

Corry Capers Day Care of Children

Growers' Hub
Pairc Nan Craobh
Broadford
IV49 9BA

Telephone: 07939 655783

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
1 August 2022

Service provided by:
Broadford and Strath Community
Company

Service provider number:
SP2021000073

Service no:
CS2021000116

About the service

Corry Capers is registered by the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 primary and secondary school aged children at any one time with no more than 18 attending primary school and no more than 2 children are aged 5 years to those not yet attending primary school. It operates after school and during school holidays.

Corry Capers is an outdoor, out of school childcare service and is provided by Broadford and Strath Community Company. The service has access to a large woodland area which offers a very wide range of opportunities for outdoor exploration and learning.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 26th July 2022 between 10:30 to 14:30. Feedback was provided on Monday 1st August 2022. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children and young people using the service
- spoke with parents and reviewed parental feedback provided
- spoke with 3 staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children and young people experienced extremely warm, caring and nurturing support from all staff.
- Children and young people were all very happy, engaged and having fun taking part in a range of exciting, creative and challenging activities.
- Children and young people's choices were supported well through a balance of planned and spontaneous play experiences and resources.
- Positive relationships with families supported continuity of care and effective partnerships.
- Quality assurance processes need to be embedded to secure sustained improvements across the service.
- Staff were highly motivated to provide a service of a very high standard.
- Staff were extremely flexible and supported each other and worked well as a team.

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, play and learning?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

1.1 Nurturing Care and Support

We evaluated this quality indicator as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The children and young people were all very happy, settled and had lots of fun. They experienced warm, caring and nurturing interactions which contributed to them feeling safe and secure. Children and young people were made to feel included by staff who were calm, respectful and skilled in building trusting relationships. Reassurance, physical comfort and time spent with them contributed to children and young people feeling safe, valued and loved.

To support children and young people to be happy and confident, staff had effectively used personal plans to enhance individualised care, support and learning opportunities. Personal plans provided information to support individual children and young people. This information was used consistently by staff. Staff knew the individual care and support needs, personalities and preferences of the children and young people very well. Activities and experiences were responsive and planned to meet the needs and interests of the individual children and young people attending.

There was a strong commitment to work in partnership with families when developing personal plans and support strategies. There was daily communication with families at drop off and collection time. This ensured that children and young people received the appropriate levels of care and support whilst still being able to have fun at the outdoor provision either afterschool or during school holiday sessions.

Children and young people experienced calm, relaxed and sociable lunch and snack times where they were encouraged to be independent. Staff were focused on the children and young people during this time and provided appropriate levels of individualised support and supervision. Staff were aware of any allergies or dietary needs which helped them to keep children safe. Staff sat and had their meals and snacks with the children which supported close attachments. The children and young people were often able to enjoy fruit and vegetables they had grown in one of the community polytunnels and planting beds.

1.3 Play and Learning

We evaluated this key quality indicator as very good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and young people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children and young people benefitted from a high-quality play and learning outdoor environment. They were provided with play and learning opportunities that impacted positively on their development, health, wellbeing and happiness. As an afterschool and school holiday provision, one of the main priorities was for the children and young people to relax and have fun in a safe environment.

Children and young people were supported to learn and develop through their play. They experienced both spontaneous and planned play experiences and were supported in leading their play and learning and were able to make choices. Children and young people were offered stimulating and interesting experiences which including exploring, experimenting, being creative, taking risks and problem solving. These rich learning experiences promoted curiosity and imagination. Staff were skilful in their interactions which

supported children and young people to develop their play and learning.

All the children and young people were very engaged in their play throughout the session. We saw children and young people having a great deal of fun, smiling, chatting and laughing as they took part in a wide range of activities, including water play, mud kitchen, den making, woodwork skills, learning fire skills and making drinks and popcorn for snack. Corry Capers offered them the opportunity to have fun outdoors with both old and new friends. Their successes and achievements were recognised and celebrated, helping them develop a sense of pride, build resilience and support their self-esteem. Parents and carers spoke highly of the opportunities offered to their children to socialize, play, learn, thrive and have fun outdoors. Comments made included:

'He has thrived since he started going.'

'Creative and educational.'

'Outdoor learning and play, being in nature, getting fresh air and exercise.'

'It gives my children a safe place to explore and learn through play. They enjoy the social aspect and have learnt new skills.'

'Time for the children in nature, learning new skills, interacting with children of different ages, playing.'

'It is fantastic that the children have helped to make the area what it is now. It gives them a great sense of achievement.'

