

Fun 4 Kidz Day Care of Children

Port Erroll School
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Cruden Bay
Peterhead
AB42 ONP

Telephone: 01779 812622

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Announced (short notice)

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Aberdeenshire Council

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CS2003054768

About the service

Fun 4 Kidz is a day care of children service provided by Aberdeenshire Council. The service provides out of school care within Port Erroll School in the coastal village of Cruden Bay.

Fun 4 Kids is registered with the Care inspectorate to provide a service to a maximum of 22 children of primary school age and up to 16 years. Conditions in relation to staffing are 1:8 for children under 8 years and 1:10 for children aged 8 years and over. A minimum of two adults are to be on duty at any one time.

Summarised the aims of the service were to be the best place to grow up, to value play as a life enhancing experience, to offer play and education opportunities that are both fun and challenging, promote the dignity, privacy choice, safety potential and diversity of all at the club.

We carried out a virtual inspection of Fun 4 Kidz out of school club on Tuesday 01 December. We had a tour of the environment, spoke to two staff and four children. We also contacted parents by email to obtain their views.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

What people told us

Two parents emailed us with their views about the service, which were detailed and very positive. These demonstrated improvements in the service overall which were having a positive impact on their children's experiences. Parents' comments indicated they had seen a marked improvement in the service over recent months.

The four children we spoke to described really enjoying their time at the club. The children told us a lot about the wide range of activities they enjoyed at the club which was helpful to the inspection. They described how 'the ladies ask us what we want to do and what we want for snacks?' All the snacks described were healthy and children understood what this meant and why unhealthy snacks for example chocolate were not allowed.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

5 - Very Good

5.1 Quality indicator 5.1: Children's Health and Wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting

We observed that children were busy, relaxed and having fun within the club. We spoke to children using virtual technology and they told us about the wide range of activities they enjoyed doing, including playing games, construction, drawing, painting, reading and playdough. These were described differently by each child, showing children had individual choices. Children showed confidence in the staff, who were caring and responsive in their interactions and related to the children with good humour. We observed there was a happy atmosphere in the club, contributing to children's well-being.

The manager and staff were clear about their role and responsibilities, record keeping and notification procedures. They were clear about recent changes in the law. While the manager and staff were clear about who should be allowed to collect a child from club the child protection policy needed to be revised to improve the clarity of this. The policy should also clearly identify the child protection co-ordinator, clearly identify roles and responsibilities, give parents clear guidance and reference the 5 GIRFEC questions.

We saw photographs that showed children had participated in much more interesting play opportunities over the last few months, particularly outdoors. Some examples included water painting murals that really showed children's artistic skills, stripping willow and weaving it into shapes, threading necklaces, making perfume with petals, making bird feeders and outings to woodland to explore nature and picnics in the park. These activities and outings enabled children to connect with nature. Increased outdoor play was positive in terms of infection control during Covid-19 and children's health and wellbeing. Children's faces showed their joy and pleasure in simple activities such as throwing leaves and building sculptures with cut grass.

Children were being encouraged to think of others in their local community and recognise their own and other's feelings during Covid-19. Children had planned and undertaken an outdoor visit to a local care home, sang a song accompanied by Makaton signing, shared their artwork and written a letter to the residents. Children had gained a lot of satisfaction and a sense of achievement from this successful visit.

Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

The manager had communicated with children and families throughout the lockdown period to establish relationships. As parents could no longer enter the service a private social media platform had been created to share children's experiences. This was very well presented, welcoming, and evidenced regular updates to parents showing children enjoying a wide range of activities indoors and out. The club's own survey results and comments to us from parents indicated how much they valued the communication from the club by email and social media. They felt their views had been asked for and now feel involved. More importantly they knew their children's views had been asked for and acted on as part of the planning process. Children now ask staff to share achievements they are proud of on the social media page.

Quality indicator 5.2: Infection Prevention and Control Practices support a Safe Environment for Children and Staff.

Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

New Covid-19 procedures had been communicated well to reassure parents that their children would be safe on returning to the club. The club had worked in partnership with the school to ensure coherent procedures contributed to children's safety. As a result, the club had secured use of the hall. This meant the accommodation could be well ventilated and facilitate staff social-distancing. The local authority was supporting effective cleaning of the accommodation to protect the children.

Children had been helped to understand the importance of good-handwashing in preventing the spread of infection and to do this often throughout the session. Posters encouraged them to do this in line with best practice. Children were supervised to ensure hand-washing was effective. Snack routines had been changed to reduce any risk of cross infection. Children described healthy snack menus which included fruit on a daily basis. Children also told us how resources were being managed to reduce cross infection, for example, individual playdough usage.

Children, staff and parents confirmed that children had a wider variety of enjoyable opportunities for outdoor play. Children told us about the mud kitchen and their imaginative play. Children also told us of the physical activities and games they played, positively supporting their physical health. Head torches and high vis jackets enabled children to play out longer in the winter months. This met a recommendation for improvement at the last inspection and also contributed to infection prevention and control.

