

Care service inspection report

Mattocks Pre School Class

Day Care of Children

Mattocks Primary School

13 School Road

Wellbank

Dundee

DD5 3PL

Telephone: 01382 350280

Inspected by: Karen Lock

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 3 June 2013



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Service provided by:

Angus Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000043

Care service number:

CS2003015764

Contact details for the inspector who inspected this service:

Karen Lock

Telephone 01382 207200

Email enquiries@careinspectorate.com

Summary

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change after this inspection following other regulatory activity. For example, if we have to take enforcement action to make the service improve, or if we investigate and agree with a complaint someone makes about the service.

We gave the service these grades

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very Good
Quality of Environment	5	Very Good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very Good

What the service does well

We found that;

- the nursery EYP (Early Years Practitioner) was experienced, highly motivated, child centred and appeared to genuinely be very enthusiastic about her work;
- the nursery was providing a very stimulating range of activity that engaged children and provided excellent learning opportunities;
- the service clearly valued children and responded to their views and suggestions;
- the EYP was skilled at supporting children in their play and learning, intervening appropriately and promoting independence and confidence;
- the nursery was very well organised and supported by the headteacher;
- the nursery premises, although small and not purpose built, and resources were very good. The environment was welcoming, stimulating and very well cared for;
- there was a most caring, calm and welcoming atmosphere in the nursery;
- the outcomes and experiences for children were very positive.

What the service could do better

The nursery needed to do very little to improve on the very good standards observed at this inspection. They needed to;

- continue to develop their approach to risk assessment to evidence that the environment, resources and safety were regularly reviewed;
- the EYP needed to update training in First- aid;
- the incident book needed to be moved and stored securely;
- to continue developing child and parental involvement at all levels.

What the service has done since the last inspection

Staff had sustained and continued to build on the very good practice observed at the last inspection. They continued to develop the ways they involved children and parents in developing the service.

Conclusion

The nursery continued to provide very high standard of care and education in a most welcoming and stimulating environment. The EYP impressed with her knowledge and child centred approach to the childrens care and learning. We observed many areas of excellent practice and found the nursery to be well resourced with access to diverse learning experiences. We found the nursery to be well managed and committed to on-going service improvement. Feedback from children and parents and carers evidenced very high levels of satisfaction with the service.

Who did this inspection

Karen Lock

1 About the service we inspected

Mattocks Primary School Nursery had been registered with the Care Commission since 2002 and is part of Angus Council's education provision for preschool children. The service is registered to care for a maximum of ten children from three years to primary school age and offered sessional day care mornings and afternoons. On the day of the inspection there were 10 children attending the nursery. The nursery was staffed on a day to day basis by an Early Years Practitioner.

This small rural nursery is located in a self-contained building within the primary school grounds. Accommodation was appropriate for the number of children present. The well laid out playroom was used effectively to promote children's learning and development. There were adjacent toilets for the use of the children. There was a fully enclosed outdoor play area for nursery children and additional access to the school playground.

The well written aims and objectives were displayed in the nursery together with information on the curriculum.

Based on the findings of this inspection this service has been awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support - Grade 5 - Very Good

Quality of Environment - Grade 5 - Very Good

Quality of Staffing - Grade 5 - Very Good

Quality of Management and Leadership - Grade 5 - Very Good

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. You can find the most up-to-date grades for this service by visiting our website www.careinspectorate.com or by calling us on 0845 600 9527 or visiting one of our offices.

2 How we inspected this service

The level of inspection we carried out

In this service we carried out a low intensity inspection. We carry out these inspections when we are satisfied that services are working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

What we did during the inspection

We wrote this report after an unannounced inspection. The inspection was carried out by Care Inspectorate Inspector Karen Lock. The inspection took place on 03 June 2013. We gave feedback on our findings on the day of the inspection to the headteacher and EYP.

As requested by us, the service sent us an annual return. The service also sent us a self assessment document.

We provided the service with 10 questionnaires for parents and carers of children using the service, eight completed questionnaires were returned before the inspection.

In this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources, including the relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documents:

- * supporting evidence from the nursery's annual return and self assessment
- * nursery policies and procedures
- * a range of wall and table displays, including photographs and topic work
- * recent newsletters
- * evidence of consultation with parents and children
- * accident and incident records
- * medication records
- * attendance registers
- * risk assessments
- * snack menus
- * sample of children's folders
- * planning
- * mind-mapping
- * staff training records
- * certificate of registration.
- * public liability insurance certificate

We spoke with various people about the service, including:

- * Early Years Practitioner (EYP)
- * parents
- * children attending the nursery
- * headteacher

We spent time observing how staff interacted with the children. We also considered the general environment and equipment used in the service.

