

Apple Tree Nursery Day Care of Children

46 Balhousie Street
Perth
PH1 5HW

Telephone: 01738 561083

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

23 July 2019

Service provided by:

Laura Geekie and Joanne Machray a
partnership

Service provider number:

SP2011011481

Service no:

CS2011282021

About the service

Apple Tree Nursery operates from a semi-detached villa in the centre of Perth. A playroom for the youngest children is located on the upper floor with children aged between two and five years cared for on the ground floor. Children on the ground floor have direct access to a well-resourced, enclosed nursery garden.

The nursery is privately owned and works in partnership with Perth and Kinross Council to provide funded early learning and childcare. The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2011 and is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time aged 0 to an age to attend primary school.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection which took place on 23 July 2019. The inspection was carried out by an inspector and practitioner inspector. We gave feedback to the service providers at the end of the inspection.

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 and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

The nursery has recently updated their vision, values and aims in consultation with children, parents and carers. A list of aims include:

- To provide a safe, caring, nurturing, welcoming and enabling environment for children to play, learn and develop.
- To enhance children's learning and development, by watching, listening and providing them with the tools they require to go about their 'work'. Play is children's work: it is natural, essential and instinctive. Children learn through play.
- To promote positive attitudes to self and others and encourage and develop a sense of identity.
- To work closely with parents/carers and the community around to promote and enhance the Nursery vision.

What people told us

We provided the service with 20 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents of children using the service. Sixteen completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. All of those who completed our questionnaires agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received while using the service.

We spoke to one parent who confirmed they were happy with the service. Written comments in our questionnaires included:

'We have been very happy with the care provided at Apple Tree for both of our children. The staff are always friendly and welcoming and get to know the children well. I particularly like the opportunities for parents to be involved e.g. stay and plays and like how often the children have the opportunity to be outside.'

'My child really enjoys her time at nursery. It is a safe, caring and nurturing environment. I could not ask for anywhere better to look after my child.'

'Apple Tree is a fantastic nursery. My child has attended for the past 14 months and loves the experience. He is always happy. I receive feedback every day from staff and I'm confident my child is well cared for. His learning and speech has greatly improved from being in nursery with his peers.'

During the inspection we observed the children to be engaged in their play and learning. We found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities, snacks and lunches. The children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing there and were keen to involve us in their play.

'I have a cousin from a different country, we've been there before.'

'This is honey which will make your hair nice and soft.'

'I've got a different best friend, he's coming today.'

'It's my birthday tomorrow! I've got cake here for all my friends. It's over there, look. It's a cheeky monkey one.'

'What are you going to have for your lunch? You can't have any of mine, I'm going to eat it all up!'

'Why are you here?'

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

What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support, from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as good.

We spoke with staff about the service's child protection policy. We were satisfied that they had a working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that service users were protected. We suggested that staff are given the opportunity to discuss a range of scenarios to ensure they have a shared approach to concerns which should be recorded and noted in children's files.

We observed warm, nurturing interactions and relationships between children, staff and their families, demonstrating trust and respect. Staff were very responsive to children's needs, adapting care and activities to suit the needs of the children on a daily basis.

Transitions into the service and across the rooms were very well-managed with a robust system in place to ensure children were confident and comfortable in their new environments. Comprehensive observations were undertaken to record this information.

Achievements were celebrated well across the service, these included, in the majority of cases, contributions from parents and carers. The recent focus on home link jotters supported this very well, encouraging parents and carers to engage in a range of activities which were then shared within the nursery setting. Children took great pride in sharing their home activities with their peers.

We found that staff made good use of their local community. A wide variety of visits and visitors were encouraged to support children's learning and share expertise. On the day of our inspection a parent had been invited to share her expertise in singing to support the children's graduation performance.

The outdoor area was a real strength of the service. Children were engaged and purposeful in their play and learning. We saw a range of examples of collaborative play and where older children were supporting younger children to achieve. Staff were aware of positive risk and how they could empower children to become responsible through a measured level of support and freedom.

Snacks and lunches were positive, unhurried experiences. Some staff ate with the children which supported good manners and eating habits. We asked the manager to review the use of reins on chairs at the table for children in the 2-3 'pips' room.

What the service could do better

Staff should review children's journals to ensure that all observations are dated and contain significant, personal and meaningful information. Next steps where required should be measurable, achievable and revisited on a regular basis to record progress. Staff should consider working with parents and carers to set shared targets.

Floorbooks would benefit from a review to ensure they capture children's learning. We would like to have seen more contribution from children in these to give children a sense of ownership and achievement. We discussed with the management team ways they could do this.

We reviewed records of accidents and incidents. During our previous inspection we had asked staff to create an audit to identify common features and actions taken to minimise the risks to children. This had not been developed (**see recommendation 1**). Staff should ensure they follow First Aid best practice in the event of any accident resulting in a bump to the head.

We observed a significant number of missed learning opportunities with staff answering on behalf of children and not giving children the time to answer questions during their learning. Staff should revisit messages learned during their 'Talk, Listen, Communicate' accreditation from Perth and Kinross Council and consider their use of questioning to challenge, scaffold and extend children's learning.

Some loose parts and heuristic resources had been introduced across all rooms. We would ask staff to increase their provision considerably to have an impact on children's creativity, problem solving and collaborative skills.

Staff should review the accessibility of resources to improve independence. Many items available were too high for children to access or required an adult to select. We made some suggestions as to how this could be managed to encourage responsibility and creativity.

We noted a range of missed opportunities to improve and encourage children in language and literacy, maths and numeracy, science and digital technologies both indoors and out. We suggested that staff consider carrying out an audit to identify where and how their environments were meeting children's needs.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To support the safety of children attending the service staff should carry out regular audits of accidents and incidents to identify common features and actions put in place to minimise the risks to children.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which states 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.' (HSCS 3.20).

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
6 Jun 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
25 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
19 Jul 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
19 Jul 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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