

Fernielea School Nursery Day Care of Children

Stronsay Place
Aberdeen
AB15 6HD

Telephone: 01224 318533

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 March 2018

Service provided by:
Aberdeen City Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000349

Care service number:
CS2003014425

About the service

Fernielea School Nursery is registered under the Public Services Reform Act (Scotland) Act 2010 to provide a daycare of children service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time between the ages of three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is provided by Aberdeen City Council from accommodation within the premises of Fernielea Primary School. The premises consist of two playrooms each with kitchen areas, toilets and a shared cloakroom. There is a garden area adjacent to, and accessible from both Early Learning and Childcare rooms.

The inspection took place over morning and afternoon sessions on 19 March 2018. Feedback was provided to the head teacher and teacher with responsibility for Early Learning and Childcare.

We check services are meeting the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included.

The service's aims and objectives are aligned with the 'Curriculum for Excellence' in supporting children to become:

- successful learners
- responsible citizens
- confident individuals
- effective contributors.

What people told us

There were up to 27 children present during our visit, with children accessing either a morning or afternoon session. Children were busy throughout their time in the service. They were happy and content throughout the day, and most were eager to introduce themselves, talk with us, show us around their room and share their play experiences.

They told us: "that they were happy to attend the nursery and they had a lot of fun." Many told us they enjoyed time outside, enjoying the bikes and experimenting with the many 'loose parts' which were made available to them. Some were having fun as they created a puppet show, with others enjoying watching it. They were excited to tell us about the show and their interpretation of a favourite book 'The Gruffalo'. Children were happy throughout the sessions and some at the end of their day told us they did not want to go home, as they were enjoying playing in the hospital.

Parents' views were sought during the inspection and within Care Standard Questionnaires submitted prior to the inspection. Parents were very happy with the service. They told us that staff were warm, welcoming and friendly and their children looked forward to attending, enjoying their time in the nursery. They were happy that their children were progressing well and they were provided with good opportunities to discuss care and learning plans with the staff. One told us they enjoyed the 'stay and play' sessions as it provided opportunities to see how their children were spending their time in the service. They appreciated that the school regularly asked for their opinion, helping them feel listened to.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We considered their own improvement plans and quality assurance processes. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff demonstrated a very good understanding of how children learn as they provided interesting activities that offered stimulation, fun and challenge. Staff monitored children's progress through the use of observations and assessments. They used this, together with information gathered from parents, to identify the next steps in children's learning. Staff planned activities and experiences to support children's progress in all areas of learning, taking into account their interests, likes and dislikes.

Staff were very good at recognising where learning could be extended and regularly provided additional materials and resources which helped to extend play, interests and their learning. For example: the outside shed quickly became a café, and inside other children were setting up a hospital.

Regular discussions with parents and the introduction of online learning journals meant that parents could choose to share children's learning experiences at home. Staff were then able to incorporate this into planning supporting children's learning. As a result of observations and planning, children's learning needs were quickly identified and supported, meaning that children were making good progress throughout the service.

Children had opportunities to play outside every day, benefitting from the fresh air and exercise. They were also learning about their own safety as they assisted staff to check outside and make decisions if all areas were safe for them to use. The introduction and expansion in the use of 'loose parts' was providing exciting open-ended resources which stimulated children's creativity, concentration, motor skills and language as they investigated and explored the many ways they could use them.

Children were learning about healthy eating as staff provided them with fruit at snack time. Staff used snack times as a social and learning experience for the children. They discussed their food and encouraged them to eat healthily. They were supported to learn good table manners, providing them with skills for the future. Staff gathered information from parents about children's individual medical or dietary needs and steps were taken to ensure children do not come into contact with foods that might harm them.

Staff were appropriately qualified and were skilled in promoting good outcomes for children. Staff attended training and learning and implemented this. Following attendance at an 'Emerging Literacy' course staff had introduced more mark making opportunities and increased opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills, listen to stories repeatedly and see the written word. This was helping children's develop reading and writing skills.

What the service could do better

The service had clear areas for improvement within their own development plan. These included helping parents to access and get involved with the online learning plans. They should also consider how they can ensure that children have the opportunities to freely access their own learning plan. This will help children to look back on earlier activities and provide opportunities for them to reflect on and engage with their learning.

We saw children who were mostly engrossed in their play and learning, engaged with an activity sometimes along with their peers. On occasion this concentration could be interrupted, as staff stopped them to move them for another activity or event such as group time. We found that one group's times were long and children were becoming distracted and were not engaged with the activity.

We asked the management to consider how they could reduce interruptions in the day to allow the 'flow of play' for children, as well as incorporate special sharing times for the children. This would help assist play to evolve and deepen the engagement in their learning. We asked that staff consider when they stop play, why and if it is necessary.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
21 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
12 Jun 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.