

Inspection report

Pitreavie Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Pitcorthie Drive
Dunfermline KY11 8AB

Inspected by: Morag Skinner
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 8 June 2006

Service Number

CS2003017106

Service name

Pitreavie Primary School Nursery

Service addressPitcorthie Drive
Dunfermline KY11 8AB**Provider Number**

SP2004005267

Provider Name

Fife Council

Inspected ByMorag Skinner
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

8 June 2006

Period since last inspection

1 year

Local Office AddressLargo House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline.
KY11 8PE

Introduction

Pitreavie Primary School nursery is registered to provide a care service to children from 3 years to not yet attending primary school. The nursery is situated within the primary school and is based in three playrooms, the Sunshine Room, the Moonbeam Room and the Rainbow Room and the gym hall also forms part of the registration. There is one nursery teacher employed between the 3 rooms and she is assisted by a team of early years officers and each have identified key children .

Pitreavie Primary School Nursery was first registered with the Care Commission April 2003. The service is registered to care for a maximum of 90 children per session, aged from three years to an age to attend primary school. The hours of operation are 9.00 am to 11.30 am and 1.00pm to 3.30pm during term time only.

Adult:child ratios of 1 adult to 10 children were being met on the day of inspection.

The nursery aims to provide opportunities for children to learn and develop as individuals.

The inspection was carried out by Morag Skinner, Care Commission Officer.

Basis of Report

This report is based on evidence produced prior to the inspection, observations made and discussions with the nursery teacher and staff during the unannounced inspection on 8th June 2006 carried out by Morag Skinner, Care Commission Officer during the afternoon session.

The Inspection report is also informed by;

Discussion with the children, staff, parents and the management team.

Observation,

Review of indoor and outdoor accommodation

The Pre-inspection Return,

The Self-Evaluation document.

Evidence produced included copies of current policies and procedures and records.

The inspection took account of the sections of The Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2002 Statutory Instrument 114 and the National Care Standards.

This inspection focussed on key questions relating to the following themes:

Child Protection

Birth to Three

Nutrition and Toothbrushing

Safer Recruitment.

and took account of five standards from the 'National Care Standards - early education and childcare up to the age of 16' document;

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

In accordance with Care Commission procedure for inspections in the year 2006 - 07, a regulatory support assessment was carried out prior to this inspection. The service was assessed as requiring a low level of support due to the findings at previous inspections and it was noted, that no concerns had been raised relating to the service since the last inspection.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

Action had only been taken on one of the requirements highlighted in the last inspection report with the other 2 remaining outstanding and highlighted again in this inspection report.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

This was received prior to the inspection and was completed comprehensively.

View of Service Users

Children spoke excitedly of their time at nursery and their enjoyment in a variety of activities such as the computer, gym and outdoor play in the garden.

View of Carers

Views sought on the day were positive with particular emphasis on the approachability of staff. However since the inspection a number of negative comments have been received from parents on questionnaires sent out by the Care Commission. The main areas of concern relate to lack of information relating to the nursery child protection policy and on how to make a complaint, as well as lack of opportunities for fresh air and exercise and unsatisfactory levels of security at drop off and collection times, caused by parents and carers misuse of doors.

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

Good relationships had been developed between children and staff.

There has been one concern relating to child protection and the correct procedure was followed and this was tracked during the inspection. Staff are aware of the new guidelines recently put in place within Fife.

A good range of healthy snacks are provided in line with the nutritional guidance for early years, with fruit offered at every snack along with a choice of milk or water. Good hygiene practices were encouraged at snack and meal times. The nutritional guidance for early years is being used to further promote children's understanding of healthy eating.

Most children had access to fresh air and energetic physical play during the inspection with one group enjoying a barbecue as part of their interest in their current theme, instigated by the children's interest in picnics and outdoor eating.

Procedures were in place and forms were available for the consent and recording of administration of medication.

Emergency procedures were in place, with emergency evacuations practised on a regular basis and recorded.

