guidance".
- "Nature is fundamental for a child's learning, stimulating the senses and provoking wonder, curiosity and exploration".

## What people told us

We observed all children present and spoke with many in nursery and both operating out of school care. In all provisions children were pleased to be there. Younger children were seen to enjoy getting outdoors, exploring and experimenting. Pre-school told us they also enjoyed outdoors, particularly their regular visit to local woodland areas. Visiting the 'ladies and gentlemen' at a local provision for older people was also a popular event.

Comments from nursery children included:

- "I have lots and lots and lots of fun here"
- "I like nursery there's slugs in the garden - see"
- "Everyone is nice, it's fun".

Older children at the out of school care were also happy to be there. They told us they enjoyed the time with their friends and there was plenty to do. They said there was a good choice of things to do and that staff supported them to do things that interested them.

Parents' views were sought during the inspection and within Care Standard Questionnaires provided prior to the inspection. Of the 35 questionnaires provided, 25 had been returned at the time of writing this report. Parents were extremely happy with the service. They spoke very highly of management and staff and praised the services commitment to outdoor play and learning. Many said their children's learning and confidence was growing and their children looked forward to attending.

Comments included:

"My child loves going to First Nursery and has a great time. He is always happy playing when I have been in. I am looking forward to the come and play session this month."

"First Nursery are incredible at what they do - every member of staff made every effort to support our son in transitioning to this nursery and us as parents. Our son is so happy and loves attending nursery. From the moment you step foot in First Nursery it feels welcoming, nurturing and gives parents confidence in leaving their child there. The staff love their job they are just brilliant."

"The play on pedals initiative that First Nursery have been doing with the children in the Tweed room has been fantastic. My daughter has gained confidence and her writing and moved onto a pedal bike. it was such a personal achievement for her."

"I believe that First Nursery has placed a huge part in (my child's) learning, confidence, independence and social skills. From weekly forest school sessions and learning through play, the staff have been great at building up his confidence and helping him understand his feelings too."

"First Nursery is a fabulous place to be from the office staff, to nursery staff and kitchen staff are fantastic. I have no faults but first nursery, my child loves going there."

"First Nursery provides an excellent service for my child. Their focus on outdoor learning, nature and the environment is first class, as is their feedback and communication with parents."

"We are particularly impressed with encouragement towards imaginative play and indeed lack of plastic toys. The nursery staff are very attentive and our daughter is thriving in their care. The management is very approachable and nothing is ever too minor. They always listen and endeavour to take appropriate action. "

"I have nothing but the utmost admiration for how First Nursery run everything from nursery to after school club and holiday club. I would, and do, recommend them to anyone."

"Totally brilliant nursery - Delicious fresh food. Friendly staff - not much change in staffing. Lots of varied activities. Children are outside a lot/most of the time."

"The staff at First Nursery have taken the time to get to know our child and family. As a dual-language household the staff have taken this into account and always take the time to use some words from our additional language spoken at home. The small act means a lot to us and demonstrates how the team respect and value each child individually."

"Excellent nursery will stop they're so accommodating of childcare needs and genuinely care about every single child. Keen to make the children's experience as interesting as possible with lots of different activities both in nursery and in the local community. Also age appropriate activities for the after school club. My kids have loved First Nursery."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We considered their own improvement plans 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	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

Children arriving at the nursery and out of school care quickly settled and were eager to start their day/session. Staff were very good at helping children explore, and articulate their thoughts and ideas through floor books and 'wonder walls' . They provided well planned play environments where all children engaged in free play. There was an array of exciting activities around children's interests, so children were highly motivated and eager to engage.

Throughout the nursery service there were opportunities for children to explore and be creative. Pre-school children worked together to make perfumes at the potion table. Free access to outdoors for all children provided time to learn and investigate nature. Children dug, planted and played with the many natural resources available to them. Many enjoyed exploring and playing in the mud kitchen, concentrating on moving water without spilling and collaborating with each other as they mixed and found materials to enhance their role play. This helped promote self-esteem, creativity and communication.

Pre-school children's programme of forest kindergarten: 'Generations Together' project and 'Play on Pedals' sessions provided them with many fun and interesting learning opportunities. The regular visits to a local sheltered housing promoted social interactions where children developed new relationships, showed respect and kindness to the adults living there and all enjoyed their time singing together.

Children were also becoming familiar with the world around them during their visits to woodlands. They watched changes in the environment, becoming familiar with seasons and life cycles as they explored.

This was a happy and harmonious service where children behaved well. Staff modelled polite behaviour and encouraged children to work out issues in a positive way, helping them develop resilience, understand boundaries for themselves, and promote an ethos of respect and inclusion.

Strong leadership within the service helped promote and foster staff's enthusiasm for providing good outcomes for children. Recruitment and induction procedures for staff were robust, ensuring all staff were suitable, competent and capable of embracing the ethos of the service. Regular meetings provide opportunities for staff to share, monitor and develop ideas for children's learning and progress. Throughout the service staff were involved in planning, implementing ideas and making improvements, allowing them to build on their own leadership skills and support the development of the service and the very good outcomes for children.

## What the service could do better

Some e-learning journals were completed to a high standard, however, this was not consistent within the service. To enhance e-journals and provide clearer monitoring of children's progress and planned next steps, strategies should be put into place to support all staff to complete these to a high standard.

Including children in reviewing their learning within the e journal would also help consider children's learning and agreed next steps. This would then better reflect and support the working practices of the service and the very good outcomes for children.

On occasion, at busy times, such as lunch, nappy changes and snacks some staff became task focussed. These are occasions which can provide excellent time for additional one-to-one discussions, fun and relationship building, as well as promoting independence and learning.

## 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).

## 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
10 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
26 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 5 - Very good
3 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
11 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
28 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
23 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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