

Airlie Pre School Class Day Care of Children

Airlie Primary School
Airlie
Kirriemuir
DD8 5NP

Telephone: 01575 530254

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

12 September 2019

Service provided by:

Angus Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000043

Service no:

CS2003015777

About the service

Airlie Pre School Class operates from a classroom within Airlie Primary School in the rural community of Airlie in Angus. The nursery children enjoy direct access to a well-resourced garden area and benefit from the regular use of the school's grounds and amenities.

At present the nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 10 children at any one time. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The ratio of adults to children will be 1:10.

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 aims to:

- Provide an environment where children are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.
- Create opportunities to play and learn.
- Encourage children to explore, appreciate and respect their environment.
- Encourage the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of children.
- Promote the welfare of each child.
- Encourage positive attitudes to self and others and to develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination.
- Extend the children's abilities to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways.

The vision, value and aims of the school and nursery are presently under review in consultation with staff, parents, carers and pupils.

What people told us

We provided the service with six Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents of children using the service. Four completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. We had the opportunity to speak with a number of parents on the day of inspection. All of those who completed our questionnaires strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received while in the service. Written comments included:

'We have had very positive experiences with the nursery. The staff are so kind and caring and take time to get to know each child and their family. We enjoy opportunities to share our child's learning with invitations to visit and from displays and photo/learning books. Transition within the school is excellent and made a huge difference when my son moved into P1 and my daughter into nursery. We have nothing but praise for the staff and the nursery.'

'We rate Airlie nursery very highly, both child and myself are completely at ease within the environment and with the school's staff.'

'Staff are extremely helpful, approachable and very good with my child.'

These comments were confirmed by parents who told us they were very happy with the service. One parent shared some concern over the choices within the snack provision. We explored this further with staff as part of our inspection.

During the inspection we observed the children at play and found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities and snacks. The children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing there and to involve us in their play. They told us:

'What's your name? My name is XXXX.'

'I can't wait to wear the goggles!' (Workbench activity).

'We're going to football, I love football. You kick it like this.'

'You can come to football but maybe you should stay here with (staff member)'.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very 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 very good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as very good.

We spoke with staff about the service's child protection policy. We were satisfied that they had a good working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that service users were protected. Staff had recently participated in update training.

We observed warm, nurturing interactions. Staff clearly knew their children well and took time at the beginning and end of sessions to gather and share information with parents and carers. Children approached staff for support and comfort demonstrating secure, trusting attachments. Achievements were celebrated well throughout the session and we could see that staff genuinely valued children's discoveries throughout their play and learning.

Communication was very strong across the service. Parents told us they were kept well-informed through a range of methods which included a closed social media page, newsletters and the open-door policy. Many opportunities were in place to ensure parents were partners in their children's learning. Some examples included literacy and numeracy bags, invitations to stay and play events and weekend books. A recent introduction had been a weekly video of a member of staff reading a 'bed-time' story which families could enjoy together from home.

Transitions to and from the nursery were well planned and managed. Opportunities to be a part of the whole school community took place throughout the school year ensuring children and their families were familiar with all staff, the school buildings and daily routines. Parents told us this was a real strength of the service.

We found staff to be very aware of their place within the local community. A range of visits and visitors complemented children's learning. On the day of our inspection children took part in a football taster session with a community coach. This proved to be very popular with all children.

Staff had a very good approach to positive risk, supporting children in learning about responsibility and freedom throughout their play and learning. Children had access to the outdoor 'balcony' throughout the session and had planned access to a very good range of experiences using the larger outdoor area and school grounds. We observed children climbing trees and using a broad range of loose parts resources which supported creativity, collaborative play and problem solving.

The indoor environments were well resourced with items to spark children's natural curiosity. We found these to be easily accessible and well presented. Staff were very responsive in providing additional resources to support children's play and learning throughout the session.

What the service could do better

We looked at children's learning folders and asked staff to ensure that observations reflect children's significant personal learning rather than descriptions of activities they have been engaged in. We would like to have seen some record of children's next steps in learning. Where next steps are recorded these should be measurable, achievable and reviewed on a regular basis.

Further development of floorbooks would support staff in capturing children's learning. By focusing on children's prior knowledge and their own questions, staff could ensure that children's learning is responsive and that 'topics' reflect the children's interests and learning agenda.

We asked staff to consider the value and purpose of some group time activities. Children's independent play and learning was interrupted to facilitate adult led group activities. Staff should consider the messages in Building the Ambition, National Practice on Early Learning and Childcare, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Staff had begun to complete a comprehensive wellbeing indicator sheet. These were very detailed and took up a significant amount of staff time to write and develop. We were, however, unsure as to who this information was for. We suggested that these were reviewed to focus on one working target which could be set, shared and reviewed with parents or carers.

A parental suggestion made during our inspection was for the nursery to include more of a focus on fresh fruit and vegetables. We asked the service to consider how this could be taken forward with their supplier to ensure children can enjoy a range of fresh and well-balanced snacks. We directed staff to a range of best practice documents which could support them in this.

We looked at the toilets and changing facilities for children and made some suggestions as to how staff could further minimise the risk of the spread of infections.

We reviewed accident and incident audits and would ask staff to further develop these to ensure common features are identified and that they record any actions taken or strategies developed to minimise the risks to children.

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.

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
20 Sep 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership Not assessed
24 Jan 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
15 Apr 2013	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
20 Apr 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
1 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed 1 - Unsatisfactory
5 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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