

Rompers Nursery Day Care of Children

7 Traill Drive
East Links
Montrose
DD10 8SW

Telephone: 01674 672294

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

16 July 2019

Service provided by:

Rompers Nursery

Service provider number:

SP2003000593

Service no:

CS2003002988

About the service

Rompers Nursery is situated in the Angus town of Montrose. The detached building is close to the links and the beach and consists of three playrooms. The children are divided into the playrooms according to their age and stage, babies, toddlers and preschool. The older children can use the garden area to the front of the building while the youngest children have their own garden to the side. Children attending the out of school service use the preschool playroom.

The vision and values of the service state:

"At Rompers we aim to ensure our vision and values are always at the forefront of our daily practice:-

- reaching potential
- opportunities created
- making friends and memories
- positive atmosphere
- equality throughout
- relationships valued
- safe environment."

The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children at any one time aged 0-9 years, of whom no more than 15 are aged 0-2 years and no more than 13 are of school age up to nine years.

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2011.

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.

What people told us

We received 12 completed questionnaires in advance of the inspection. All of those who responded told us that they strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children in the service. We spoke to parents during the time we were in the service.

Comments were positive and they told us:-

- "staff are very encouraging with my child"
- "I am very happy to walk out after drop off knowing that my children will have a: fun, educational and enjoyable day"
- "the staff are welcoming and so caring"
- "the care my child is receiving is second to none"
- "Rompers is such a great place for children"
- "recent additions such as the parent link app are very helpful and informative for busy parents"
- "my child and I are very satisfied with the service provided"

- "I particularly like the fact they use their outdoor area frequently allowing children room to play in the fresh air" and
- "the handovers are great; there are lots of good information on the new app - it's great".

The children were happy to tell us about the things they liked doing while at nursery.

They said:

- "this is the mud kitchen for making cupcakes";
- "I really like riding bikes"; and
- "there is bark here - I'm going to go digging in it".

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

What the service does well

Rompers Nursery offered a good service to the children and families who attended. The staff team worked together effectively and were very good at listening to parents as well as sharing information at the end of each session. The staff knew the children well and this meant that individual needs were met. Parents were very pleased with the quality of the communication which reassured them that their children were being well cared for. Conversations between staff and children were respectful and encouraging.

The nursery was making good use of an App which used photographs and observations of children's activities. These were shared with parents allowing them to have daily access to what their children had been doing in nursery as well as details of eating and nappy changes for the babies. Parents commented positively on this development.

Very good quality home cooked food was served to the children. The menu included plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. Food allergies and intolerances were well-managed and alternative menu choices always available. As a result the health and wellbeing of children was protected. The children were encouraged to drink water throughout the day.

From photographs and planning formats we could see that children were engaged in planning their own learning. They had a good range of visitors who came into the nursery and there was evidence of strong links with the local community.

Photographs around the room contributed to the children feelings of being valued. Children's transitions were well planned. Good information about routines was shared between room staff and a series of visits happened before any move. Parents were involved in the process and contributed their views and requests.

Good links had been established with local schools and as a result children were confident as they moved on into primary one. Some of the children were very happy to tell us about their visits to school to meet their new teachers.

Staff reported feeling well supported by the management team, they were included in all aspects of the nursery development. All staff took on additional responsibilities and staff champion roles. The turnover of staff was low adding to an ethos of continuity and stability for parents and children.

The staff team met regularly and there was a commitment to training and continued professional development. The management team were strong and focused on providing a high quality service. An improvement plan had been developed in consultation with stakeholders. The plan identified priorities for the continued development of the nursery.

A particular focus on the expansion of outdoor play opportunities for children was considered to be very positive. The changes were currently at the planning stage. When complete the outcomes for the children would be greatly enhanced with a greater variety of outdoor learning experiences made possible.

We were confident that the manager and staff will successfully address the areas of development and recommendations in the next section of this report.

What the service could do better

During the inspection we identified some areas where we considered the service could improve. Across all of the rooms we would ask the staff to consider how children could be supported and encouraged to make more choices for themselves. In particular they should look at their systems and routines to assess how they impact on children's experiences.

The manager and staff should look at how they use their knowledge of child development along with taking cues from children to ensure that the care given is responsive and that appropriate activities are offered.

Examples from our observations would be the use of whole group activities in the preschool room; more flexible opportunities for outdoor play; indoor and outdoor resources to allow toddlers and babies to climb and explore; and more appropriate activities for school children who attend during holiday periods.

We directed them to the following documents:

- 'Health and Social Care Standards' - which clearly set out the expectations for service users.
- 'Building the Ambition' - national practice guidance on early learning and childcare.

We looked at the individual learning journeys for each of the children. These had recently been transferred to an online format which was shared with parents. We considered that these could be further improved by more clearly demonstrating the areas of significant learning for children.

Next steps in learning for children should be identified and revisited to ensure that children are making progress. These should be developments or skills rather than knowledge. We asked that the staff consider how children could contribute to their own learning journey and become involved in setting their own targets.

We asked that the management team consider how they could support staff to make more consistent use of evaluative language rather than descriptions of what a child had been doing. This applied to planning formats as well as observations in children's learning journeys.

Across different areas of the nursery we thought that staff could offer the children increased opportunities to choose for themselves, particularly during the lunch time experience for the children. We saw that these times were over managed by staff with children missing out on a homely and nurturing time while enjoying food.

We discussed this at length during feedback and asked that it be reviewed with particular focus on:-

- staff interaction and involvement;
- choice for children;
- developing independence;
- learning opportunities; and
- promoting self-help skills (see recommendation 1).

We referred them to current best practice guidance which would support them to make the necessary changes:

'Food Matters: Nurturing happy, healthy children', which can be found at: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/3241/food-matters-nurturing-happy-healthy-children.pdf>

We looked at the sleeping arrangements for the toddlers and babies. We spoke to the management team about the importance of providing a suitable comfortable and nurturing experience. The space used was limited and restricted the ability of staff to spend time settling and comforting individual children. Too many children waiting to sleep at the same time meant that children had to wait for staff (see recommendation 2).

We reviewed safer recruitment procedures and found the nursery to be operating to these, obtaining references and appropriate Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checks. They should be clear that the starting date for new staff is not before the relevant documents are received.

We looked at the management of medication in the service. We advised that the service should carry out a review of how this was working, and make any changes that were necessary.

We directed them to the best practice guidance:

'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services', which can be found at: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media//management-of-medication-in-daycare-of-children-and-childminding.pdf>.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. Staff should review current snack and lunchtime practices to ensure these are nurturing and provide children with opportunities for choice and support them to become independent and responsible.

They should take into consideration:

- the role of staff;
- promoting self-help skills;
- learning opportunities;
- children preparing snack; and
- promoting choice.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that:

'I can enjoy unhurried snack and mealtimes in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible'. HSCS 1.35; and
"I can choose suitably presented and healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and participate in menu planning". HSCS 1.33

2. The service should review the current sleeping arrangements for the children in the toddler and baby room.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that:

"If I experience care and support in a group, I experience a homely environment and can use a comfortable area with soft furnishings to relax." HSCS 5.6

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	
31 Aug 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed
19 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent
27 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
22 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing	Not assessed Not assessed 2 - Weak

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
13 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
23 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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