

Cornton Nursery Day Care of Children

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Cornton
Stirling
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Telephone: 01786 237 910

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 November 2022

Service provided by:
Stirling Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002689

Service no:
CS2003015004

About the service

Cornton Nursery is situated in a residential area of Stirling, close to local amenities including schools, shops, parks and public transport. Children have access to entrance areas, designated playrooms and outside areas, toilets and nappy changing areas.

The service is provided by Stirling Council and is registered to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 66 children not yet attending primary school at any one time of whom no more than 6 are aged under 2 years and no more than 20 are aged 2 years to under 3 years.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 November 2022 between 9:00 and 18:15. Feedback was given at the end of the inspection visit. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors 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 a number of children using the service
- spoke with and gathered feedback from seven parents and carers
- spoke with management and staff
- observed practice
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children experienced respectful, nurturing and compassionate care.
- Children were developing positive relationships and secure attachments.
- Children were supported well to develop and achieve.
- The staff and leadership team were committed to providing high quality care and support.
- Self evaluation and quality assurance was working well.
- Children's independence could be further promoted during mealtimes.
- Use of the community could be enhanced for the younger children.

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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very 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?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support.

Children experienced respectful, compassionate and nurturing care. This supported them to feel safe, loved and well cared for. Positive relationships, strong attachments and skilful interactions by staff contributed to children remaining very happy and relaxed in the service.

Children were supported very well to communicate their wants and needs. Staff skilfully listened to them and responded quickly to their individual requests. Children were enabled to communicate in a way that met their individual needs and preferences. This promoted an inclusive environment and demonstrated to children they mattered and their contributions were valued.

Children were supported well to explore and express their emotions. Staff sensitively provided comfort and reassurance when needed. This further promoted children to feel secure and loved. To support children's continued emotional wellbeing, consideration should be given to extending resources to help them express and understand their feelings.

Staff knew the children very well and continually gathered important information to help them provide the right level of care. Positive working with families and other professionals contributed to the development of effective strategies and individualised personal plans when additional support was required. This promoted children's continued development and enjoyment in the service and supported them to reach their full potential. Parents and carers made positive comments about their inclusion in developing personal plans for their children. Engaging with families at this level ensured information gathered remained current and of good use.

Mealtimes were a positive and social experience. Children were given time to enjoy their meals in a relaxed environment. Snacks and lunches were nutritionally balanced, encouraging children to make healthy eating choices. This promoted their health and wellbeing. Children's independence was encouraged as they poured their own drinks and collected their plates and cutlery. The service should continue with their plans to enhance the mealtime experience, this should include providing children with consistent opportunities to serve themselves.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning.

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

Children were confident and had fun as they freely explored a variety of interesting experiences indoors and outside. Activities were easily accessible, promoting choice, curiosity and engagement in play. This empowered children to lead their own play, learning and pace of day.

Staffs' recognition and understanding of children's right to play and differing learning approaches supported the provision of high quality experiences. To promote children's continued progress and enjoyment, consideration should be given to enhancing the experiences to offer increased challenge.

Regular assessments and evaluations of children's individual learning supported planning approaches to promote their continued success and achievement. Meaningful records of children's learning were kept. Action was currently being taken to enhance the level of information detailed about children's identified next steps.

Staff successfully planned daily experiences to support children's current interests, learning and development needs. They quickly responded as these interests and needs changed. Skilful interactions and effective questioning encouraged children to widen their thinking and extend their learning. This supported children to lead their own play and get the most out of their early learning and achieve their potential.

Regular trips within the surrounding area promoted children's connection and sense of belonging in their local community. Staff should now consider how they can enhance younger children's experiences within the community.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 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, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children enjoyed a safe, secure, homely and clean environment. All areas were bright, well ventilated and maintained to a good standard. Furnishings were comfortable, in a good state of repair and appropriate to the children in attendance.

Welcoming and interesting play areas enabled children to move freely around and play with their friends. Children independently moved between the indoor and outdoor play spaces. This promoted choice and further enabled children to lead their own play and learning. Children enjoyed playing with natural and open ended materials. This provoked curiosity and creativity as they explored what they could do with these resources.

Independent access to cosy and quiet areas gave children space where they could relax and spend time alone. This supported children's emotional and physical wellbeing and enabled them to set their own pace of day.

Staff effectively followed current guidance to prevent the spread of infection and promote children's health and wellbeing. Children were supported well to understand good hand hygiene and respiratory practice. This also contributed to children's continued health and wellbeing.

Staff demonstrated a sound knowledge of keeping children safe and protected. During risky play activities, children were encouraged to consider how they could keep themselves and others safe. This promoted their learning and understanding of appropriate risks.

Secure and appropriate measures were taken to protect the privacy and dignity of children and families. This included confidential spaces where families could speak to staff and effective storage of personal information. This gave families confidence that information about them and their child would only be shared with relevant people.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

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

Management and staff worked well together to develop a shared understanding of the vision and aims of the service. Staff demonstrated a sound and consistent knowledge of what was important in the service. They were passionate about their role and meeting the needs of children and their families. This created a clear ethos of respect with children and families being at the heart of the service.

Management and staff were reflective of their work and the experiences of children. Quality assurance processes were well led and having a positive impact on making changes and securing very good outcomes for children and families. The whole team approach to evaluation and inviting families to contribute promoted a shared responsibility for effective change. Parents and carers felt fully informed about what was happening in the service and the level of care provided to their children.

