

# Charleston School Nursery Day Care of Children

Charleston Road  
Cove  
Aberdeen  
AB12 3FH

Telephone: 01224 249349

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
28 February 2020

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeen City Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000349

**Service no:**  
CS2003014418

## About the service

Charleston School Nursery has been registered since April 2004.

The service is provided by Aberdeen City Council. It facilitates a Day Care of Children Service for a maximum of 40 children at any one time aged between three years to those not yet attending school. The service must comply with the current staffing schedule dated 18 March 2004, which must be displayed together with the certificate.

The service operates from a designated area within Charleston School in the suburb of Cove. The nursery has its own entry area for children and parents. The nursery class consists of a large open plan play space with a cloak room area, kitchen and snack area. A door leads from the main play room direct to the designated fenced nursery play area within the main school playground for children to play.

The aims of the service include:

- \* Provide a welcoming, safe, stimulation environment for all.
- \* Ensure an inclusive approach to meet the needs of all in partnership with parents and other agencies.
- \* Nurture an ethos of achievement in a supporting environment.
- \* Respect each other, our property, our school community and our world.
- \* Be reflective and ensure continuous improvement.

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.

## What people told us

There were 27 to 29 children present during each morning or afternoon session over the course of two days. We observed the children and saw that they were very happy in their time at the nursery. Children were engaged in a wide variety of play opportunities. We talked with the children about their experiences while they played and they told us about their play with water, paintings, block creations, snack foods and many more of their activities.

Children's comments included:

"We have grapes, purple grapes."

"Carrots help you see in the dark, I can already see in the dark."

"We played what's the time Mr Wolf."

"Need to pat hard so there are no cracks." (when building sand castles)

"I am writing my name and numbers, 9, 2 and 9, 1."

"What's this shape (square), where can I find another square.....I found another square, (trying to fit it in the hole) that's not going to fit, I need another."

"These are our fish. They are new. They came from the fish shop."

Nine parents returned completed questionnaires to us before the inspection. We also spoke to six parents during group parent meetings which we held on the second day. All told us they were very happy with the service provided. Many parents commented that staff were nice, approachable and caring towards their children. Some parents explained that they would like more information about what their child does and learns while at nursery. Others disagreed that staff had worked with them and their children to develop individual plans. We looked at these aspects of care as part of the inspection and have included our findings in the report.

Comments from parents included:

"Since my child started the nursery they have really enjoyed it and loves going back. My child has a good rapport with staff who are very nice and with a genuine caring nature. My child is learning lots of new skills and appears very happy."

"Staff are motivated to meet the needs of my child. They work with the additional support services to help encourage and support my child."

"I have seen a great improvement in the activities on offer for my child. I have also seen a huge improvement with the information given such as notice boards and further similar items. The way the nursery has been rearranged is better and the security has been vastly improved."

"There has been significant improvements in the nursery over the last few years. The environment is far more stimulating and inviting for the children especially the outside area. As a parent I appreciate the efforts from staff to keep me informed of the activities my child participates in through the use of twitter and Interactive Learning Diary (ILD) updates. The verbal feedback is good too."

## 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

All children and families were warmly welcomed into the nursery by caring, interested staff. This helped children feel at ease.

To help safeguard children, staff had completed child protection training. They recognised possible signs of concerns and the correct procedures to follow if they were concerned about the welfare of a child. This helped to ensure children were safe and protected

Some children had identified complex needs. Whilst all staff knew these children well and worked to meet their needs the children benefited from individual key workers. This supported children very well, building on their confidence, resilience and wellbeing needs. Staff worked closely with other agencies for all children who required extra support, attending update meetings and seeking advice when needed. We discussed with senior management how to ensure the best person attends these meetings.

Children's allergy and medical needs were well supported by staff who were aware of these and what to do if an emergency should occur.

A healthy rolling snack was provided for children. This meant that children could choose when to eat. Snack time was well supervised whilst encouraging children to be independent and learn life skills. Children enjoyed showing us their counting skills and telling us about the healthy foods and how they "keep us well, see in the dark and taste yummy."

Positive behaviour and play were encouraged by staff who provided lots of praise and encouraged children to be respectful of each other. Achievements were shared during play using lots of positive commentary such as "well done" and "isn't that a good idea." This helped children build self esteem and confidence.

Children's stage of learning and interests were used to plan activities which they enjoyed and children's progress were recorded and tracked well by staff. Observations and progress was shared with parents through their learning profile. This contributed to working together to help children achieve their potential.

