

Farr Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Farr Primary School Nursery
Farr
Inverness
IV2 6XJ

Telephone: 01808 521 246

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 April 2022

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003017207

About the service

Farr Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 19 children aged three years to not yet attending primary school. The service is provided by Highland Council and operates Monday - Thursday 08:45-15:15 and 8:30-12:30 on a Friday.

What people told us

Following the inspection, four parents were contacted by the service and offered the opportunity to give feedback on the service to inspectors. They were very positive in their feedback on the quality of the service provided. They spoke highly of the staff and the head teacher, the approachability and friendliness of staff and feeling included, valued and welcomed.

Comments made included:

"I like how they go outside most of the day, they go to the woods and they really like to do lots of outside play."

"Communication is very effective, they are very good at giving you time to speak to them. They never rush you when you have questions about your child, or their day."

"Miss Guthrie I have never met a teacher like her, she will go over and above. I can't speak highly enough, nothing is ever a problem, the staff are really wonderful."

"The staff really get to know the children as individuals, they communicate well about their qualities and you know they know your child well."

Comments from children include:

"Quack, quack, purple duck."

"I'm skipping."

"I'm a policeman, this is mine I am wearing."

"This blanket is heavy."

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 systems. These demonstrated the service priorities for development, detailing how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service, and a clear schedule for improvements.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

During the inspection we evaluated two quality themes, care and support and management and leadership. We found major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for people, with very few areas for improvement. Both care and support and management and leadership have been evaluated as very good.

Children were cared for by supportive, kind and responsive staff who understood their individual needs. They guided, distracted and enabled children to manage their own feelings and express their needs and wants to others. Each child had a personal plan which highlighted needs, actions and progress. Staff knew children well through observing them and building relationships with families. This meant that personal plans had up to date information, relevant to that child's needs and circumstances.

Strong team work, leadership and communication meant that staff were informed and enabled to provide quality care and support. For example, the team shared information in weekly meetings to ensure they were knowledgeable and consistent with children's care. Staff attended solution focused meetings with parents and outside agencies to support effective care strategies. Parents spoke highly of the effective and supportive role that the manager took in ensuring children had access to the right support for them. This contributed to staff providing care that was responsive to children's individual care needs.

The service had implemented effective self-evaluation tools to enable them to reflect on children and families experiences, where the service was, where the evidence of this can be seen and any improvements. Staff and management had reflected constructively together using the Quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged children. This approach supported continuous improvement and encouraged positive changes to outcomes for children and families.

Appropriate infection prevention and control procedures were in place to support a safe environment for children and families. For example, good handwashing routines were in place for both staff and children and had been adapted in line with current guidance. The playroom was well ventilated and clean with enhanced cleaning regimes in place to prevent the spread of infection. This contributed to minimising children's risk of exposure to infection.

Mealtimes were relaxed, sociable and supported children's choice. Children chose when to have snack, so their play was not interrupted. There were good opportunities for independence with children preparing their own snack, chopping fruit and pouring drinks. They ate lunch in the school canteen before the older school children came to the hall. This meant that children had time and space to chat to staff and each other in a quiet environment. They ate at their own pace and could return to the playroom once finished. This promoted opportunities for development of children's social skills and independence.

The manager was organised, approachable and positively influenced the service. The quality assurance calendar and improvement plan were supported by relevant local and national guidance. The views of parents, staff and children were sought regularly which supported a culture of continuous improvement. Feedback was collated and fed back to parents showing their thoughts and views and how the service had responded with any changes made. This supported parents to feel included and to influence change.

Regular support and supervision by management provided opportunities for staff to be clear on their roles and responsibilities. Staff had engaged with the process effectively to reflect and improve their practice, which enabled development opportunities to be identified. They cascaded new skills and shared professional reading to the wider team. Staff told us they felt very supported by the manager. They were encouraged to record training and evaluate the impact on practice and experiences provided. Strong leadership resulted in staff who felt valued and empowered and had confidence to support children.

What the service could do better

Management and staff were looking forward to being able to enhance partnership working with parents as Covid-19 restrictions were eased. This would support parents to be more included in their child's learning and the life of the nursery.

Mealtime experiences used a range of plastic resources including plates, cups and bowls. Introducing more real-life resources would help make the mealtime experience more homely.

Staff had begun to evaluate the environment and resources, looking at areas for improvement. The service had some natural, real life and open-ended resources but these were limited. They could consider further developing the natural and real-life resources available to children to enhance their play experiences and promote creativity and curiosity.

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.

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
10 Sep 2018	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>Not assessed</div>
8 Jun 2015	Announced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>4 - Good</div>
6 Dec 2012	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>4 - Good</div>

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
4 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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