

Balbeggie Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Main Street
Balbeggie
Perth
PH2 6EZ

Telephone: 01738 454490

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

5 February 2020

Service provided by:

Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003370

Service no:

CS2003016085

About the service

This service has been registered since 2002.

Balbeggie Primary Nursery class operates from a classroom within Balbeggie Primary School. The children have indirect access to the school playground and garden area.

At present the nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children at the morning session and 20 children during the afternoon session. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school. If 5% or less of the total children who attend the provision stay for four hours or more, then the staff: child ratio of 1:10 applies for children three years and over. If more than 5% of the children stay for four hours or more, then the staff: child ratios change to 1:8 for each of the children who stay for four hours or more.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection carried out by an inspector on 4 February 2020. We gave feedback to the headteacher, principal teacher and peripatetic nursery teacher at the end of the inspection.

What people told us

We provided the service with 15 questionnaires for parents of children using the service. Nine completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. Those who completed our questionnaires 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received while in the service. One questionnaire disagreed that staff ask their child's views about activities and outings and disagreed that staff shared children's learning and development. During our inspection we saw that parents and carers were given regular opportunities to review their child's learning journals and had the opportunity to chat with staff at the beginning and end of each session. We felt that the children's views were respected by the staff.

Comments within the questionnaires included:

- "Balbeggie nursery is caring, friendly, happy environment where my child enjoys being."
- "Staff are helpful and encourage positive relationships."
- "My child loves being outside and playing in the mud and water and using their imagination whilst they learn which is exactly how I think a nursery should be."
- "My child was very clingy, and staff gave me the confidence to leave them and reassured me with photographs"

sent on the seesaw app that they were settles and happy, extremely reassuring."

- "Balbeggie Nursery is outstanding, my child receives excellent care and comes home with lots of stories."
- "The outdoor area is well used with a good range of activities for children of all ages."
- "Staff have been fantastic, attending Makaton courses and implementing this with the entire nursery."
- "My child expressed a desire to learn more and explore the Primary One class and now attends a couple of hours a week."
- "Balbeggie feels more like a family than an institution, with children from nursery right up to primary 7 all working together, it really is the hub of this small community."
- "Balbeggie may not have the flashiest of buildings or all the latest hi-tech learning equipment but the 1:1 ratio, small numbers in class and focus on each child as an individual more than makes up. We couldn't be happier."
- "I Cannot fault a single thing about the staff or the nursery."
- "My child loves attending the nursery, and hates leaving when it's time to go -which makes me happy that they are so happy and content when there."
- "My child is so full of stories of everything that they have done - it's great to know they do a good range of activities in the space of a morning."
- "My child loves it and the staff have been excellent and helping us settle in."
- "We receive regular contact from the nursery via seesaw as a local authority nursery I feel they do an excellent job with limited funds."

We had the opportunity to speak with parents during our inspection. They confirmed that they were happy with the service provided.

During the inspection the children told us:

- "Sometimes things get lost, i put them in my tray."
- "We go into P1, we draw pictures."
- "Can I have some jam please."
- "I like toast."
- "We help at snack."
- "This is my tray, I put my pictures in there."
- "Look I have got golden money."
- "Look at those worms."
- "Be kind to the worms."
- "I think he wants to go to sleep."
- "We will put them in the bug house."
- "We don't want to leave them dirty."
- "We will put them in the dishwasher."
- "I eaten all my lunch."

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

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support, from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as good. We considered the quality of staffing which we also evaluated as good.

Staff were kind and caring, and their interactions with children were warm and courteous. We felt that the staff were interested in the children's views. We observed children approach staff for support and reassurance which was appropriately responded to.

We saw evidence that staff were positive role models for the children, they spoke respectfully to the children and this impacted positively on the ethos of the nursery and helped build relationships further. We found staff supported each other and worked well as a team to ensure there was a flow to the day. We concluded that there was a strong commitment from staff, they were reflective practitioners and worked hard to ensure that the children remained at the centre of their work.