Grading the service against quality themes and statements

We inspect and grade elements of care that we call 'quality themes'. For example, one of the quality themes we might look at is 'Quality of care and support'. Under each quality theme are 'quality statements' which describe what a service should be doing well for that theme. We grade how the service performs against the quality themes and statements.

Details of what we found are in Section 3: The inspection

Inspection Focus Areas (IFAs)

In any year we may decide on specific aspects of care to focus on during our inspections. These are extra checks we make on top of all the normal ones we make during inspection. We do this to gather information about the quality of these aspects of care on a national basis. Where we have examined an inspection focus area we will clearly identify it under the relevant quality statement.

Fire safety issues

We do not regulate fire safety. Local fire and rescue services are responsible for checking services. However, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, we will alert the relevant fire and rescue services so they may consider what action to take. You can find out more about care services' responsibilities for fire safety at www.firelawscotland.org

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at our last inspection

No recommendations were made at the last inspection.

The annual return

Every year all care services must complete an 'annual return' form to make sure the information we hold is up to date. We also use annual returns to decide how we will inspect the service.

Annual Return Received: Yes - Electronic

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

The service provided a full and detailed self assessment which was a balanced and well assessed reflection of the service. The service has identified the areas it wishes to develop and has begun to work on these. The service should continue developing its approach to self assessment, placing greater emphasis on outcomes for children.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

We saw that the children who were present were relaxed, content and well occupied with a wide range of activity. The children were very well supported by the EYP in a warm and caring manner. We saw that children were settled and interacted positively with each other and the EYP. Children chatted to the inspector in relaxed conversation and told us that they enjoyed coming to the nursery. Some direct comments made by the children are included in the main body of the report.

Taking carers' views into account

We sent the service ten Care Standard Questionnaires, of which eight were returned. These parents reported very favourably on the service with all 'strongly agreeing' that they were overall happy with the quality of the care that their child was receiving. One parent 'disagreed' that there was enough space for the children to play and one 'disagreed' that staff had worked with them to develop an individual plan for their child. More detailed written comments about parents views are included in the main body of the report. Informal conversation with parents who arrived to collect or drop off their child confirmed very good levels of satisfaction with the nursery and stated that their children enjoyed coming to the nursery.

3 The inspection

We looked at how the service performs against the following quality themes and statements. Here are the details of what we found.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service strengths

We found that the nursery had a very good approach to involving children and families in assessing and influencing the quality of care and support provided. The service provided a range of evidence in support of this statement and we found the following strengths;

- The EYP collected information about children and their interests and took their views into account when planning the programme, this included extensive use of mind mapping and discussion at group time. We saw that children were very responsive to these methods and were confident and keen to contribute their views and ideas. There were many displays of mindmaps and children's comments seen throughout the nursery with previous records of children's views and plans kept for the nursery's on-going evaluation. The methods used to collate children's thoughts and interests ensured that children were involved in influencing their learning experiences;
- The nursery was seen to be planning sessions based on the Curriculum for Excellence, the framework through which educational outcomes are assessed for children. We saw that children had scope to determine how they spent their time at the nursery and develop their own interests, this meant that children were able to make choices and lead their own learning within an identified framework;
- We saw that the curricular framework and planning implemented resulted in very positive outcomes for children who were all seen to be active, very happy and to be thoroughly enjoying very positive and stimulating nursery experiences;

