Inspection report

Mount Pleasant Nursery
Day Care of Children
Mount Pleasant Primary School
Castletown Road
Thurso    KW14 8HL

Inspected by: Lee Gordon
(Care Commission Officer)
Type of inspection: Announced
Inspection completed on: 7 November 2006
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<th>Service Number</th>
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<td>CS2003013517</td>
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<td>Care Commission Officer</td>
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<th>Inspection Completed</th>
<th>Period since last inspection</th>
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<td>7 November 2006</td>
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<th>Local Office Address</th>
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<td>Unit 4, 39-41 Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UF.</td>
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Introduction
Mount Pleasant Nursery had formed an integral part of Mount Pleasant Primary School and offered up to five sessions a week for children from the term following their third birthday until they attended primary school. Sessions were divided into mornings for pre-school children and afternoons for three year old children.

The nursery was first registered with the Care Commission on 1st April 2002.

The Nursery had recently relocated to another, much more spacious room in the same area of the school. The room had the ability to be divided by folding doors and had a kitchen which could be accessed from the main room. Suitable child height sinks had been installed and staff had worked hard to make the environment welcoming, colourful and stimulating for the children. The spaciousness of the room had allowed staff to provide many areas of interest for the children.

Basis of Report
The Care Commission Officer had spoken with the Headteacher, Principal teacher, Nursery Co-ordinator Teacher, Nursery staff and viewed those parts of the premises used to provide the service. The Care Commission Officer had also spent time observing the interaction between staff and the children attending the nursery.

The Care Commission Officer had also examined a range of policies, procedures and documentation including:

- Child protection
- Managing behaviour
- Public liability insurance
- Complaints
- Medication

The Care Commission Officer had taken all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

- Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing.
- Standard 4 - Engaging with children.
- Standard 7 - A caring environment.
- Standard 10 - Involving other services.
- Standard 12 - Confidence in staff.

Inspection themes of healthy eating, toothbrushing, child protection and safe recruitment were taken into account.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
Action had been taken to ensure the safety of all radiators within the nursery and other parts of the school used by children attending the nursery.

Although the nursery had relocated to another classroom there was still a problem of condensation and damp within the classroom. This longstanding problem had not yet been resolved. The headteacher had indicated that the nursery condensation and damp problems
had been placed on a list of works to be actioned by the Local Authority with no definite timescale of when the work would be undertaken. Due to the health and safety implications of the damp and condensation the Local Authority needs to provide an action plan with a definite timescale for when work can be actioned (Regulation 10 (2)(c) Fitness of Premises).

Recommendations from the last inspection had been actioned.

**Comments on Self-Evaluation**
Self-evaluation was completed comprehensively and accurately. This had assisted the inspection process.

**View of Service Users**
Children were generally happy and confident. They enjoyed taking part in a wide range of activities on offer and had developed very good relationships with staff.

**View of Carers**
Two relatives of children attending the nursery were spoken with and both expressed positive comments about the service provided and their relationship with the staff. There was a concern from a relative that children were sometimes being given crisps during snack time.

Four parental questionnaires titled "How satisfied are you with your child care service?" were returned and the feedback was generally positive.
Regulations / Principles

Regulation 9: SSI 114 Regulation 9 Fitness of Employees

Strengths

Areas for Development

The provider to ensure the safe recruitment of staff, by obtaining two references from appropriate referees for each applicant; in accordance with their Recruitment Guidance and as part of a robust recruitment system (Requirement no.1).

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 3: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Health and Wellbeing

Strengths

Children were assured of continuity of care in the service through effective communication between staff, children and parents, carers and other relevant service providers.

The nursery had a child protection policy in place and access to the Highland Council area child protection guidelines. All staff had received training in child protection.

The nursery had a procedure in place regarding the absence of children.

Children had opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles and relationships, hygiene, diet and personal safety.

The nursery had taken part in the national toothbrushing scheme.

