

# Rothiemay Playgroup Day Care of Children

Rothiemay Primary School  
Rothiemay  
Huntly  
AB54 7LT

Telephone: 01466 711032

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

21 January 2020

**Service provided by:**

Rothiemay & District Playgroup

**Service provider number:**

SP2003001929

**Service no:**

CS2003008923

## About the service

Rothiemay Playgroup is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 12 children aged from 3 years to not yet attending primary school.

The service was previously registered and registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service operates from a room situated at the rear of Rothiemay primary school and it has its own entrance. There is a secure outdoor play area situated a short distance away within the grounds of the school and children also have use of the playground and playing field.

The service is provided by a voluntary committee; staff are managed by the Care and Learning Alliance (CALA) and the service manager is peripatetic.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

- work towards a provision which encourages every child to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included to ensure we are Getting it Right For Every Child and that children are aware of the indicators and how they impact on their lives
- provide high quality outdoor play and learning opportunities for children to support development of independence, inspire creativity and to provide a foundation for the development of life skills
- provide a broad range of appropriate ELCC experiences through play in line with Curriculum for Excellence and Building the Ambition outcomes to support the learning and development needs of all children
- to actively work together with our families, staff and children to evaluate our practice using self-evaluation guidance from Education Scotland with a commitment to continuous improvement to our service, providing a high level of childcare using the Health and Social Care Standards and How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare.

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 GIRFEC, safe, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included (also known as SHANARRI).

## What people told us

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 8.45am and 2.00pm on 14 January and 8.45am and 12.15pm on 15 January 2020. Feedback was given to the managers, staff and committee following the inspection on 21 January 2020. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

During this inspection we spoke to the manager, staff and children present. We observed the care given by the staff and looked at a number of documents including children's records and risk assessments.

We observed children playing both indoors and out. They were familiar with the layout of the environment and were able to follow their interests through the selection of well-presented activities. Children and staff shared obvious good relationships. Children were very independent and readily sought staff when in need of support. Children commented:

"I'm going to colour outside the boat"  
 "I'm finishing the boat"  
 "I've made tomato soup with water and mud and cooked it for 10 minutes"  
 "I'll give you a new wooden broomstick"  
 "I like coming because I can make things"  
 "When we're in the forest we chop wood - we made wood cookies"  
 "We use a saw"  
 "We heat things up on a fire".

We issued four Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to the service to send out to parents. Three were completed and returned to us. We also spoke to parents during our visit. We shared the comments from parents with the managers, staff and committee. Comments from parents included:

"My child loves 'his' playgroup. He feels happy and content within the setting. The practitioners are friendly and approachable".

"I am absolutely delighted that my son attends this setting. Our family is in love with Rothiemay playgroup. As parents we feel very respected and included. The staff and therefore the setting and children are always calm and thoroughly engaged. They are outside playing almost every day. Both indoor and outdoor spaces offer a range of fresh, open-ended, stimulating activities for the children to choose from. Staff are excellent at observing, responding to and communicating with the children clearly and respectfully. Ecological awareness is a key part of their practice. I passionately believe this should be a strong thread throughout national curriculums. My son is incredibly happy and relaxed and looks forward to nursery. After a session he has a lovely energy, having been neither under or over-stimulated. Staff support the children to lead their learning through play. They clearly love their jobs and the children love them. They are so loving and enthusiastic; always striving to improve. (The LEA would do well to fund this setting and use it as an example of good practice)".

"Lots of digging and looking for bugs"

"I'm really happy - they (staff) put their energy into things that have the most impact on kids"

"Very limited time - staff really use the time as best as they can for the kids"

"Really flexible with settling in"

"My child often comes back with a massive bundle of drawings and crafts"

"They (children) just go and find what they want and take it out"

"They (staff) have really changed the way the room looks - everything is easily accessed"

"There's a different variation of snack - there's always fruit, not just one, maybe two or three"

"Staff have a lot of skills".

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their improvement plan. These demonstrated their priorities for improvement and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

Children and their families received a very warm welcome into the setting. The kind, caring, nurturing and respectful staff team knew the children and their families very well and as a result provided them individualised care and support.

"They (staff) take an individual approach with all kids" (parent comment).