Areas for Development

Staff would benefit from up to date child protection training to add to their basic knowledge. The nursery does not currently undertake toothbrushing with the children. This situation is under review and the nursery teacher hopes to find ways to overcome the current perceived difficulties. Parent's commented that they are not always kept fully informed of the snack provision on a daily basis so the current system should be reviewed. Measures should be taken to ensure toilets are frequently checked for cleanliness throughout the session. Refrigerator temperatures should be accurately recorded. A suitable handrail should be in place on the ramp outside the newest play area in accordance with last year's requirement.. A suitable storage area for toys should also be installed in this area to minimise the risk of staff injury in moving heavy items on a daily basis throughout the nursery. The ceilings and metal window frame should be refurbished or upgraded.

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 each child in their care along with their individual stages of development and learning. These were clearly recorded in their Individual Learning plans and shared appropriately with parents. Parents contributions to these plans were valued and encouraged.

Good interaction was observed between staff and the children present within each room. Praise and encouragement was positive and the children appeared settled and confident in their environment as they engaged in the wide variety of play opportunities on offer. Staff are familiar with recent guidance such as 'birth to three - supporting our youngest children and have used this within the provision to assist with, for example, strategies for new entrants not yet toilet trained.

Areas for Development

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

Strengths

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures was shared with parents by being displayed in the communal entrance areas. These included the aims and values of the service, the complaints procedure and a behaviour policy. Parents notice boards were up to date and informative. Children were included in the planning process and their views and interests incorporated. A new planning structure of meetings with staff has recently been introduced and the benefits of this are being realised. Regular parents discussions relating to children's progress take place termly and further opportunities for parents to be involved in the setting include the forthcoming Strawberry Tart day. Parents are encouraged to join in the classroom activities by participating in the parent helper rota.

Areas for Development

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

Strengths

Pitreavie Primary School Nursery has established good links with many local and national organisations and is pro active in the local community. A representative from each nursery class is on the Eco School Committee and the nursery children recently took part in a bouncy breakfast aerobics and gymathon. Appropriate advice and support is provided for children

with additional support needs.

By maintaining contact with other agencies, the nursery teacher maintains an awareness of relevant issues and current developments, as well as training events.

Areas for Development

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

Strengths

Checks and references for staff are undertaken centrally as appropriate prior to commencement of employment. The nursery teacher stated that she also asks to see the Disclosure Scotland checks before staff start work in the nursery as an additional safeguard. All parents who help regularly also undertake Disclosure Scotland checks. Staff are aware of their responsibilities and are committed to the provision of the service. They take part in in-service training and additional training opportunities are encouraged.

Areas for Development

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action.

Other Information

The following recommendation remains outstanding from the previous inspection report. The ceilings and metal window frame should be refurbished or upgraded.

The Education Authority must ensure that the following outstanding requirements from the last report are met as a matter of urgency.

- a) Storage facilities for outdoor play equipment to be provided adjacent to the outdoor play area.
- b) A handrail to be fitted on the ramp leading from the playroom to the outdoor area.

Requirements

- a) Storage facilities for outdoor play equipment to be provided adjacent to the outdoor play area.

This is to comply with the Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2002.

Fitness of Premises. SSI 114 Regulation 10

It is a requirement that Fife Council Education Department keeps recruitment files for each individual staff member, including supply staff. This is in order to comply with the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, Scottish Statutory Instrument 114 Regulation (19) (2) (a, b, c, d, and e) Records

Recommendations

The ceilings and metal window frame should be refurbished or upgraded.

A suitable toothbrushing programme should be put in place which meets national recommendations and has clear reporting and accountability arrangements.

It is recommended as good practice that the Education Department puts into place a system for retrospective enhanced Disclosure Scotland checks on employees every 3 years, for example National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years, Standard 12 (1). This would bring the Education Department in line with current safe recruitment practices in departments of Fife Council.

All staff should have a copy of the SSSC Code of Practice.

Morag Skinner

Care Commission Officer