Quality indicator 5.3: Staffing Arrangements are Responsive to the Changing Needs of Children during COVID-19.

Staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families

The provider had recruited an additional staff member over and above the required ratio of staff to children. This meant staff were able to manage additional tasks to minimise the spread of infection and enable children's choice of indoor or outdoor play. The service had been innovative in involving children meaningfully in the recruitment process. Discussions indicated that safe recruitment procedures had been followed. Staff demonstrated a lot of knowledge appropriate for their role following supportive induction or training. Staff were working well as a team and flexible and responsive to children's needs and wishes. As a result, there were significant improvements to children's experiences and an outstanding requirement and recommendations had been met.

Staff are well supported and confident.

The manager was now solely managing this one service and based here for most of her time. Improvements in the running and organisation of the club were described that helped to ensure children's safety and wellbeing. Staff confirmed the improvements and spoke positively about the support they had had from the new manager through regular team meetings and 1:1 support. Records showed these were constructive meetings with clear action points and responsibilities. Staff had been supported with Covid-19 procedures and their own personal health and wellbeing which contributed to staff confidence and motivation. Positive teamwork contributed to a positive atmosphere in the club for the children.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

In order to ensure each child receives appropriate care and support and their needs are met the provider must:

- a) Develop and implement personal plans for children. The plans must reflect children's current needs and provide clear guidance to staff on how they will meet each child's needs.
- b) Ensure plans are developed and reviewed in consultation with parents/carers and other professionals where appropriate, to ensure they are effective and are meeting children's needs.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15) and 'My needs as agreed in my personal plan, are fully met, and my wishes and choices are respected.' (HSCS 1.23)

It is also necessary to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) and Regulation 5 of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

This requirement was made on 20 February 2018.

Action taken on previous requirement

Since the previous inspection a new manager had been appointed and had spent the last few months getting to know children and families. The manager, working in partnership with parents, had ensured that children's health care plans now contained sufficient detail. As a result, staff were able to access information easily, were knowledgeable about children's needs and ensured children were safe and well. This met a requirement from the previous inspection.

Met - outwith timescales

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

In order to stimulate children's interest and creativity and provide more challenging play opportunities, the manager and staff should improve the organisation of the environment and presentation of the resources.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31) and 'As a child I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage.' (HSCS 2.27)

This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2019.

Action taken since then

Due to Covid-19 the club was not accommodated in their usual classroom. However, they were making best use of their temporary accommodation and providing children with more challenging and creative activities. We are confident that this will continue when they return to their usual classroom.

The recommendation was met.

Previous area for improvement 2

In order to improve children's quality of experience at the setting the manager and staff should ensure that children can choose on a daily basis to be physically active outdoors and explore their local community and the natural environment.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment.' (HSCS 1.32) and 'I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors.' (HSCS 1.25)

This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2019.

Action taken since then

Children could now choose to play outdoors on a daily basis. Staff asked children for their views and interests in planning play opportunities and also contributed ideas that helped to make children's experiences fun and challenging. Children accessed the natural world, connected with nature and explored their local environment.

The recommendation was met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To improve the quality of the service and aspirations for children's achievements the provider and manager should support staff to access high quality training to develop their knowledge of best practice and their skills.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11)

This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2019.

Action taken since then

The provider had ensured that a comprehensive programme of training had been put in place for all managers and staff. Ensuring that children had more challenging play opportunities and more outdoor play had been a focus of improvement and staff training. Staff were more aware of best practice guidance to support them. As a result children's experiences had significantly improved. Staff had also completed child protection training. The manager and staff now clearly understood their role and responsibilities.

The recommendation was met.

Previous area for improvement 4

In order to improve the quality of the service for the children the provider, manager and staff should implement systems for self-evaluation, develop and implement improvement plans, monitor and quality assure the development of the service and the impact on children.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19)

This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2019.

Action taken since then

The provider had put in place a structure of training and support for managers to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. A new manager had been recruited for the service with suitable qualities and skills. The new manager had successfully led improvements taking account of the improvement plan. Staff were being supported well. Staff, children and families had been involved in developments. As a result, there were significant improvements to children's experiences and an outstanding requirement and recommendations had been met. We are confident the manager will continue to quality assure the work of the service and take forward further improvements.

The recommendation was met.

Previous area for improvement 5

The provider, manager and staff should develop more ways to involve children and families in giving feedback on how they experience the service and take account of their ideas and suggestions to improve the service.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in a spirit of genuine partnership,' (HSCS 4.7) 'I am supported to give regular feedback on how I experience my care and support and the organisation uses learning from this to improve' (HSCS 4.8) and 'I am recognised as an expert in my own experiences, needs and wishes.' (HSCS 1.19)

This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2019.

Action taken since then

Parents had been involved in the self-assessment process. The club's own survey results and comments to us from parents indicated how much they valued the communication from the club by email and social media. They felt their views had been asked for and now feel involved. More importantly they knew their children's views had been asked for and acted on as part of the planning process. We saw documentation recording children's involvement and contribution of ideas. These had influenced and impacted positively on children's experiences.

The recommendation was met.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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