At the end of each session, the manager and staff informally reviewed how the session had gone. They highlighted what the children and young people had enjoyed and any progress or achievements. This information was used to plan for future activities and sessions.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children and young people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Corry Capers was a fully outdoor service with a designated site within the local community woodland. The service offered the children and young people a rich and diverse outdoor environment where they could be adventurous, develop their resilience, be active, explore, be independent and develop a range of physical skills. As stated previously, parents were extremely complimentary about how their children and young people's experiences at the service had positively impacted on them.

It was important that the children and young people were encouraged and supported to take ownership for the service and were proactively involved in the development of the site. One parent commented 'I particularly like the way the children take the lead in designing and creating the space - from the start they have been allowed to make it their own.' Another parent commented 'the environment created by the children and staff in the community wood is brilliant.'

The woodland site offered very good opportunities for children and young people to be imaginative and creative in their explorative play and investigative learning while learning new skills. Positive approaches to supporting risky and adventurous play were embedded within practice. There were opportunities for the children and young people to assess and manage risk and build self confidence. They had access to a variety of engaging and challenging resources and activities for example, open-ended and natural resources, mud

kitchen, digging area, loose parts resources, den building, water play, fire skills and wood skills. Staff routinely reviewed children's use of resources and areas to make sure that children were engaged and challenged.

We saw children and young people who explored happily and were engaged in their play. They were able to direct their own play and activities in a way that they chose and had the time and space to develop their own interests. We observed the children and young people all moving comfortably and confidently around the site and selecting various activities, either on their own or in small groups. We saw children working cooperatively at the water play area.

Children attending the service were kept safe through the various systems the manager and staff had in place. Staff explained that they completed daily visual checks before the children arrived as well as at the end of the day. Staff fully involved the children in risk assessments and problem-solving to build their confidence and skills in assessing risk and safe decision-making. We saw children were all very aware of their environment and were confident in recognising potential risks and ensuring their own safety and the safety of others.

The service had put in place a system for the safe drop off and collection of children. Parents had to wait at the collection point, a short distance from the site while staff accompanied children and young people to and from the site. This arrangement allowed for staff to safely provide parents with some feedback each day.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

There were identified vision, values and aims for the service which recognised the importance of the ongoing development of the service and the promotion of positive outcomes for children and young people. The manager promoted a positive attitude to change and recognised the importance of including others in developing a shared vision.

There was some evidence of children, young people and their families being asked for their views in relation to service improvements. For example, the water wall had been extended in response to the children's interests and suggestions. One parent commented 'Tracy often seeks input from children and parents.' The manager and staff should continue to invite and encourage feedback to support children, young people and their families to feel included and to influence positive change within the service. We discussed how more views could be gathered to assess progress with identified priorities and to inform future improvement plans.

Quality assurance and self-evaluation processes were in the early stages and needed to be consistently and effectively implemented to ensure high quality outcomes for children and young people. The staff were encouraged and supported to be involved in the self-evaluation process and improvement planning. These processes were not yet regular or robust enough to secure sustained improvement. To support more reflective practice and drive forward improvements and support children and young people's experiences further, self-evaluation needs to be more firmly embedded.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

4.3 Staff deployment

We found significant strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children and young people, with very few areas for improvement, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good. and outcomes for children and young people.

The staff were very caring, skilled and nurturing. There was a positive ethos within the service. They were enthusiastic and committed to providing a positive experience for the children and young people in their care. They were very warm, friendly and sensitive in their approach and demonstrated positive team working which promoted a happy and secure environment for children and young people. They respected children and young people's rights, they encouraged children and young people to have a voice and showed them that their views were valued and important.

The location and nature of the outdoor area used by the service were taken into account when staffing levels and deployment of staff were considered by the manager. There was a good staff to child ratio which allowed for the effective supervision and quality engagement. Staff were appropriately deployed throughout the session which ensured that the needs of children and young people attending were met.

The staff worked very well together as a team where their differing skills and knowledge complimented one another and resulted in quality interactions with the children and young people. They communicated well with each other, were flexible and worked together to ensure effective supervision and quality engagement with children and young people across the session.

Parents were very positive in their feedback about the staff team. Comments made included:
'Brilliant individuals and a great and diverse team. I appreciate the educational and practical skills brought to the mix.'

'excellent staff team they clearly enjoy being there and spending time with the kids.'

'Excellent care provided by kind people.'

'They're great! I don't know how they achieve so much with so few paid hours!'

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

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1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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