Children were busy and purposeful in their play. We heard staff effectively use and refer to the 'well-being indicators' when supporting children in the choices they made and to reinforce positive behaviour. The children were happy and content and interacted well together. We observed them supporting each other to learn and explore. The staff offered children cosy and nurturing areas within the rooms and outdoors, and these were well used by the children. This enabled children to seek out a quiet space where they could relax and have some individual time when needed.

Meal and snack times were un-hurried, sociable experiences offering good opportunities for the children to independence, responsibility and choice.

Planning was responsive to children's interests. We saw some good examples of children's voice. Children's views and opinions were clearly respected. Staff were making regular contributions to children's folders. The use of the digital app 'See Saw' was used to record learning and next steps and shared with families.

We found the children enthusiastic about being outdoors. The nursery garden offered a wealth of opportunities for investigation, problem solving and curiosity in their play. While outside the children confidently invited us to look at the worms they had found and explained how they would keep them safe. We observed the children make good use of the loose parts on offer to them and they excitedly told us how they would build a den.

The parents spoke highly of the nursery and felt their children were well supported. They told us of the good transition process into the nursery and then into primary one. This helped the children and their families to feel included and secure during times of change.

Staff told us that they found management approachable and the service improvement plan identified key areas for improvement. These were being developed and monitored with the support of the peripatetic nursery teacher.

What the service could do better

We had an in-depth discussion with the manager and principle teacher regarding actions that needed to be taken with regard to the entrance into the nursery/school to ensure the safety and security of children attending the nursery. Whilst we recognised some action had been taken, we felt that more steps could be put into place to ensure systems and processes supported the safety of the children. **(See recommendation 1)** The manager told us that the Local Authority had been notified and they were currently in discussions about how to address this. We were satisfied that action was being taken to secure the door and asked the manager to continue to keep us updated regarding the implementation of these procedures.

We would ask that staff secure the store cupboard within the nursery playroom to ensure that it is not accessible to children without the appropriate supervision. In addition to these measures we felt that a review of all risk assessments would help to monitor, identify and action any risks to children's safety and wellbeing.

We observed that children with additional needs could be supported further in their play and learning. We suggested strategies that could be used to support these children while attending. Throughout the morning session music was played. We asked staff to reconsider the value of music playing continuously and when it would benefit the children most.

We looked at the floor book and the children's individual folders. We spoke with the staff and the nursery teacher about the format of them. We discussed ways in which they could be developed further enabling children to have a sense of ownership over them. This would help to ensure that progression and depth of learning was recorded appropriately.

We found that some next steps in learning were not measurable and achievable. We suggested that staff explore methods to support children in identifying their own next steps in learning and ways in which this could be recorded and shared with families.

Some staff had taken responsibility for developing specific areas of the service, using their initiative and learning to support improvement. We discussed continuing this and extending opportunities for 'leadership' roles for all staff. This will help empower all staff to make decisions, and develop the service using their skills and learning.

The management team were responsive to our suggestions throughout the inspection and they told us that they will address improvements identified within this report.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To protect the safety and wellbeing of the children, the service and provider should ensure the main entrance door used for access to the nursery is secured by some means; fitting a security system or a bell/buzzer to alert staff when the door is opened if unsupervised by staff. While this is being actioned a risk assessment and appropriate procedures should be put in place to ensure the children are safe and secure while attending the nursery.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "My environment is safe and secure." (HSCS 5.17)

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

Requirement 1

The service must relocate the changing table to minimise the spread of infection and to ensure the respect and dignity of service users and staff is maintained.

This is in order to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 2011/210 Regulation 4 (1)(a) Welfare of Users.

This requirement was made on 7 December 2016.

Action taken on previous requirement

Change table has been removed - now the service is using a mat on the toilet floor and using a screen to respect dignity.

Aprons and gloves kept in a unit on the nursery playroom wall.

Soiled bin for parents to collect soiled clothes - double bagged and named.

Met - within timescales

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	
7 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
14 Jan 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
10 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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