- We saw that children had been well consulted about the snack menu with a list of foods displayed that had been suggested by the children, in conjunction with discussion about healthy eating. Their list had included coconut and mango and the member of staff had ensured that the foods suggested had been introduced into the snack menu;
- We saw that there was a mindmap of the 'Nursery rules' that had been recorded in discussion and agreement with the children. The rules included 'sharing, playing nicely, no running as you could bump into someone and hurt them'. We saw that these guidelines were known by the children and kindly and fairly reinforced by the member of staff during this inspection. This ensured that children were involved directly in determining aspects of their care and support and had an opportunity to contribute their views to how behaviour and boundaries would be managed;
- We saw that staff interactions boosted children's confidence and self esteem, helping them to feel comfortable to express their views and suggestions. Children were listened to and their comments valued and always responded to in a positive and encouraging manner. We heard the children being praised and encouraged, and saw that children were happy;
- Parents and carers were given information in a range of ways including newsletters, letters, information boards, parents nights and children's development reports. We viewed a range of letters and communication with parents and found them to be very friendly, welcoming and inclusive. All written communication seen actively sought parental views and encouraged them to be involved with the nursery. This ensured that parents and carers have a range of ways to feedback and comment on all aspects of the service;
- We saw the scrapbook of 'Matty Bear' a nursery teddy bear who went home with children and they and their parents took photographs and recorded the weekend activities and experiences;
- Parents had the opportunity to contribute their views through the whole school annual questionnaire;
- Parents of nursery children had the opportunity to be members of the Parent Council, which influenced the running of the school;
- We saw parents arriving to collect their children and observed the Early Years Practitioner to be very friendly and approachable with parents. She gave parents general and more individual feedback about the nursery session;
- We spoke to three parents using the service who all reported very favourably on all aspects of the service. All three parents stated that the nursery was very good and that their children were very happy attending. The parents all commented on how good Mrs Kettles (EYP) was and how much the children loved her;
- We found there to be a very welcoming and inclusive atmosphere and ethos in the nursery. We saw that the sole member of staff was highly motivated, cheerful and engaged very positively with children and parents. We saw the children having a great deal of fun and there was much laughter and positive communication in the nursery;

We sent the service ten Care Standard Questionnaires, of which eight were returned. All of these parents reported most favourably on the service with all stating that they 'strongly agreed' that they were overall happy with the quality of the care that their child was receiving. Parents also made the following positive comments;

'I am extremely happy with the care my child receives. The staff have been very supportive of his needs.'

'I have no concerns about leaving my child in the care of Mrs Kettles. I feel she is doing a wonderful job and is great and well needed asset to the school. Well done Mrs Kettles.'

Areas for improvement

The last inspection of the service had indicated that the service was considering developing a parental satisfaction questionnaire but this does not appear to have been progressed as a nursery specific audit. The service should continue to develop this project as another valuable means to gather parental views and provide further opportunity to influence service development.

The service had identified in its self-assessment document that they were currently developing a website and an electronic mailing system for parents. They hoped that this would provide more ways for parents to share their ideas and views and contribute to the work of the school. They should progress this additional means of communication with parents.

One parent who returned a Care Inspectorate questionnaire 'disagreed' that there was enough space for children to play and one 'disagreed' that staff had involved them in developing an individual programme for their child. The service should consider these areas in their on-going agenda for improvement.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 3

We ensure that service users' health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service strengths

We found that the nursery had an excellent performance in relation to promoting children's health and well-being. We identified the following strengths:

- There were a very good range of policies and procedures in place which informed staff and parents of best practice in relation to health and wellbeing. We saw that daily practice with the children reflected the very good procedures noted in policy;
- We found that the staff to child ratios met the guidelines in the National Care Standards. There were ten children present on the morning of the inspection, with six children expected for the afternoon session, with one EYP caring for them. We saw that children received very good levels of attention, care and support, and that the staff to child ratio met the children's needs;
- We found that the nursery was most welcoming and inviting with an excellent range of displays of topics and children's art work;
- We saw that the nursery was making very good use of curriculum guidance to inform planning. We saw the nursery was using responsive planning and that children were very involved in developing their ideas and interests. We saw that the EYP helped children to capture their discussions, views and plans through mind-mapping. Their views and comments were also recorded on displays throughout the nursery. Comments and notes of what children had said supported the wide range of photographic displays, which the children were very keen to talk to the Inspector about. This showed that children were involved and interested in their nursery experiences and activities;
- The EYP clearly knew all of the children very well in this small, rural nursery. Observation of her practice and discussion about the nursery and the children evidenced that children were very well supported and understood. We found that this had a very positive effect on children's learning and development, as any difficulties were quickly identified and addressed and appropriate challenge was provided for children of different ages and developmental stages;
- The children were seen to access a very wide range of resources and activities during this inspection visit. Children were seen to be confident, independent and appeared to be very well occupied and active during observations of the nursery session. We saw that the children were delegated tasks and roles to help the lone member of staff and coped very well with tasks such as helping to prepare the snack;
- We saw that healthy eating was very well promoted and that children were enjoying a snack of pitta bread, dips, cocktail sausages, choice of fruit and water to drink;

