

Thrumster Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Thrumster Primary School
Thrumster
Wick
KW1 5TR

Telephone: 01955 651 244

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 May 2022

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003017279

About the service

Thrumster Primary School Nursey is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery operates term time only.

The nursery was located within Thrumster Primary School in the north east of Scotland. They had a nursery room and use of the adjoining school general purpose room. This gave them direct access to an enclosed outdoor play. This area contained a range of loose parts and open ended resources which extend and enriched the children's imaginative play and learning experiences.

What people told us

We spoke with some of the children who were playing with their friends. They told us what their favourite things to do at nursery were. Comments included:

"My favourite thing is playing with water"

" I like playing outside"

"I like playing with my friends"

"I like snack"

As part of the inspection process, parents and carers were invited to share their feedback. All the parents and carers we spoke with provided extremely positive feedback about the service and the standard of care their children received. They all highlighted how much their children loved attending and how much they have benefited from the experiences offered to them. Comments included:

" Amazing pastoral care"

" Children are treated as individuals"

"The staff really care"

"They provide a wholesome and nurturing environment"

"They know the children really well and they get individualised support"

"Staff have been fantastic"

" (Child) loves her teachers"

"Communication is excellent"

"We get regular updates on how they are progressing."

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.

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	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

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

Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches to their personal care and learning needs. This contributed to children feeling safe and secure. Children had developed strong, positive relationships with staff members. To support children to be happy and confident, staff had effectively used personal plans to enhance individualised care, support and learning opportunities. Staff knew the children very well which supported the development of strong, trusting and respectful relationships. This contributed to children being, safe and feeling valued. Meaningful restorative conversations contributed to the overall ethos of respect and inclusion within the service.

The service had very good links with outside agencies and worked effectively with them to provide responsive care and support to children. Children's health and wellbeing was very well supported by staff who consistently used identified strategies based on children's individual needs. This supported children to be included and contribute fully to nursery life.

Snack and mealtimes were relaxed and sociable experiences for children. They could choose where to have snack, with some choosing to eat outdoors. They were given opportunities at snack time to develop their independence skills, for example, pouring their own milk and water. Staff sat with children during mealtimes which promoted close attachments and supported early language and communication skills.

Children experienced a warm and welcoming environment. The playroom had been thoughtfully set up to ensure children could access a variety of spaces. Spaces had been designed to give children an area to be calm and quiet and also provided opportunities to explore and develop their play. Children's current interests and curiosities were reflected in the activities and layout of the playroom and outdoor areas. This provided a strong message to children that they matter.

Children were highly engaged in their play on the day of inspection. Play opportunities supported children's curiosity, enquiry, and creativity. Staff joined children in play and used skilled questioning to extend learning. Play experiences supported numeracy, literacy and language development as well as children's understanding of the world around them. Children freely accessed toys and resources to extend their play. This contributed to them developing a sense of ownership and respect for their environment. Children had plentiful opportunities outdoors to explore using real and natural resources. This supported them to be creative and develop their problem-solving skills.

Children independently accessed the secure outdoor play area. This promoted their health and wellbeing as they enjoyed fresh air and energetic play daily. The outdoor area had been developed to provide a range of natural spaces. Children confidently explored the outdoor areas experimenting in the mud kitchen and water tray. This resulted in children feeling empowered to lead their play experiences and supported them to develop confidence and resilience.

What the service could do better

There were missed opportunities for children to be independent and develop skills during the lunchtime experience. We discussed with the manager how this could be extended. For example children serving themselves and pouring their own drinks.

There was scope to develop the indoor environment by continuing to implement homely touches which will build on the comfortable, homely feel within the setting. The service should also continue to embed the use of natural play resources and multi-sensory play experiences within the indoor environment.

The service should implement their plans to further enhance supervision of children playing outdoors.

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	
21 Nov 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
6 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
17 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
25 Sep 2009	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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