

Simpson Playhouse Day Care of Children

18 Cameron Street
Stonehaven
AB39 2HS

Telephone: 01569 766655

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

7 August 2019

Service provided by:

Simpson's Playhouse

Service provider number:

SP2003000399

Service no:

CS2003013753

About the service

Simpson Playhouse has been registered since 2002. The provider of this service is Simpson's Playhouse. It provides a care service for a maximum of 51 children of whom no more than 15 will be under 3 years of age and whom no more than 36 will be aged 3 to 12 years.

The nursery is based in the coastal town of Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire close to local amenities. There are three separate playrooms for babies, children aged 3-5 and another for the Out of School Club. The nursery has access to an enclosed garden area.

The aims of the service include:

- To provide a family style ethos in a healthy, safe, friendly, caring environment which the children are secure and happy, that works in partnership with parents.
- To provide a quality curriculum that promotes equality, fairness, choice, raising attainment in literacy and numeracy whilst learning through playing an inclusive environment indoors and out, where there is a wide breadth of learning opportunities and choice that encourages, and challenges children's thinking and broadens their experiences of the world.
- To build strong links with other agencies and further extend the nurseries interaction within our community.

The Care Inspectorate 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 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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

During the inspection we observed children and saw that they were happy, relaxed and settled in the setting. Some of the older children talked about what activities they enjoyed doing in the nursery, about their experiences and they told us:

"I like playing with the Lego and Uno."

"I like playing with the dinosaurs. My favourite is the T-Rex."

Eight parents returned completed questionnaires to us before the inspection. We also spoke to five parents as they dropped off and collected their children. Overall the parent questionnaires and discussions with parents indicated they were happy with the service. Comments from the parents included:

"All of the staff are incredibly hard-working and caring and love the children. It is a very happy environment. We are very pleased with the nursery."

"Very happy with care. My child is happy and looked after well. Staff always helpful and friendly."

"Improvements were made to snack but after a while seems to revert back to less healthy pudding and snack options."

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

What the service does well

Children throughout the service were happy, settled, busy and having lots of fun. They were respected and nurtured as staff interacted with them in a warm, caring manner and supported them in their play.

Staff knew the children in their care well and were able to talk about individual children's personalities and needs. Children had individual personal plans which highlighted areas for support and some next steps. Most had been updated and shared with parents who could agree goals for their child. This approach contributed to parents getting more involved in their child's learning and development.

Learning journals gave an insight into children's time at nursery and most identified next steps for development. We saw that observations gave an insight into children's time in nursery and these were now being taken account of when planning experiences for children. This helped to ensure children were provided with experiences that would support their development and were of interest to them.

A child protection policy provided guidance for staff. Established staff spoken with were clear about their roles and responsibilities for keeping children safe and protected. Management told us they worked effectively with other agencies when required to support individual families. Chronologies were used to record significant events in children's lives which could potentially have an impact on their welfare. This contributed to ensuring that children got the right support at the right time.

Where children had an allergy or food intolerance staff had a good knowledge of this and knew how to support the children effectively. Personal plans for allergies and food intolerance were detailed and reflected staff practice.

Children aged over 3 years engaged in a variety of activities encouraging imagination, creativity and decision-making. Children had fun with their friends and we heard planning and negotiation take place between them as they played. We observed staff support all the children well, intervening when necessary, whilst encouraging independence and confidence. The service had introduced more loose parts play and active play, helping children to develop physical skills through movement and energetic play. The older children learned to problem solve and manage risk and enjoyed the natural exploration and investigation these experiences offered. In the baby room there were lots of opportunities for the youngest children to access loose parts and benefit from the sensory experiences provided. This helped support their natural curiosity.

The service had developed strong links with the local community. All children enjoyed walks, regular visits to the library, parks, beach and harbour. The children also took part in singing, craft and gardening activities with local senior citizens. Through the service's intergenerational programme children were encouraged to become aware of others through shared experiences and promoted children's self-worth.

What the service could do better

We discussed how the service should develop children's personal plans to ensure they clearly identify how the service was meeting children's health, welfare and safety needs. We also asked the manager to continue to support staff in writing more outcome focused, evaluative observations. Implementing these changes should make it easier to track progress, identify and follow-up on next steps.

Staff understood their role in protecting children from harm and were familiar with their child protection procedure. However, less experienced staff would benefit from increasing their knowledge around what situations could potentially make children more vulnerable to abuse. Child protection training could be further developed to take account of learning from serious case reviews in order to support this.

Areas of the room for children 3-5 years would benefit from being reviewed to make them more inviting and resources more accessible and challenging to children. We discussed the benefits of staff developing an awareness of the very good range of best practice documents, for example building the ambition, loose parts tool kit and space to grow which would support staff to continue to improve and develop the 3-5 room. This would support children to achieve their potential and to make choices. **(See recommendation 1)**

On the whole snack and mealtime options were varied and healthy. Best practice documents had been used to create the menu, however, some less healthy puddings were provided. The manager advised that they had plans to review the menu with input from parents and children.

Due to staff absence there were often not enough staff in the 3-5 room to effectively meet the individual needs of the children. As a result, staff often did not have enough time to speak to or respond promptly enough to children. We highlighted to the manager the importance of having

the support of an extra staff member present when they have an increased number of children in the room. This would ensure that children have consistent care and support throughout the day, especially during mealtimes.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1.
To ensure children are supported to achieve their potential the indoor environment should be developed to create:

- A more welcoming and nurturing environment
- More age appropriate stimulating learning experiences

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment', (HSCS 5.22) and 'As a child I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving including through imaginative play and storytelling', (HSCS 1.30) and 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage'. (HSCS 2.27)

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
1 Feb 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
21 May 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
13 Aug 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 2 - Weak Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
16 May 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
17 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
23 Aug 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	2 - Weak
7 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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