- We saw that children enjoyed time split between indoors and outside and that the EYP supervised the children very well. The children understood that they needed to be safe and that the EYP needed to see where they were at all times. The staffing situation meant that the children had to all be inside or outside together but this restriction did not deter from the quality of their experiences. We saw that children had excellent access to outside and active play and had a wide range of challenge and opportunity with the outside space and resources. We saw that the children were really enjoying their time playing outside and were learning many skills like balancing, throwing, catching and riding bikes. We saw that children were very confident and skilled on their trikes and bikes and were thoroughly enjoying a game where the EYP was in a garage putting petrol in their 'vehicles'. This activity generated much conversation and learning, introducing science and mathematical concepts into the children's learning, above all the children had great fun and were laughing and sharing jokes with each other and the EYP;
- We saw that all children had individual learning journals. We examined a sample of these and found them to be of a very good quality. The standard of recording was consistently high. We found the format of the profiles to be well designed and included a very good record of the child's developmental progress, next steps in learning and to provide a very good summary of the child's nursery experiences and developments. There was space for parents to include their comments;
- We saw that the 'My world' wall display had photographs and comments about children's achievements, this helped to build confidence and boost children's self esteem. The children were proud to show this to the inspector and talk about their individual achievements and those of other children in the group;
- The EYP met with parents at the annual parent's evening to discuss children's developmental progress and any other relevant issues or concerns. Parents were also encouraged to speak to staff at any time if they had any concerns or worries about their child;
- We saw that essential information about a child was gathered prior to children starting to attend nursery on registration forms. This included essential health, medication details and emergency contacts to ensure that the nursery were aware of any relevant health issues and knew who and how to contact family or carers in an emergency;
- Planning records and displays evidenced that a range of healthy lifestyle topics were included in the programme, teaching children about a range of health aspects, including healthy eating and safe sun awareness. This meant that children were learning about healthy and safe lifestyles and were well informed about how to promote good health. We saw the EYP speak to the group before going outside to play on this warm and sunny day, she discussed with the children how to stay safe in the sun, including the need to drink plenty of water and wear sun hats;

- We saw that good hand washing measures were in place and that all children washed their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. Visual signs and displays reinforced the importance of hand washing;
- The nursery had a quiet area with soft furnishings for comfort and relaxation; ensuring that children had a chance to relax and rest if required;
- The nursery participated in the Child smile toothbrushing scheme. Staff had attended training and had guidance on this topic;
- We saw that children were encouraged to share and be kind towards each other. We heard staff using positive language and praise to boost children's confidence and self-esteem. We saw that the EYP was a very good role model for the children, being polite and respectful at all times. We saw very good relationships between staff and children. The children approached the EYP readily and were keen to tell her about what they were doing and request any help that they needed. We saw that she was very attentive and always responded to the children, even when busy dealing with another child.

To summarise, we found that all children were very happy and to be thoroughly enjoying their nursery experiences. Children were seen to be very settled and comfortable in the nursery, communicating positively with each other and staff. Children were confident about speaking to the Inspector and talking about the activities and friends that they like to play with at nursery. Children were seen to be very independent and able to influence their own play and learning. We found there to be a highly skilled and caring EYP who was most responsive to individual needs. Her interactions promoted confidence and made sure that the children had great fun.

Areas for improvement

None identified at this inspection, excellent outcomes observed for the children in relation to this statement.

Grade awarded for this statement: 6 - Excellent

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the service.

Service strengths

Evidence for this statement is included under Quality Theme 1, statement 1.

Areas for improvement

Areas for improvement for this statement are included under Quality Theme 1, statement 1. The service should continue to develop methods for parents to give their views on the premises and resources, possibly through the use of a questionnaire as mentioned in Quality Theme 1, statement 1.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 2

We make sure that the environment is safe and service users are protected.