Leadership opportunities promoted staffs' continued pride in their work. Staff were confident in these roles and how they had positively influenced outcomes for children and families. Staff were proactive in developing their professional knowledge and sharing their learning with each other. This promoted an environment of continuous improvement and further secured positive experiences for children.

We advised the management team to review the recording of all information to promote clarity, consistency and ensure information can easily be accessed when needed.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 4.3 Staff deployment.

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

Children benefitted from a caring staff team who supported them to remain safe, secure and happy in the care setting. The leadership team and staff were focused on ensuring high quality, consistent care and support to promote children's all round wellbeing and learning.

Staff remained vigilant of where children wanted to play. The team worked very well together to ensure they were available and enable children to make full use of play spaces and resources.

Daily tasks and staff breaks were managed well to ensure children's needs were continually met. Throughout the inspection an appropriate level of staff were available to support positive play and learning experiences with effective supervision.

The staff team were flexible, ensuring unplanned absences were managed well to ensure continued positive experiences and high quality care. Children and parents were kept informed of staff changes and who would be caring for the children each day. This gave parents and carers confidence in the service and supported children to remain relaxed and secure in the setting.

Effective sharing of information across the team meant staff could share relevant details with families about their child's daily experiences. The staff team worked well to support transitions and get to know children in differing playrooms. This meant children were familiar with all staff and further supported them to remain settled when unplanned changes occurred.

Positive team working meant new and temporary staff were supported well to ensure consistent care and daily routines. This promoted children's continued sense of security and being well cared for.

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

Requirements

Requirement 1

The provider must ensure information in children's care and support plans is updated and reviewed at least every six months. Long term medication forms should be updated in line with best practice. Information should remain current and reflect children's specific care and support needs. Where required, individual strategies of support should be developed and monitored within these plans. Staff supporting these children must be fully aware of their needs and how they can help children to achieve their full potential.

This requirement was made on 14 May 2021.

Action taken on previous requirement

All information gathered about children and individual care plans were regularly reviewed within appropriate timescales. A clear monitoring process had been developed to support this. Support strategies were effectively identified, recorded and used well to promote positive positive outcomes for children and support them to reach their full potential. Relevant information was gathered and recorded to promote the safe administration and storage of medication. This was inline with current guidance.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 2

The provider must ensure that children's health, safety and wellbeing is supported during the pandemic. By Friday 11 June 2021 the provider must ensure that infection prevention and control measures are strictly followed in line with current guidance. This will support a hygienic environment and help protect children, families and staff from COVID-19.

The main areas of improvement needed are as follows:

- a) Staff can safely put on, take off and dispose of personal protective equipment appropriately.
- b) Enhanced hand hygiene measures are in place for children and staff in line with current guidance. Staff should wash their hands before exiting and on entering rooms. Staff should work with children to improve their handwashing practice, for example, ensuring this lasts for 20 seconds. They should also ensure that handwashing is carried out at appropriate times in the day such as when arriving in the service, before and after eating and before going home.
- c) Staff notice when children need help or reminded to wipe their nose. If children can wipe their own nose, they should be encouraged to do this and then wash their hands appropriately and, if needed, with supervision.

This requirement was made on 14 May 2021.

Action taken on previous requirement

Appropriate assessments were in place to support staff to remain knowledgeable of current guidance and best practice relevant to infection control and covid-19. Observation of staff practice and discussions demonstrated their understanding of appropriate procedures to follow and ensure consistency in protecting the health and wellbeing of children, their families and each other.

Met - within 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

The provider should ensure staff at all levels have a sound knowledge of child protection, including the less obvious signs and patterns that could alert them to a concern. The team should consider how the impact of COVID-19 may have affected families and as a result put more children at risk. This will ensure the team are confident and competent in reporting concerns to keep children safe and protected.

This area for improvement was made on 14 May 2021.

Action taken since then

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Discussions and records highlighted staff had a sound knowledge of possible signs to be aware of and the appropriate action to be taken. A systematic approach was in place to ensure staff received regular training and updates on child protection guidelines. This area for improvement had been appropriately addressed.

Previous area for improvement 2

The provider should ensure that staff have regular opportunities to revisit and revise information and training on COVID-19. This will help the team to remember and embed this new knowledge into their practice. Doing so will ensure that staff are fully informed of their responsibility to minimise the spread of COVID-19 through their daily practice and in the case of a suspected outbreak. The provider should also ensure staff follow the advice on the proper wear and care of face masks and coverings. This will better ensure the effectiveness of the face coverings to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and help keep everyone healthy.

This area for improvement was made on 14 May 2021.

Action taken since then

Information and appropriate risk assessments relevant to covid-19 were readily available for staff to review. Staff practice demonstrated a clear understanding and knowledge of procedures to take to prevent the spread of infection and covid-19. This area for improvement had been appropriately addressed.

Previous area for improvement 3

The provider should ensure that staff receive frequent and effective support, supervision and monitoring of practice. They should support the team to continue to develop their methods of self-evaluation using internal and external tools. To support the continuous improvement of the service tools such as Key Question 5, the Health and Social Care Standards (2017) and How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare may be utilised.

This area for improvement was made on 14 May 2021.

Action taken since then

Staff support meetings and appraisals were regularly actioned. Quality assurance and self evaluation was continually implemented within a planned programme to promote positive change and improvements. Current national and local quality assurance tools were used well to influence self evaluation and secure positive outcomes for children and families. This area for improvement had been appropriately addressed.

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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
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?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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