

Danestone Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Fairview Brae
Danestone
Aberdeen
AB22 8ZN

Telephone: 01224 825 062

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 September 2024

Service provided by:
Aberdeen City Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000349

Service no:
CS2003015698

About the service

Danestone Primary School Nursery provides a day care of children service to a maximum of 56 children at any one time, from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery is situated within a designated building in Danestone Primary School. An entrance area has a secured door and welcome area. This is currently not in use and families arrive and depart via a gate that leads directly into the outdoor play space which is closely supervised by a staff member. The playrooms provide spacious areas and are connected by a corridor. Both playrooms have direct access to an enclosed outdoor play space. The nursery is in the Bridge of Don area of Aberdeen and has access to local amenities and easy bus travel.

About the inspection

A previous unannounced inspection was carried out between 28 May 2024 and 30 May 2024. This was an unannounced follow up inspection which took place on 17 September 2024 between the hours of 08:30 and 15:00. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

This follow up inspection focused on the requirements and areas for improvement made during the previous inspection and evaluated how the service had addressed these to improve outcomes for children. During this follow up inspection, we increased the evaluation for quality indicators 1.1, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1 and 4.3 to adequate, because the service had made progress by building of key strengths.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

To inform our evaluation we:

- Spoke with children using the service
- Observed children's experiences
- Spoke with staff and management
- Observed staff practice
- Spoke with four parents/guardians
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Improvement had been made in all required areas. As a result, children's needs were met more effectively.
- Progress had been made in all areas of improvement. The setting had a detailed improvement plan in place to ensure this continued.
- Children were happier and more settled within nursery.
- Parents gave positive feedback to the changes that had been made so far.
- Support for staff was more consistent and tailored to their individual and team needs.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

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|--|--------------|
| How good is our care, play and learning? | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our setting? | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our leadership? | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our staff team? | 3 - Adequate |

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following sections within this report; 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' for more details.

How good is our setting?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following sections within this report; 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' for more details.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following sections within this report; 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' for more details.

How good is our staff team?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following sections within this report; 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' for more details.

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

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 5 July 2024, the provider must ensure children are kept safe. To do this the provider must at a minimum:

- a) Ensure staff are knowledgeable about the individual care needs of children and use this to keep children safe.
- b) Ensure hazardous items are inaccessible to children.
- c) Ensure staff supervise and support children effectively to prevent them coming to harm.
- d) Ensure children are well supervised and not left in play areas unattended.
- e) Ensure a plan is in place to monitor staff practice and further develop staff knowledge and skills to identify risks for children and act when needed.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) and Regulation 7(1)(a) (Duty on care service providers to ensure appropriate staffing) of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19); and

'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, and reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This requirement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken on previous requirement

Children were cared for by staff who kept them safe. Staff carried out checks of play areas each day before children arrived to ensure they were safe and well maintained. Checks throughout the day on areas such as children's toilets helped ensure they were safe with no hazardous items for children. Staff communicated throughout the day to monitor how many children were present and where children played to ensure there was enough staff present and children were accounted for.

Staff worked together to supervise children when visiting the toilet and other isolated areas. Staff were aware of and met the individual safety needs of children. Where appropriate, individual risk assessments were in place which staff reviewed and followed.

Regular staff meetings gave staff opportunities to discuss their practice and make continued improvements. An intensive programme of support had been in place which included coaching and mentoring to develop staff confidence, knowledge and skills. An ongoing programme of training and support for staff was in place to continue to build on improvements made.

As detailed in the settings improvement plan, work should now continue to ensure this is embedded into staff practice and outcomes for children continue to improve.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 2

By 5 July 2024, the provider must ensure children are supported with nurturing and loving care that meets their care needs and emotional wellbeing. To do this, the provider must at a minimum:

- a) Ensure children's up-to-date care and support needs are included within their personal plan and staff use this information to effectively support them.
- b) Ensure staff are well informed about the children attending and use this information to provide individualised and responsive care relevant to their needs.
- c) Ensure children are provided with warmth, comfort, and compassion.
- d) Ensure children are well supported in their personal care including when going to the toilet and handwashing.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15); and
'As a child or young person I feel valued, loved, and secure' (HSCS 3.10).

This requirement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken on previous requirement

Children were cared for by staff who knew them well. They were warm and caring towards children. Personal plans for children were in place and were created together with parents. This information was used by staff to get to know children and their needs. Staff then updated this information regularly as they got to know new children better. Staff worked together to provide individual care for children, responding to their

changing needs throughout the day. Children were provided warmth, comfort and compassion by staff who took the time to listen and gave hugs if they were upset. Communication between staff helped ensure children were well supported when visiting the toilet.

As detailed in the settings improvement plan, work should now continue to ensure this is embedded into staff practice and outcomes for children continue to improve.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 3

By 5 July 2024, the provider must ensure children are kept safe and healthy at mealtimes. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) Ensure children are effectively supervised and supported by staff during meal and snack times.
- b) Ensure that meals and snacks are a time for supporting children's independence, skills and social development and learning.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users), Regulation 7(2)(c) (Fitness of managers), and Regulation 9(2)(b) (Fitness of employees) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I can choose suitably presented and healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and participate in menu planning' (HSCS 1.33).

This requirement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken on previous requirement

Children were supervised by staff to help keep them safe during meal times. Staff sat with children while they ate and used this time to support children in their eating. Children sat well at tables and were familiar with the new routines that had been implemented. Children had opportunities to be independent while their safety was maintained. Staff spoke to us about the benefits of first aid training which covered hazards such as children choking. This helped children experience safe meal times that promoted their independence and social skills.