Service strengths

The nursery was found to have a very good performance in relation to making sure the environment was safe and children were protected. The service provided the following evidence to support this statement, including;

- The nursery had its own detached premises with immediate access into its own outside play area, close to the primary school building. The building had been adapted and was extensively refurbished in 2006 from an old stone outbuilding and was very welcoming and cosy for this small group of children. Good safety measures had been put in place to recognise the vulnerability of a lone worker, working apart from the main school building. These measures included a direct telephone line into the main school, a panic alarm and a secure entry system into the school to prevent unauthorised access;
- We found that entry into the school and nursery was securely monitored by all staff, the inspecting officer was asked to provide personal identification prior to entering the premises;
- We saw that an attendance register of children was kept when the children arrived at the nursery. This meant that the EYP knew the names and number of children present in the case of an emergency;
- We saw that the premises were well maintained, welcoming, safe and hygienic, providing a positive environment for children's nursery experiences;
- We saw that regular risk assessments were carried out for the indoor and outdoors areas used by the children. The EYP reported that daily safety checks were visually made of the nursery and outside play areas to ensure that there were no potential hazards to children;
- We saw that the nursery had a child protection policy which detailed staff responsibilities and the actions to be taken if concerns arose. The policy was available to staff and parents. The EYP had received child protection training to safeguard children's health and wellbeing as part of the main school annual training. We noted that the name of the designated child protection officer was displayed on the notice board to keep parents informed. Through observation of practice and discussion with staff we concluded that staff were very aware and sensitive to child welfare issues;
- Staff had attended training on GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) and had introduced some of its concepts into its work; this further helped to promote an ethos that valued children's views and wishes and actively promoted best outcomes for them;
- There were procedures in place for the recording of accidents and incidents. We viewed recordings and found that there had been no major accidents or incidents since the last inspection;

- We saw that children were very well supervised throughout this inspection visit and that the member of staff worked flexibly to accommodate children's interests and provide vigilant supervision in all areas of the nursery. This approach ensured that children were safe but never restricted;
- There were appropriate systems in place for the safe administration of medicines;
- We observed very good staff supervision throughout this inspection visit. Children were seen to be very familiar with the premises, resources and routines and were seen to move confidently and independently around the nursery;
- We did not observe any obvious risks or concerns about the premises or staff practice in relation to safety;
- We saw a valid public liability insurance certificate;
- To summarise, we found that the nursery was in a very good state of repair and safe for children, staff and parents. Resources and displays were very well organised, helping to create a most welcoming and inviting atmosphere for children. The EYP was seen to be very conscientious and aware of safety issues within the nursery;
- We saw that children were having positive nursery experiences in well organised and safe facilities.

Areas for improvement

The nursery should ensure that the incident record book is kept securely and confidentially to ensure families privacy. (See recommendation one.)

The nursery should consider introducing a basic checklist for premises and safety to evidence the visual checks undertaken by staff on a daily basis. (See recommendation two.)

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 2

Recommendations

1. The nursery should ensure that the incident record book is kept securely and confidentially to ensure families privacy.

**National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16.
Standard 14: Well managed service.**

2. The nursery should consider introducing a basic checklist for premises and safety to evidence the visual checks undertaken by staff on a daily basis.

**National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16.
Standard 2 : A safe environment.
Standard 14: Well managed service.**

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing in the service.

Service strengths

Evidence for this statement is included under Quality Theme 1, statement 1.

Areas for improvement

Areas for improvement for this statement are included under Quality Theme 1, statement 1. The service should consider how they can involve children and parents further in determining staffing issues, for example taking their views into account when recruiting new staff.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 3

We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

Service strengths

The service met all aspects of this statement and had demonstrated that a very good standard had been achieved. We came to this conclusion after speaking to the headteacher, Early Years Practitioner, parents, children, directly observing staff working with children; and reviewing written records. We identified the following strengths for the service;

- We found the EYP at the nursery to be professional, highly motivated, approachable and skilled. We observed many examples of very good practice with children. We saw the EYP engage very positively with the children at all times, extending their thinking, language and learning very effectively. We saw that all children had established a very secure bond with the EYP and approached her very readily for support and to join in with the fun activities that they were enjoying. We saw that the EYP was extremely skilled at working with this small group of children as a lone worker, and ensured that they all received very good levels of attention, care and support. The EYP was an excellent role model for the children, being very polite, cheerful and respectful at all times. She reinforced boundaries kindly with humour and the children responded very well to this approach;
- We saw that children were seen to be relaxed, confident and comfortable within the environment and to be enjoying a very stimulating nursery experience, nurtured by the excellent interventions of the EYP;
- We saw that the EYP was appropriately qualified for her post and was registered with the appropriate professional body;
- We saw that staff had some opportunities for personal development and training, and that staff had individual training plans. This made sure that staff were continuing to develop their skills and practices;
- A range of best practice and curriculum guidance was available to staff and seen during this inspection. As a result of this children were seen to be experiencing and enjoying a range of activities facilitated by a well informed EYP. We saw that the EYP was familiar with the principles of GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) and had introduced its ethos into aspects of the nursery's work;
- The EYP attended the whole school team meetings to ensure that she had the opportunity to keep updated with relevant issues;
- Parents made favourable comments about staff to the inspector during this inspection. Returned Care Inspectorate questionnaires also reported that parents were very satisfied with the quality of staffing.

