

# Milnathort Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Milnathort Primary School  
Bridgefauld Road  
Milnathort  
Kinross  
KY13 9XP

Telephone: 01577 867260

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

9 May 2019

**Service provided by:**

Perth & Kinross Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003003370

**Service no:**

CS2003017338

## About the service

The nursery operates from a separate building within the grounds of Milnathort Primary School. The playroom is open plan with an area dedicated for Strong Start 2's. The children have free flow access to the nursery garden.

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children aged two years to those not yet attending primary school.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection carried out by two inspectors which took place on 9 May 2019. We gave feedback to the depute head teacher at the end of the inspection.

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 and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

The nursery aims include:

- I want to learn skills for life and work now and in the future.
- I am excited by new experiences and challenges.
- I care for myself, others and the world I live in.
- I have a sense of belonging and a part to play in an ever-changing world.

A full list of aims are available from the service.

## What people told us

We provided the service with 18 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents and carers of children using the service. Thirteen completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. In response to our questionnaires, one parent disagreed and twelve parents agreed and strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received in the service. Three parents disagreed with some of the statements in our questionnaires. These included sharing information about their child's learning, making good use of the community, children getting regular fresh air and energetic physical play and children having the opportunity to sleep or rest. We explored these statements further with staff and parents and through observation during our inspection. Parent's comments from the questionnaires included:

'All the nursery staff are great! They have really brought my daughter on from being really nervous for the first two weeks to now being confident going in each morning.'

'Overall the service provided is good but I think more feedback to parents is required as I don't feel I receive enough information about my child's progress or aims/goals.'

'My daughter has come on leaps since starting nursery. The teachers are all great with her, particularly when she is upset about being left. The actual nursery building is not great, the toilets in particular but the care the children receive more than outweighs this.'

'My daughter has a good rapport with all members in the nursery. The staff are very welcoming and work with ourselves to ensure she is happy, confident and progressing well. She enjoys going to nursery, especially on her full days which is very important for the transition to school.'

'There is not enough individualised feedback. Needs to be more planning and working with parents where parents have concerns about children.'

'My daughter has thrived at Milnathort Nursery. I feel very confident in her carers. She loves going to nursery.'

We had the opportunity to speak with parents and carers during our inspection. They told us that they were happy with the service provided.

During the inspection we observed the children at play and found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities, snacks and lunches. The children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing there. They told us:

'Do you like music? I like music too. Look, it's a circle.'

'You have to put your name down at snack time.'

'Look! A worm! I found it in the garden.'

'Can you read me a story? This one, the animal one.'

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. 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:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	4 - Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support, from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as very good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as good.

Children were confident, happy individuals who were engaged in their play throughout the nursery session. We saw that staff allowed children to lead their own play and supported children where needed. Staff were very aware of pace and challenge and provided opportunities for children to extend their learning. Children's learning was tracked well using developmental milestones and benchmarks. The staff were kind and caring towards the children and knew them very well. The relationships staff had built with children were reflected in the way children respectfully spoke to and cared for each other.

Children had daily free flow outdoor opportunities. We found that the outdoor provision was of a very high quality with a range of natural and traditional resources. The resources within the nursery were easily accessible. We particularly liked the 'Apothecary' where children had opportunities to be creative and investigate. The nursery was very much part of the whole school community. They had developed some links with the wider community including links with local businesses.

We found that snacks and lunchtimes were sociable experiences for children which were relaxed and unhurried. Children were encouraged to be independent and took responsibility for serving themselves.

Transitions were well thought out and considered which enabled children to feel safe and supported when moving on from nursery. The service had reflected on the previous transition programme and had identified ways to improve the experience for children.

Families were given a range of opportunities to be involved in the life of the nursery and their child's learning and development. This included opportunities such as 'Cuppa Chats', 'Curriculum Confabs' and 'Stay and Play' sessions. A weekly email was sent to all parents and carers to keep them informed and involved about nursery.

Staff were very responsive and keen to further their learning. They had been given leadership roles to enable them to take responsibility for specific aspects of the nursery. We spoke with staff about the service's child protection policy. We were satisfied that they had working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that service users were protected.

## What the service could do better

Staff told us about recent developments made to the nursery environment and the positive changes these had. We would ask them to continue on this journey following the areas for improvement identified within the report.

We would ask that staff review the environment for the Strong Start 2's. This should be developed to make it a more homely and appealing environment. We made some suggestions about how to soften the environment to ensure it is a nurturing, cosy and engaging space for children.

We had some general concerns around infection control and the state of repair of the toilets. We would ask that this is reviewed and addressed. Staff should ensure that all resources and cloakroom items stored in the nappy changing area are removed or stored in sealed containers to ensure the risk of spreading infection is minimised. We would ask that the most recent nappy changing guidance is available for staff.

We would encourage staff to audit all areas of the nursery to ensure they are well resourced and provide opportunities for promoting language, literacy, maths and numeracy. We made some suggestions as to how this could be developed. We would also ask that they consider developing opportunities for children to use digital technology in their play and learning.

We looked at accidents and incidents. Information was recorded appropriately and shared with parents and carers. We would ask that the service develop their audit to ensure that any common themes are identified and action taken is recorded to minimise the risks to children.

Staff should continue to ensure there is consistency in the quality of observations of children's play and learning. Next steps, where identified, should be linked to the progress children are making and revisited on a regular basis. We would like to have seen children more involved in identifying their achievements and next steps.

We would ask that staff consider how they can further develop the learning wall and floorbooks to ensure they are accessible to children and that they have ownership and responsibility for the direction of their learning. We discussed how they could further develop these to ensure the responsive approach to learning observed during the inspection is captured.

We looked at the medication stored and corresponding paperwork. Medication permission forms should be countersigned by the member of staff taking responsibility for the medication.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

## What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

The provider should continue to develop opportunities for staff to take responsibility and develop leadership skills and values. This should include staff becoming familiar with and beginning to use the SSSC 'Steps into Leadership' pathway resource materials to support professional development and enhance children's outcomes.

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 14 - A Well-managed Service.

**This recommendation was made on 25 May 2017.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff had taken on leadership roles and had used the SSSC 'Steps into Leadership' resource to support professional development.

### Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
25 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
12 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
4 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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