

Park Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Scott Crescent
Alloa
FK10 1BD

Telephone: 01259 724 064

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 January 2020

Service provided by:
Clackmannanshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002713

Service no:
CS2003043738

About the service

Park Nursery Class is a registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 70 children at any one time aged 2 years to those not yet attending primary school of whom there will be a maximum of 20 children aged 2 to under 3 years.

The nursery is situated in Alloa, Clackmannanshire and is in close proximity to Park Primary School. The nursery is also close to local amenities which people who use the service can access.

The service aims are to promote positive attitudes, attainment and achievement, responsible citizens and knowledge and understanding. 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

For this inspection, fifteen parents and carers returned a completed Care Standards Questionnaire (CSQs). The responses from these showed that all eleven strongly agreed and four agreed with the statement, overall they were happy with the quality of the care their child received in this service.

On the day of inspection, children were seen to be safe within the environment and familiar with the rhythms and routines of the day. We found that they were able to freely access a wide range of resources. Staff were seen to nurture and support children, enabling the children to feel valued and respected. Children's comments on the day included;

"My Dad put [my bow] in my hair. It's actually on a hairband, not on a clip. I love it."

"Watch what we do."

"Mummy can do it."

"Look at my fruit"

"Did you go a walk today? But where did you go?"

"Look at my bubble gun."

"Please can I have some pancake."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection.

The service had an improvement plan in place that focused on key areas for development that were needed to ensure a high quality of care and support for children using the service. Quality assurance and audits were in development, this has been reflected further within the quality of management and leadership section of this report.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be good. Particular strengths were seen in the warmth and caring ethos within the service that ensure children and their families were respected and supported in a way that was right for them.

During the inspection, children were seen to be comfortable with the rhythms and routines of the nursery. They were able to direct their own play and take part in group activities. We found that children using the service were treated respectfully with warm, positive interactions that enhanced their experiences. The pace of their day was supportive of their needs and was right for their age and stage of development, enabling them to feel secure.

Staff knew children well, individual plans for care and support were in place and updated regularly staff in partnership with parent, carers and other working professionals. This ensured that children's needs were taken into account when designing their individual care and support. As part of the settling in process, the service continued to provide home visits for children aged two years old. This provided children, parents and carers with an opportunity to share relevant information and build a positive relationship with staff.

Floorbooks were used to capture children's experience throughout the nursery. We found these to be attractive and led by children's interests. Children were able to contribute to their design and reflect on their play and learning experiences. Individual learning journals were also in place to record each child's progress and achievements. Parents and carers could view these at any time, enabling them to share their child's development and comment if they wished. We discussed the importance of ensuring children's next steps were purposeful and meaningful for their individual development.

During the inspection, we saw children have a positive snack and lunch time experience.

We discussed the importance of promoting healthy, nutritious food. Staff worked with parents and carers to encourage children to explore different foods, including soup bags and Scottish food tasting evening. We found this had a positive impact on children's outcomes.

As part of the inspection, we reviewed the services child protection policies and procedures.

We found these to follow current legislation and best practice guidance, ensuring the safety and welfare of children and families using the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be good. Particular strengths were seen in the freedom children had to use the space depending on their needs and wishes.

The environment was seen to be clean and tidy, throughout the inspection. We found children were familiar with hand washing and were encouraged to do so before eating and after being outdoors.

Children could develop and enhance their skills through a balance of organised and freely chosen play, including open ended and natural materials. We found that children were free to explore their environment fully, enabling them to enhance and direct their own play. During the inspection, children were seen to engage well in the smaller rooms. These spaces allowed children to play and learn in a quieter, more conducive environment for their needs. We discussed developing more cosy areas within the nursery to enable children to have spaces that allow them to feel more enclosed and secure within their environment.

Staff worked in partnership with children, parents and carers with an aim to improve the environment.

Questionnaires were given to everyone to enable them to share their views and opinions on the use of space. As a result, sofas were added to the front area and pegs were installed throughout the nursery. We found this had a positive impact on children's outcomes and introduced a welcoming space upon entering the nursery.

Children had the opportunity to access the outdoors daily, allowing them to explore their natural environment as they wished and in all weathers. A variety of materials were provided to expose children to appropriate responsibility and challenge. As a result, children were able to consider and manage their own risks, with the appropriate support from staff when necessary.

Nappy changing procedures were found to follow current best practice to reduce the spread of infection. Staff used this time to interact and bond with the children in a nurturing and respectful way.

We reminded the service that the nappy changing area should be free of avoidable and intrusive smells. In order to improve this, the room should be well ventilated, and the nappy bin should be replaced at regular intervals throughout the day.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be good. Particular strengths were found in the interactions from staff and their commitment to all children using the service.

During the inspection, we reviewed recruitment procedures and found that they were in line with best practice.

All staff were registered with the appropriate regulatory body. Staff were seen to provide children with warm and nurturing interactions. This enabled good attachments to develop and allowed the children to feel respected and valued within the service. Staff also worked well with parents and carers to build strong, trusting relationships.

Staff spoke positively about recent changes to the senior management team and told us they felt appropriately supported. Staff development and performance reviews were being undertaken annually. These one to one meetings provided staff with an opportunity to discuss their performance and identify training needs. We would encourage the manager to consider the frequency of these meetings to further support staff development and follow up on agreed actions.

Staff spoke confidently about their continuous professional development. They were able to share their recent learning, through training opportunities and reading of current best practice guidance. We found they were able to adapt their own practice and areas of the nursery as a result of learning to improve outcomes for children.

Leadership opportunities were identified across the three main priorities, as detailed in the nursery improvement plan. Staff were eager to take an active leadership role in nursery developments to ensure quality experiences for the children in their care. This should continue to be developed across all areas of the nursery, while providing further ownership and accountability to staff.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be adequate. Particular strengths were found in the senior management's commitment to improve the service.

We found that parents and carers were given regular opportunities to feedback to the service through face to face consultations and questionnaires, for example. This enabled their views and opinions to be sought and acted upon to shape their child's care and experiences. Parents and carers spoke positively about their experiences and opportunities within the nursery. We found this enabled them to feel safe and included.

We highlighted the importance of the senior management team being visible and present within the nursery.

Appropriate monitoring of staff practice should take place to ensure children are experiencing high quality care and support. The senior management team were keen to arrange regular meetings to ensure they provided the nursery with the appropriate level of support.

As part of the inspection, we reviewed the services procedures in relation to the induction of staff. We found inconsistencies in how these were monitored and there were limited opportunities for new members of staff to review their progress. We signposted the service to guidance, available through our hub, to support them to have a more robust and efficient induction process.

The service must create a robust quality assurance framework to support them in monitoring the service and ensuring the necessary improvements identified throughout the inspection are addressed.

The management team's commitment to improving the service was evident throughout the inspection. Through discussions, we found that they showed a strong willingness to work closely with the care inspectorate to improve the service. They should now reflect on all areas for improvement identified during inspection to improve outcomes for children using the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 – adequate

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
31 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
8 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
18 Jun 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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