Inspection report

Blairhall Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children
Rintoul Avenue
Blairhall
Dunfermline    KY12 9HG

Inspected by: Helen Bell
(Care Commission Officer)
Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 28 February 2007
Service Number: CS2003015905

Service Name: Blairhall Primary School Nursery

Service Address:
Rintoul Avenue
Blairhall
Dunfermline  KY12 9HG

Provider Number: SP2004005267

Provider Name: Fife Council

Inspected By:
Helen Bell
Care Commission Officer

Inspection Type: Unannounced

Inspection Completed:
28 February 2007

Period since last inspection: 13 months

Local Office Address:
Largo House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline.
Introduction
Blairhall Primary School Nursery was deemed registered under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. The nursery was situated in a designated classroom within hatted accommodation in the grounds of the school. Children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area, the school dining room and gym hall.

The nursery provided morning sessions and could provide a service to a maximum of 36 children from the age of three up to an age to attend primary school.

The nursery was managed by the headteacher.

Basis of Report
Before the inspection visit an assessment of the level of regulatory support was carried out. This service was assessed as requiring a low level of support due to findings at the previous inspection. In accordance with Care Commission policy for 2006 -2007 the focus of the inspection was therefore on following up requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection and key questions relating to:

Child Protection
Nutrition and Toothbrushing
Scottish Social Services Codes of Practice

During the visit, which took place on Wednesday 28th February (morning), the Care Commission Officer:
Spoke with the headteacher (manager), nursery teacher and early years officers
Gained answers to key questions
Spent time observing practice and examined the certificate of registration

Six questionnaires were completed by parents and carers using the service and were returned to the Care Commission prior to the inspection visit.

The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported on responses to the key questions in the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to 16 years:
Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing
Standard 4: Engaging with Children
Standard 12: Confidence in Staff

Safer recruitment practices for Fife Council Education services were inspected during April 2006. The findings are highlighted in standard 12 of this report.

The headteacher agreed to arrange for a Care Commission annual return to be completed.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report
There were no requirements made in the previous inspection report.

Comments on Self-Evaluation
The nursery teacher completed a self evaluation document prior the inspection visit.
View of Service Users
The views of the children attending were not formally sought, however some of the children chatted about the activities they enjoyed. All of the children who spoke to the Care Commission Officer said they enjoyed coming to the nursery. They were seen to be settled in the nursery and were confident in approaching staff.

View of Carers
Care Commission questionnaires were distributed by staff to parents and carers prior to the inspection visit. Six parents completed and returned a questionnaire for inclusion in the inspection process. Overall, the parents stated they were either "very happy" (5) or "happy" (1) with the service provided. Some parents made additional comments including, "The change in my child is great" and "I am always made to feel welcome and there are opportunities to get involved e.g. environmental walks and activities". One parent expressed a concern relating to the delay in repairing the entrance buzzer. This parent also suggested the door handle into the nursery should be repositioned above child height. The headteacher confirmed she would consider the parent's suggestion.
Regulations / Principles

Regulation:

Strengths

Areas for Development

National Care Standards

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

Strengths

All elements of this standard were not inspected on this occasion. Instead the inspection focussed on the key themes within this standard of Child Protection, Nutrition and Toothbrushing:

Child Protection
Key questions evidenced that the nursery had child protection policies and procedures in place and that staff were aware of them. Copies of the "Child Protection Inter-Agency Guidelines 2006" were available. The majority of parents who completed an inspection questionnaire stated they were aware of the service's child protection policy and procedure. The nursery staff would discuss with the headteacher any concerns about children's welfare. Care and welfare forms were used to record concerns. The headteacher was the designated child protection coordinator within the school and she was aware of procedures for referral in the event of any concerns. Parents were encouraged to notify the nursery if their child was to be absent or staff would attempt to contact the family themselves if they were concerned about the absence.

Nutrition
A snack was provided during the session. The nursery had a copy of the latest nutritional guidance for early years: food choice for children aged 1-5 in early education and childcare settings. Staff confirmed they ensured fruit or vegetables were provided at most snacks and that children were offered milk or water to drink. There was a designated snack area and the nursery teacher was responsible for supervising the snack area on the morning of inspection. The children were relaxed and sociable as they enjoyed their snack which consisted of a biscuit and or yogurt. The teacher encouraged children to develop independence and take responsibility which included self registering, pouring drinks and washing their own dishes. In addition, there was evidence displayed in the nursery of children involved in food related topic work. This included chocolate crispy making and celebrating Pancake Tuesday. Children were encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating snack.

Toothbrushing
The nursery participated in a toothbrushing scheme. It was observed at inspection that care
of teeth was given emphasis and time was set aside for brushing teeth after snack. Children were familiar with the routine and individual toothbrushes were clearly labelled and hygienically stored.

**Areas for Development**

Whilst the nursery staff confirmed fruit or vegetables were available at most snacks further consideration should be given to providing daily. The Care Commission Officer provided a copy of the recent standards for Nursery and School Toothbrushing Programmes 2006. The method for dispensing toothpaste should now be reviewed to ensure best practice is followed.

The layout of the open plan toilet area to the playroom was discussed during the inspection visit. However, following the inspection visit the Care Commission Officer sought advice from the Infection Control Adviser. Given the limitations of the accommodation, the headteacher should seek an opinion from the Environmental Health Service as there are no doors separating the toilet area from the nursery room which includes a food preparation / snack area. A recommendation (1) is made.

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

**Strengths**

All elements of this standard were not inspected on this occasion. Instead the inspection focussed on element 4.2.

Children received support from the qualified and experienced staff team. Members of staff displayed a warm and caring manner and were observed to provide support and encouragement to the children. This developed the quality of activities. Systems were in place to ensure that the development and learning of each child was assessed and to allow parents and carers to be actively involved in this process, through the use of Personal Learning Plans (PLPs).

**Areas for Development**

Staff intended to continue reviewing and adapting Personal Learning Plans.

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

**Strengths**

All elements of this standard were not inspected on this occasion. Instead the inspection focussed on the key themes within this standard of Safer Recruitment and Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice:

**Safer Recruitment**

The service had one requirement and 3 recommendations from the Care Commission’s safer recruitment audit of inspection year 2006/07 relating to Education Service which have now
been satisfied.

Staff had access to training and were supported by the headteacher in furthering their professional development and learning.

**Areas for Development**

Scottish Social Services Council
The headteacher and staff were not aware of the Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice or their responsibilities under the code. Two recommendations (1 & 2) are made.
Enforcement
The Care Commission has not initiated any enforcement action in relation to the service.

Other Information
An Appointment of Manager (Confirmation of Fitness Notification to Care Commission) has been forwarded to the headteacher. This form should be completed by the relevant person within Fife Council and returned to the Care Commission.

Requirements
No requirements made.

Recommendations
Recommendation 1

The headteacher should seek an opinion from the Environmental Health Service regarding the suitability of the accommodation for food preparation and serving.

National Care Standard 4

Recommendation 2

The headteacher and nursery staff should obtain copies of the Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice.

National Care Standard 12

Recommendation 3

Nursery staff should be made aware of their responsibilities under the Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice.

National Care Standard 12

Helen Bell
Care Commission Officer