Inspection report

Gallowhill Nursery
Day Care of Children
Netherhill Road
Paisley  PA3 4PM

Inspected by: Fiona Buchanan
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Announced

Inspection completed on: 27 February 2006
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<th><strong>Service Number</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Service name</strong></td>
<td>Gallowhill Nursery</td>
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<td><strong>Provider Name</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Inspection Completed</strong></td>
<td>27 February 2006</td>
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<td><strong>Period since last inspection</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Local Office Address</strong></td>
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Introduction
Gallowhill Nursery is registered by the Care Commission 1st April 2002 to provide a morning or afternoon service to 30 children from 3 to 5 years.

The hours of operation are 09:00am to 11:30am or 12:30pm to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday, term time only.

The nursery is based within Gallowhill Primary School, Paisley and the service provider is Renfrewshire Council.

The nursery aims were to promote a welcoming ethos of equality and fairness, which respected and valued all members of the nursery community. Ensure an effective provision of support for children and their families. Enable children to progress in the key aspects of their development and learning through providing a curriculum consistent with national and local guidelines.

Basis of Report
Before the visit:

The depute head teacher sent a Pre Inspection Return containing information about the service and also completed a self-evaluation form.
The parents returned 9 questionnaires giving their views of the service.
The Care Commission Officer contacted the service by letter and then telephone to confirm when the visit would take place.

During the announced inspection visit which took place on 27th February 2006 the Care Commission Officer spoke with the depute head teacher, nursery teacher, 2 staff, 1 student, 6 children and 3 parents. The Care Commission Officer also looked at a range of policies, procedures and records including the following:

- Aims and objectives policy
- Child protection policy
- Behaviour management policy
- Infection control procedures
- Service users records
- Complaints procedure
- Fire and emergency procedures
- Fire drills and alarm tests
- Insurance certificate
- Registration certificate

and spent time observing how staff worked with the children.

The Care Commission Officer took all the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years:

Standard 2 : Safe Environment
Standard 4 : Engaging with Children
Standard 5 : Quality of Experience
Standard 6 : Support and Development
an inspection of the premises was carried out.

**Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report**
There were no requirements from the previous inspection.

**Comments on Self-Evaluation**
The depute head teacher had identified a number of strengths and areas for further development which concurred with the visiting officers findings.

**View of Service Users**
Children were comfortable and settled within the service and were fully aware of daily nursery routines. Children were observed to be enjoying their time at nursery and were actively engaged in play activities.

"I like the pizza hut game and snack time."

"I like to play games."

"I like to play outside."

"I like to play in the house."

"I like to play with the cars and playdough. I am going to make a big, big snake. I like to play outside."

**View of Carers**
3 parents were interviewed during the inspection and comments included:

"Staff are excellent, so enthusiastic. They do everything for the children. My child did an obstacle course. My child looks forward to nursery and is delighted to come. Fair range of activities. Thumbs up; would recommend it."

"Staff are brilliant, really good. Have a settling in week and I was invited in and told what they were doing. Settling in helped a lot. A newsletter lets us know about events. Handbook is really helpful."

"Staff are brilliant, very approachable. Patience of angels with the children. I get newsletters, handbook and school information. I have told lots of people about the nursery. Would recommend it."

9 parental questionnaires were returned to the Care Commission. These provided positive feedback on the nursery and parents were overall "very happy" with the service being provided.

"The nursery has given my son confidence and great learning abilities. He is very well cared
for by the staff and he enjoys his time there."
Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 2: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Safe Environment

Strengths

The playroom was bright, welcoming and stimulating. Children's work was attractively displayed throughout.

Children were cared for in a hygienic and smoke free environment. The nursery had in place cleaning rotas, infection control procedures and a no smoking policy. The nursery was in a good state of repair and maintenance records were in place.

Arrangements were in place to ensure the safety and security of the children, both inside and outside the nursery. Risk assessments were in place which included the new procedures for the primary school children to utilise the nursery entrance.

The layout of the playroom allowed the children to play and work independently or in small groups. Staff made good use of the space available. Staff took account of the individual needs of the children when planning the daily programme of activities and experiences which included opportunities for physical play in the school gym. The children had direct access to a secure, safe, outdoor play area.