Areas for improvement

To continue developing the very good standards noted at this inspection. Mrs Kettles (EYP) did not have a current First-aid certificate and currently used the whole school first -aider to deal with any accidents and emergencies. It is recommended that she undertakes training in first -aid to ensure that she can immediately respond to an accident in the nursery. (See recommendation one.)

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 1

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that nursery staff undertake training in first -aid to ensure that accidents in the nursery can be immediately responded to without delay.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16.

Standard 3 : Health and well being.

Standard 14; Well -managed service.

Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership

Grade awarded for this theme: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1

We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the management and leadership of the service.

Service strengths

Evidence for this statement is included under Quality Theme 1, statement 1.

Areas for improvement

To continue to build on the very good practice observed, seeking additional methods for parents and children to meaningfully influence the organisation and management of the nursery.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 4

We use quality assurance systems and processes which involve service users, carers, staff and stakeholders to assess the quality of service we provide

Service strengths

We found that the service was performing to a very good standard in relation to this statement. We found the following evidence to confirm our findings;

- We saw that the service was well managed and that senior staff had a regular presence in the nursery. As a result we saw that the nursery was well organised, that staff were highly motivated, felt supported and that the experiences for children were very good;
- We saw that children were well supervised and supported throughout this nursery inspection by the Early Years Practitioner, who was very conscientious and demonstrated an excellent understanding of her role and of children's needs;
- The nursery had submitted a self-assessment document to the Care Inspectorate as part of this inspection process. This demonstrated that management and staff had reflected on the service and their practice. They had submitted an accurate assessment of the service, identifying the things they done well and those areas that they would like to develop further;
- Discussion with staff and children and observation of practice evidenced that children's views and involvement was genuinely encouraged, valued and taken into account when assessing the quality of the service;
- Nursery plans and topics were displayed in the nursery for parents to view and comment on; this meant that parents could follow and learn about their children's learning and their nursery experiences;
- The headteacher had overall responsibility for the nursery and carried out formal evaluations of the nursery regularly. Staff received verbal and written feedback from these visits. The nursery was fully included in the schools quality assurance calendar;
- The nursery also received monitoring visits from Angus Council's Quality Improvement Officers, who observed practice and provided staff with written feedback about their findings twice yearly;
- We saw that the nursery had developed internal quality assurance systems, such as checking that the environment was safe on a daily basis;
- The nursery was involved in developing the whole school's improvement plan and was working towards the priorities identified. The plan outlined the projected development for the service ensuring that children's needs were being reviewed in line with policy and best practice guidance.

After talking to key staff, children and parents, observing practice and examining relevant documentation, we took all of the above into account and concluded that the service was performing to a very good standard in relation to this statement.

Areas for improvement

The nursery should continue to seek the involvement of children and parents in improving the service and evidence how their views have impacted on service development.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

4 Other information

Complaints

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

Additional Information

None noted.

Action Plan

Failure to submit an appropriate action plan within the required timescale, including any agreed extension, where requirements and recommendations have been made, will result in the Care Inspectorate re-grading a Quality Statement within the Quality of Management and Leadership Theme (or for childminders, Quality of Staffing Theme) as unsatisfactory (1). This will result in the Quality Theme being re-graded as unsatisfactory (1).

5 Summary of grades

Quality of Care and Support - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 3	6 - Excellent
Quality of Environment - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 2	5 - Very Good
Quality of Staffing - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 3	5 - Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership - 5 - Very Good	
Statement 1	5 - Very Good
Statement 4	5 - Very Good

6 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
10 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment Not Assessed Staffing 5 - Very Good Management and Leadership Not Assessed
24 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very Good Environment 5 - Very Good Staffing 5 - Very Good Management and Leadership 5 - Very Good

All inspections and grades before 1 April 2011 are those reported by the former regulator of care services, the Care Commission.

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