All children had a personal plan, and these were updated 6 monthly as required. From the sample we reviewed we found all mandatory information was in place to support the child. Regular auditing of children's files will ensure all the mandatory information is complete and up to date. Furthermore, the manager needs to ensure that chronologies are in place for all children. This will contribute towards ensuring children's needs are always met.

Effective partnerships with parents strengthened the very good quality of care children received to help them achieve their potential.

Staff were in the early stages of using a new planning format to record observations and were being supported by the local authority for its implementation and evaluation. These recording systems were effective and linked to children's individual needs and interests. Meaningful next steps had been identified and were followed up during and at their next focus meeting. Staff planned to undertake floor book training to harness children's interests to inform planning in the moment

The service's child protection policy provided staff guidance to follow should they have concerns about a child. Effective procedures were in place to safeguard children. Staff had attended child protection training and demonstrated a good understanding of child protection and the children's wider world and how that could impact on their wellbeing. They were familiar with their procedure and were clear about their roles in keeping children safe.

Children were learning about the SHANARRI giving them a wider understanding and ownership of them as they used them throughout various aspects of the nursery, for example, forest skills and snack.

Documentation and procedures were in place for the safe management of medication, although none was being administered at the time of inspection.

Systems were in place to support children with food intolerances, allergies or dietary preferences. Alternative foods were available. Children's independence was encouraged as they were able to contribute to the menu, prepare and serve their snacks and tidy up afterwards. Children enjoyed a sociable, healthy and unhurried snack supported by attentive staff.

Children were cared for in a secure, safe and clean environment. Staff were working hard to improve the playroom's layout. They aimed to create enough physical space and accessibility to resources to meet their needs, wishes and growing independence. A parent told us:

"Really good use of limited space with a lot thought into the way it's used".

All children were engaged and engrossed and could direct their own play and activities in the way they chose. They could freely access a wide range of experiences and resources which required investigation and skill, stimulating their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. Staff's enthusiasm and awareness of children's individuality enabled children to work towards and achieve their potential.

Outdoors was popular with all children and offered them countless opportunities to explore, be imaginative,

creative and self-sufficient. For example, playing in the mud kitchen and growing vegetables to make soup. Children proudly told us how they had made wooden number and letter cookies when at forest skills. A parent commented:

"Children have responsibility at forest skills - they are supported to use tools. They come out with amazing crafts!"

Staff spoke enthusiastically about how they planned to introduce a wider range of loose parts and open-ended materials, new areas for planting with plans to introduce free-flow play. This will provide further experiences to enhance children's curiosity, enquiry and imagination and choice.

Staff made very good use of best practice guidance and had attended training to improve the evolving outdoor area and experiences. The area provided children with opportunities to dig, plant, be active and explore nature. The photos taken evidenced the very good experiences children had to explore the outdoors, learn and be active. Their weekly trips to forest skills supported children's growing independence, risk awareness and resilience.

Children were involved in community life, walking daily to the local shop for milk. They visited a local care home every two weeks, sometimes more often. As a result, children had developed strong attachments with the residents. These visits supported friendships and shared knowledge, experiences and learning.

Staff were clearly passionate about caring for the environment and had shared their knowledge with the children. As a result, they had an understanding about the importance of recycling, caring for the planet and looking after the outdoors to respect the wildlife environment. This supported children to become responsible citizens.

Overall, good infection control procedures were followed, keeping children healthy and well. Children washed their hands at appropriate times, including before eating snack.

Risk assessments were in place and there was evidence these were being reviewed by staff. These were effective in identifying the possible risks to children. It was evident that children were included in assessing risk and supported to understand the impact and consequences of risky and unsafe behaviour during play and their time at the service.

Accidents and incidents were completed and included appropriate information. These forms were signed and dated by staff and parents/carers. Regular audits of these forms were carried out and used to update the service's risk assessments to ensure children's continued safety.

## What the service could do better

Medication forms needed to be adapted to ensure all information was included to keep children safe and healthy. For example, detailing triggers and symptoms and actions staff should take if a child refused or spat out their medicine.

## 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](http://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
13 Mar 2019	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
12 Mar 2018	Announced	Care and support 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
28 Apr 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
26 Apr 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good
14 Jun 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good 4 - Good
24 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good
26 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 2 - Weak 3 - Adequate

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