Computers was available for the children and the service had developed a policy which ensured only age appropriate software programmes were available.

Emergency procedures were in place. One member of staff held a first aid certificate.

Areas for Development

While it is acknowledged that the nursery holds information relating to individual child's medical details and the procedures to be followed in the event of a medical emergency. Staff should review the information given to ensure that the details given by parents are clear and robust.

National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children

Strengths

Staff were responsive to the individual needs of the children in their care. They displayed a warm and caring manner. Through discussion, staff demonstrated a good understanding and knowledge of the children's stages of development and learning. Information was gathered by speaking with parents and children, observations, and taking account of the information contained in the child's entry form.

The staff had created a welcoming and relaxed environment for children, where they were happy and secure. They knew the children well and responded appropriately to their
individual needs. The staff used praise and encouragement to foster children's self esteem and encourage children to contribute to the routine of the nursery day.

The staff kept parents/carers informed about their child's progress through daily discussions and written feedback. Each child had an individual folder in which staff regularly recorded and updated their development and learning progress. Quote from a parent: "Can look at child's portfolio which are available. Parents meeting about child's progress."

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

Strengths

Regular team meetings, observations and discussions enabled staff to plan and put in place opportunities for all the children to take part in organised and free play, individual or group activities.

Staff supported and encouraged children to exercise choice and express their views in matters that affected them. Stimulating activities which were well matched to the developmental needs of children were available throughout the nursery. Staff had set up the playroom to encourage the children to move freely and explore their environment. Children were observed to be very happy and enjoying the experiences which included; jigsaws, playdough, water, painting, computers, home corner, electronic cars and sticky kids games at the gym. The children also had a safe and secure outdoor play area which they used during the inspection visit. This could be accessed from the playroom.

"The teachers help you play games and do jigsaws."

Toys and equipment were labelled and well organised to encourage the children to self select. Children were very confident and happy and were keen to chat to the Care Commission Officer and show her what they were doing. "You can choose yourself because it is our nursery."

Staff monitored the activities for children and planned the next steps to support children's learning and development. Children's individual portfolios detailed lots of information for parents and included examples of the children's work and photographs. Folders were updated regularly by staff and a parent confirmed that they could access their child's folder.

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 6: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development

Strengths
The staff had developed positive relationships with the families who used the nursery. Staff knew the children well and were flexible, sensitive and responsive to their individual needs. Staff shared information with parents through individual meetings, verbal feedback and written communication. Parent quote: "Made to feel welcome." Home visits were offered and the nursery had the support of a home link worker.

The parents and children have been involved in the 'eat well to play well project'. Parent quote: "Staff teach healthy eating. I got a home pack relating to healthily eating. Quite good information. Children very involved."

Staff worked effectively with agencies and specialists such as speech and language therapist, psychologists and health visitors to provide additional support for children as required.

A confidentiality policy, equal opportunities policy and child protection policy were in place to support staff to respond to the individual needs of the children in their care.

Areas for Development

As discussed, the nursery should continue to develop resources which will facilitate communication strategies to help families and children whose first language is not English.

National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service

Strengths

The depute head teacher provided very effective leadership support to the nursery staff and showed a commitment to the continuous improvement of the service. She was enthusiastic, organised and approachable and had developed very good relationships with staff, children and parents.

The management responsibility was clearly defined and communicated to staff and parents verbally and through the nursery handbook. The head teacher had responsibility for the strategic overview of the nursery and was supported by the depute head teacher, who had responsibility for the day-to-day operational issues of the nursery.

Appropriate up-to-date policies and procedures were in place for the smooth running of the service. Aims of the service were displayed on the notice board and also contained within the nursery handbook.

The depute head teacher met regularly with the nursery staff to monitor and evaluate the work of the nursery. A development plan was in place.

The depute head teacher had attended further professional training. She ensured that nursery staff had opportunities to take part in professional review and development. Staff were provided with a range of training opportunities through the local authority.

Parents were actively encouraged to participate in nursery life through Friends of Gallowhill, newsletters, questionnaires, fundraising activities and Tumbling Tots.
Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.
Enforcement
At the time of this inspection there was no Enforcement Action against the service.

Other Information
None

Requirements
There were no requirements.

Recommendations
There were no recommendations.

Fiona Buchanan
Care Commission Officer