

Scotstown School Nursery Day Care of Children

Scotstown School
Scotstown Road
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB22 8HH

Telephone: 01224 703331

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 29 November 2016

Service provided by:
Aberdeen City Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000349

Care service number:
CS2003014451

About the service

Scotstown School Nursery has been registered since 2002. It is registered as a Day Care of Children service to provide care to a maximum of 40 children at any one time from the age of 3 years up to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery is located within Scotstown Primary School in Aberdeen. The children have access to two spacious playrooms, cloakroom and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed concreted area, school garden and grassed areas for outdoor play. The nursery benefits from the use of the school gym hall and library.

Aims of the service include being committed to "provide a happy and caring school where everyone feels valued and secure, ensure children become healthy, active and confident young people and to ensure that children have self-respect, show respect to others and are positive members of society".

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

For this inspection we received views from eighteen parents and carers. Responses indicated that parents were happy with the service, commenting positively about the care and support their child was given. Parents felt very welcomed and told us staff were very friendly and easy to talk to. Parents felt included in the service, however some parents thought they would like further opportunities to become more involved. Comments included:

- "I am really happy with the service, the staff have made every effort to accommodate my child and make them feel at ease. They're more than happy to attend".
- "My child enjoys going to nursery every day and misses it so badly on school holidays. They have come on leaps and bounds with speech manners and general knowledge since attending".
- "I am so glad my child attends Scotstown School Nursery. It is a lovely school with lovely teachers".

There were approximately twenty five children present during the morning session and nine during the afternoon session. The children were settled and played happily together. The children told us they enjoyed going to play at nursery and showed us some of the toys they were playing with. Comments included:

- "These are the blocks. You build things like this, it's a porch".
- "This is for babies sleeping".
- "I made a picture. It was Peppa and Daddy Pig. I didn't do George".

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment document from the provider and gave examples of how they supported children to progress. The self-assessment clearly identified some key areas that the provider believed can be improved and showed us how the service intended to do this.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

Scotstown School Nursery provided a good level of care and support to the children. The atmosphere in the nursery was calm and respectful and staff used lots of kind words to reassure the children and praise to develop their confidence. Staff had built positive relationships with the children and their families and had worked closely with parents and other agencies to help meet children's individual needs.

We looked at a sample of the children's records and found relevant information to support the welfare of the child. The safe administration of medication was supported with an updated policy following Aberdeen City guidelines. Medication was stored safely and any medical records or identified allergies were reviewed regularly with parents. Staff had completed annual child protection training and through discussion were able to tell us the correct procedures to follow if concerned about the welfare of a child. Any concerns were recorded and reported to senior management.

A healthy lifestyle was promoted with opportunities to play outdoors. To develop their confidence and physical ability, children played with a range of wheeled toys, climbing frame and plastic fishing equipment. The document *Setting the Table* was used to ensure healthy food choices were available at snack time. All children were given their own plate as previously recommended to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Management and leadership of the service was operating at a good level to provide quality assurance to support improvement to the service. Staff worked well as a team and with support from senior management were beginning to make improvements to the service. The environment had been changed to accommodate freeflow provision between the two playrooms and staff were involved in evaluating and making further improvements. Aberdeen City policy and discussions between staff and management helped to develop an improvement plan including transition between nursery and primary one and curriculum development.

The welcoming cloakroom was used effectively to share information with parents and support their involvement in the service. Parents could add ideas to a suggestion box and look at photographs of the children at play.

What the service could do better

To support children progress in their learning, planning formats were being evaluated and developed. Children's profiles included photographs, drawings and 'I can' statements. Observations, next steps and all assessments were kept in a separate folder to inform planning and provision for the children. Management and staff were

very supportive of evolving their planning formats and agreed this as an ongoing priority.

Children could choose independently from a selection of toys and activities available in the spacious playrooms and outdoor area. Mindmaps were used to develop children's ideas for some areas such as the construction area. However, to fully engage all children, more opportunities should be provided for open-ended creative play and to explore natural resources. Possible ideas to promote sand and water play can be found at: <http://www.tomsensori.blogspot.co.uk/> (see Recommendation 1).

Outdoor activities were limited and did not support creative play or an interest in the world around them. The children played on wheeled toys and a climbing frame for a short length of time near the end of the session. Staff indicated they would like to develop the outdoor area and make better use of the school garden (see Recommendation 2).

To help keep the children safe risk assessments were in place for individual children and outings but none had been completed for the indoor or outdoor environment. Many items were out of date in the first aid kit. The manager agreed to complete risk assessments with the children and ensure the contents of the first aid kit was fully stocked and checked regularly.

Children were involved preparing snack, however opportunities were not fully available for children to develop self-help skills. Children chose from pre-spread toast and did not pour their own drinks. Staff did not sit and interact with the children to encourage good social skills. After inspection, the manager informed us there was a mind map beside the snack area which had been done with the children to indicate what they would like for snack, however children were not aware of the choices they had made. (see Recommendation 3).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 3

1. To fully engage children and extend their thinking and learning, resources should include more natural materials with opportunities for open-ended play.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare Up to the Age of 16. Standard 5: Quality of Experience and Standard 11: Access to Resources

2. To support a healthy lifestyle, outdoor play should be developed to encourage creativity, interest in the world around them and help promote confidence and physical ability. The document My World Outdoors provides ideas for outdoor play activities. This can be found at: www.hub.careinspectorate.com

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare Up to the Age of 16. Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing; Standard 5: Quality of Experience and Standard 11: Access to Resources

3. To support the children to develop social and self-help skills and encourage healthy food choices, snack routines should be further developed to allow the children:

- a. to serve themselves
- b. Interact socially with staff
- c. to have opportunities to develop snack choices.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare Up to the Age of 16. Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing

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	
2 Dec 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
19 Jun 2009	Unannounced	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.