Personal plans had been developed following the last inspection. These held important information that supported staff to care well for children. We noted one occasion where this could have been improved for a key child. Staff should now ensure that personal plans progress and ensure that they support every child as needed.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The nursery environment had undergone changes and improvements following the last inspection. Areas had been refreshed and re-designed for purposeful use by children. Other large scale changes were planned by Aberdeen City Council such as new toilet and nappy changing areas and as requested an easier accessible door to the garden.

Staff had worked to develop the indoor classroom for children's needs. Areas for play had been well thought out and designed to include a wide selection of loose parts and natural play materials. Children could easily access resources and extend their play and imagination.

The layout gave children opportunities to play by themselves or in groups. They could mix easily with familiar and new friends and all played well together with the support from staff. We observed children engaged and motivated by their play whilst enjoying activities such as painting, crafting, carefully pouring, building sand castles in the sand and building detailed towers and buildings with the construction blocks.

Staff extended play using the resources well and encouraged children to develop their skills in understanding, thinking and investigation. They took a well balanced benefit risk based approach to play and allowed children to reach their safe limit whilst caring for others.

Children were supported to be healthy through daily opportunities to play outdoors. Free flow to a play area was available and allowed children to choose where to play and lead their own day. We spoke to staff on day one, as having the door open wide meant that the indoor area was too cold for children. Staff worked together and with the janitor and this was fixed on day two.

Children had a range of play opportunities outdoors to explore learning and challenge. Staff had developed the use of larger loose parts for outdoors and had included an old rowing boat within the area.

A "play on pedals" programme was successful in supporting children on how to ride bikes safely. Children were excited to tell us about the games they played. Staff had recorded parents feedback who were delighted that this had helped them work on this skill at home.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

Staff created a warm welcome to parents and children on arrival.

Parents confirmed they found staff approachable, friendly and very easy to talk to. Allocated staff each day had time to speak to parents during drop off and collection times. Parent's told us that at times they would like more time to speak to their child's key worker and more information on what their child was learning.

Staff had positive interactions with the children in their care. They were kind, caring and nurturing in their approach. They provided individual support and comfort and role modelled positive interactions with the children.

Staff used natural play prompts from children to explore activities and spontaneous learning. Children were challenged in their play to extend their thinking, knowledge and problem solving. Staff understood how to use opportunities to extend play and when to allow children to investigate by themselves. We observed that staff used play opportunities to encourage children positively to experiment with bubble blowing, cut fruit, put on dance show, write and explore numbers and letters and dress themselves for the weather.

We noted the staff were motivated and enthusiastic about their caring role. They had worked well to establish a new team and way of working. They communicated and worked well together to meet the needs of the children.

Staff were competent and had developed their skills and knowledge following the previous inspection. Staff were up to date with core training and had also attended a range of course including messy maths, setting the table, emergent literacy and schemas. Senior staff had attended a learning programme aimed to meet the needs of the role. Staff spoke to us about personal learning from these events and how this had made positive changes to their practice and the effect they could see in how well children were engaged in learning.

Staff were supported to have leadership roles within various areas of play. This allowed staff to review and develop areas of practice and focus on how to improve the standard of play and learning opportunities for children. This created a strong team ethos towards improvement and personal development which resulted in positive outcomes for children.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

A variety of opportunities for parents and staff to build positive relationships were available.

Parents received verbal feedback about their child's day and notice boards and white boards were kept up to date with daily information. Parents meetings, coffee mornings, "play on pedals" events, individual parent meetings, early years expansion meetings, evaluation surveys and regular newsletters were available and had been held throughout the year. Some parents had asked for longer teacher parent meetings, these were made available when requested.

The management team worked closely together to ensure improvements had been made within the nursery to benefit children's outcomes.

Various self evaluation processes were in place throughout the year. These included feedback from parents, staff and children. Where possible, changes were made immediately such as changes to the "play on pedals" programme for the second cohort group.

A longer term improvement plan was in place. This included key priority areas that would have the best impact to improving the outcomes for children. Staff spoke to us about these priorities and explained their role in helping to achieve these and the positive difference this had made to children.

Regular quality assurance and monitoring took place. All levels of staff took part in this. Monitoring that was carried out identified clear strengths and areas of improvement. This helped ensure the continued progress of the nursery and the outcomes for children.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

**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](http://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	
28 Mar 2019	Unannounced	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed



Date	Type	Gradings	
12 Apr 2019	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed 3 - Adequate Not assessed
4 Oct 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate Not assessed 2 - Weak Not assessed
20 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
20 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
22 Apr 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good

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