

Rural Rascals Out of School Care Day Care of Children

Dunecht Primary School
Dunecht
Westhill
AB32 7BA

Telephone: 01330 860 243

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
1 October 2025

Service provided by:
Rural Rascals

Service provider number:
SP2012011928

Service no:
CS2012311308

About the service

Rural Rascals Out of School Care is situated within Dunecht Primary School, Aberdeenshire. The service is provided in the school dining hall and children have direct access to the outdoor playground. The service is registered to provide a daycare of children service to a maximum of 24 school-aged children.

The service is near to local parks, green spaces, and other amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced follow up inspection which took place on 15 September 2025 between 15:00 and 17:15 and 1 October 2025 between 15:00 and 16:45. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

The inspection focused on the requirement and areas for improvement made during the previous inspection which took place on 30 April 2025. We evaluated how the service had addressed these to improve outcomes for children.

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:

- spent time with children using the service
- spoke with staff, management, and the provider
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Some progress had been made towards addressing the requirement and areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection.
- The requirement had been met. All four areas for improvement remained unmet and have been continued to allow the service further time to make the improvements needed.
- Children's needs were now being met through the effective use of personal planning.
- Quality assurance systems needed to improve to ensure children experienced consistently positive outcomes.
- The provider, manager, and staff were committed to working towards the identified areas for improvement.

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

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 14 July 2025, the provider must ensure that children's care and wellbeing needs are met through the implementation of effective personal planning.

To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure:

- a) All children have a personal plan which sets out what their individual needs are and how these will be met.
- b) Personal plans are reviewed in partnership with parents or carers, and children where appropriate, at least once every six months, or sooner if required.
- c) Staff are knowledgeable and skilled and effectively support children's individual needs.

This is to comply with Regulation 5(2)(a) and (b) (Personal plans) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) 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).

This requirement was made on 30 April 2025.

Action taken on previous requirement

The manager introduced a new personal planning format that provided clear, individualised profiles for children. Plans detailed children's needs, preferences, and identified strategies of support. Where relevant, children had been involved in recording their likes and dislikes as well as what support they felt they needed from adults.

During the first day of inspection, we found inconsistencies in the level of detail recorded in some children's personal plans. This meant that some key information was not easily accessible for staff. We raised this with the provider who was confident that key information had been gathered about children's needs. They took immediate action to ensure all children had a personal plan which contained consistent levels of information for all children to support staff in using these to meet their needs.

The service temporarily closed following the first day of inspection. We returned to conclude the inspection once the service had reopened as normal. We found all children had personal plans consistent with their current interests and needs. Information was consistent across plans, with clearly defined support strategies that reflected staff practice. Staff confidently shared accurate, up-to-date details. This meant that staff were knowledgeable about children's individual needs and used plans to provide effective support.

The manager advised personal plans were due to be reviewed with families at least every six months, as required. The manager planned to develop a key worker system to support this. We recommended incorporating this into the service's quality assurance calendar.

Overall, progress has been made to ensure all children have personal plans that clearly outline their needs, interests, preferences, and support strategies. Children and their families meaningfully contributed to the development of these. Plans are in place to continue involving them in regular reviews to promote good outcomes for children.

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

To promote children's health and wellbeing, the manager and staff team should review and improve risk assessing processes.

This should include, but not be limited to:

- a) Robust benefit risk assessments undertaken to record all potential risks posed to children and the mitigations and measures they have put in place to keep children safe.
- b) All staff are fully aware of risk assessments in place.

c) Staff and children are involved in risk assessing processes, where appropriate.

d) Auditing systems are in place to ensure risk assessing is regularly reviewed and updated.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My environment is safe and secure' (HSCS 5.17).

This area for improvement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken since then

Limited progress had been made to the development of risk assessments since the previous inspection. The manager advised that moving forward this would be a focus at team meetings to allow all staff to be involved. They advised that they planned to action this over the coming term.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 2

The manager should develop a more systematic support and supervision process. This should include, but is not limited to, a planned appraisal process with regular reviews. This will support staff to assess their progress, strengths, and identify training needs appropriate to their role.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice, and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken since then

Within the quality assurance calendar, the manager had planned for staff appraisals and one-to-one meetings. However, these had not yet taken place. The manager advised they were planning for each staff member to have an annual one-to-one meeting to support them in reflecting on their practice and identifying any training needs.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 3

To promote children's independence and social skills, the manager and staff should improve snack time experiences. This should include, but is not limited to, children having opportunities to be involved in the preparation and be encouraged to be independent.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I can enjoy unhurried snack and mealtimes in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible' (HSCS 1.35).

This area for improvement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken since then

Some progress had been made to the snack experience to promote children's independence. Children had opportunities to be independent through spreading onto their toast and pouring their own drinks. Some children engaged in conversation and chatted about their day. However, others would have benefitted from adults consistently sitting with them at the snack table to promote a sociable experience. At times, staff

were task-focused which meant they were not consistently sitting with children to support engagement. We discussed with the manager that it would be beneficial for staff to have more clearly defined roles during snack time. This would support children in being consistently supported by staff to promote a sociable mealtime for all children.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 4

To support positive and improved outcomes for children and families, the manager should ensure effective quality assurance systems are embedded into practice.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- a) Ensure children and families are meaningfully involved and influence change within the setting.
- b) Ensure quality assurance, including self evaluation and improvement plans, lead to high quality care and support.
- c) Implement robust quality assurance practices, including audits and staff supervisions.

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

This area for improvement was made on 30 April 2025.

Action taken since then

Self evaluation and quality assurance of the service was ongoing. The manager had considered ways to involve staff to regularly reflect on and develop their practice. We discussed how the implementation of the appraisal process would support with this. Team meetings were used to promote opportunities for staff to reflect and discuss practice.

We signposted the manager to 'Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: school age childcare'. The manager and staff should implement a more formal approach to self evaluation using this. This would support staff to become familiar with and implement best practice guidance.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Complaints

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

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