As detailed in the settings improvement plan, work should now continue to ensure this is embedded into staff practice and outcomes for children continue to improve.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 4

By 5 July 2024, the provider must ensure children are kept safe through robust infection prevention and control practices. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) Ensure children are effectively supervised and supported to wash hands following best practice guidance.
- b) Ensure that toilets and hand wash facilities for children are clean, and in a presentable state for children to use.

c) Ensure staff understand and implement safe and effective infection prevention and control practices.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users), Regulation 4(1)(d) (Welfare of users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19); and

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings, and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

This requirement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken on previous requirement

Infection prevention measures helped keep children safe and well. Staff carried out checks of toilet areas each day before children arrived to ensure they were safe and well maintained. Checks were carried out by staff throughout the day which helped ensure toilets and handwashing facilities were clean for children. New routines were in place that supported children to be supervised and supported when washing their hands before and after meals. Staff communicated together to support the supervision of children visiting the toilet and handwashing area throughout the day.

As detailed in the settings improvement plan, work should now continue to ensure this is embedded into staff practice and outcomes for children continue to improve.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To support children's health and wellbeing, the provider should ensure that children are provided with a warm, comfortable space for sleep and are given the nurturing care to aid rest and relaxation.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19); and

'The premises have been adapted, equipped, and furnished to meet my needs and wishes' (HSCS 5.18).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The setting had made some progress in this area.

Staff had begun to review the layout of nursery to provide more suitable spaces for sleep and relaxation. When we visited, a few children enjoyed quiet time on the large sofa reading books. The daily routine was planned to be reviewed to provide additional opportunities for rest and relaxation for all children.

A detailed improvement plan was in place to further support staff practice and ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's learning and development, the provider should ensure children experience high quality play and learning relevant to their age and stage of development. In order to do this, the provider should ensure staff are knowledgeable and trained in supporting children's learning.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation, and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling' (HSCS 1.30).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The setting had made some progress in this area.

Staff were beginning to create more opportunities to extend children's learning through play. For example, times such as helping to set up for snack were used to develop counting and mathematical language. The home play area was popular with children. Staff extended children's play in this area by adding real life vegetables for chopping and later in the day some playdough for 'baking.'

A detailed improvement plan was in place to further support staff practice and ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To support children's developmental needs, and learning the provider should ensure there are appropriate areas, resources and materials to support children's interest, creativity and curiosity.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am able to access a range of good quality equipment and furnishings to meet my needs, wishes and choices' (HSCS 5.23); and

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings, and equipment' (HSCS 5.22).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The setting had made some progress in this area.

Staff worked together to evaluate the play areas for children. As a result some changes had been made to the layout which benefited children's play opportunities.

The sensory room had been further developed and decorated in a way that promoted a calm space for children to be. Sensory resources had been added and were more accessible for children using the space. Areas such as the home play area were replenished with inviting resources throughout the day.

A detailed improvement plan was in place to further support staff practice and ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To ensure quality care and experiences for children, the provider should ensure effective quality assurance and self-evaluation is in place. This should include but not limited to:

- a) Providing meaningful opportunities for staff, children and families to provide feedback that impacts positive changes.
- b) Providing consistent support and monitoring of staff practice.
- c) Ensuring that the improvement plan leads to continuous improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19); and

'I am supported to give regular feedback on how I experience my care and support and the organisation uses learning from this to improve' (HSCS 4.8).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The setting had made some progress in this area.

Arrival time for children and parents was now more organised and welcoming. Many parents spoke about improved relationships with staff and how they felt more comfortable to approach staff with any concerns or ideas. Families had been involved throughout this time of extensive improvement and had been asked for ideas, thoughts and opinions. The setting used these within their improvement plan.

Staff spoke to us about feeling well supported by the senior team and each other. Staff appreciated a consistent approach to evaluation and feedback and felt they were involved at each step. They explained the benefits of regular team meetings and daily 'huddles' to exchange information and discuss their practice.

A detailed improvement plan was in place to further support staff practice and ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Previous area for improvement 5

To ensure quality care and the safety of children the provider should ensure that:

- a) Staff have the skills and experience to provide effective supervision and interactions with children that meets their needs.
- b) The staff team communicate well and are deployed effectively.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practise and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14); and
'My care and support is consistent and stable because people work together well' (HSCS 3.19).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The setting had made progress in this area.

An intensive programme of support had been in place which included coaching and mentoring to develop staff confidence, knowledge and skills. A new senior practitioner had been in post since August. This supported a consistent approach to leading and directing the staff team. Staff were supported to understand, and take responsibility to supervise children, such as when visiting the toilet or handwashing.

Staff communicated together to support the supervision of children. Staff were aware of and met identified safety needs of children. Staff worked together to provide individual care for children, responding to their changing needs throughout the day. Staff took the time to listen to children and gave hugs if they were upset.

A detailed improvement plan was in place to further support staff practice and ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Complaints

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

Detailed evaluations

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| How good is our care, play and learning? | 3 - Adequate |
| 1.1 Nurturing care and support | 3 - Adequate |
| 1.3 Play and learning | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our setting? | 3 - Adequate |
| 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our leadership? | 3 - Adequate |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our staff team? | 3 - Adequate |
| 4.3 Staff deployment | 3 - Adequate |

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