Infection control procedures were being followed: children were encouraged to wash their hands before snack and after going to the toilet.

The nursery had a healthy eating policy and during the inspection had a snack of pears, apples, bananas and clemintines. There was milk and water available to drink. The nursery had celebrated one of the children's birthday's with a birthday cake which was shared with all the children.

The nursery staff were aware of the nutritional guidance for early years publication and utilised this to inform their practice.

Due to inclement weather the children had used the school gym for energetic play during the inspection. The children very much enjoyed the music and movement during the gym session.

The nursery was included in the whole school policies for medication and emergency procedures.
Accident and incident records were being maintained appropriately. Risk assessments were being carried out and recorded appropriately.

**Areas for Development**

**National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children**

**Strengths**

Staff had a good understanding of the stages of children's development and learning. Children had received support and care from staff who understood the significance of high quality interaction and how this developed the quality of all activities.

Staff had interacted positively with the children and acted as positive role models. The nursery had "Golden Rules" for behaviour which were:

"We are gentle"
"We are kind and helpful"
"We listen"
"We are honest"
"We work hard"
"We look after property"

Staff had regularly assessed the development and learning of each child and this informed next steps in the child's development and learning. Planning and observations were recorded. Information about each child was shared with parents/carers in the form of reports and parents meetings.

**Areas for Development**

**National Care Standard Number 7: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Caring Environment**

**Strengths**

All parents/carers had received a copy of the nursery handbook during enrolment. This had contained information on the aims of the nursery and curriculum as well as other relevant information.

Staff interaction with the children was very effective and children were encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. A clear behaviour management policy was in place. Staff had made good use of praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour. Staff
had led by example and promoted mutual trust, respect, confidence and a caring ethos.

Children had their views and ideas valued. The children in attendance during the inspection were generally happy and confident.

Staff had worked to establish a positive relationship with parents and carers. Parents were encouraged to take part in the nursery and staff valued parents/carers knowledge and views.

Regular parents meetings, newsletters, workshops, open days and nursery noticeboard were used to promote communication and a partnership approach to care.

The nursery had a relevant complaints procedure in place.

Areas for Development

The nursery was in the process of evaluating the feedback from a parental questionnaire.

The nursery was to introduce a children's questionnaire in the future.

National Care Standard Number 10: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Involving other Services

Strengths

The nursery had very good links with the school and there were many opportunities to participate in the life of the school and make use of the school's facilities such as the gym and library.

On the day of the inspection children were having their photograph taken in the main school hall.

To aid transition for children in their final nursery year, the nursery had adopted a "buddying" system with primary seven pupils and arrangements were in place for children to visit the primary one classroom and teacher towards the end of the nursery year. Children were also given the opportunity to use the infant playground towards the end of the nursery year.

The nursery was part of a cluster and had links with a variety of health and social work professionals including: child psychology, speech therapy and dental hygienist. If required, the nursery had access to the school liaison group which incorporated a multi-disciplinary approach to the needs of individual children where parents would be invited to attend.

The nursery had made use of community resources in the past and were due to be visited by the health visitor this term.

Areas for Development

National Care Standard Number 12: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
- Confidence in Staff

**Strengths**

The headteacher and staff were aware of the Scottish Social Services Council and staff had a copy of the Code of Conduct.

Staffing levels were sufficient to provide for the needs of the children.

Staff were experienced and worked very well together to provide a high standard of care.

One staff member was about to progress with Scottish Vocational Qualification two in childcare. All other staff had relevant childcare qualifications.

Staff reviews were in place and records kept of staff development. Training opportunities were made available to staff.

**Areas for Development**
Enforcement
N/A

Other Information
N/A

Requirements
SSI 114 Regulation 9 Fitness of Employees - The provider to ensure the safe recruitment of staff, by obtaining two references from appropriate referees for each applicant; in accordance with their Recruitment Guidance and as part of a robust recruitment system (Requirement no.1).

Recommendations

Lee Gordon
Care Commission Officer