

Little Bugs at Fordell Firs Day Care of Children

The Scottish Council
The Scout Association
Fordell Firs, Hillend
DUNFERMLINE
KY11 7HQ

Telephone: 07989802366

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 March 2025

Service provided by:
Little Bugs Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2021000052

Service no:
CS2021000088

About the service

Little Bugs at Fordell Firs is a daycare of children service situated within a large woodland space in the Scouts adventure area at Fordell Firs on the east side of Dunfermline.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 52 children aged two to 12 years at any one time, of whom no more than 15 may be aged two years to under three years, and no more than 15 may be of an age to attend primary school. During operating times the service will have exclusive use of areas and facilities within the address as designated by the site owner and subject to risk assessment.

The accommodation is provided from a base camp area within which there is a log cabin housing toilets, nappy changing and a kitchen area. There is also a large yurt for indoor play experiences. Children have access to 43 acres of woodland around base camp, which is a large fenced off space within the forest. Office space is also available within the nearby building owned by the Scouts.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 10 March 2025 between 09:15 and 17:45. Two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

This inspection was part of a pilot to test the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors' developed jointly with Education Scotland. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

During the inspection we:

- spoke with children using the service
- received 14 completed questionnaires
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children and families were warmly welcomed as they arrived at the service.
- Children were having fun as they explored all that nursery and the out of school club had to offer.
- The service had made very good use of natural resources available to them.
- Planning approaches were responsive to children's interests and needs.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

Quality Indicator – Children experience high quality spaces

Children benefitted from outdoor play and learning experiences within the large woodland area, known as 'base camp'. The service also made daily use of the wider spaces available to them across the site. One child told us, "I like going to the forest nursery because I can run around, and play with my friends." A parent said, "I love the setting, the different areas for the children to play in, the natural resources they have too in their play and learning and the kind, supportive staff."

Children and families were warmly welcomed by staff and their friends as they arrived at 'base camp'. The entrance area attractively displayed information for families and photographs of staff. Painted pebbles with children's names encouraged them to self-register at the start of each session, giving them a sense of belonging.

The service had made very good use of natural resources available to them. They had created a fun and motivating physical environment for children. Staff had a very good understanding of the important benefits of outdoor play. The natural environment offered challenge to promote and develop children's physical confidence. We discussed ways to further develop and promote free-flow indoor opportunities for children to be cosy, rest and shelter throughout the day. For example, making more use of the large yurt.

Children were positively supported to develop important life skills as they enjoyed risky play activities, such as climbing. Staff encouraged children to think about risk and asked them if they felt safe. This approach enabled children to challenge themselves and build self-confidence.

Risk assessments helped to minimise risks to children. Staff worked together and made good use of best practice guidance such as, the Care Inspectorate document, Keeping children safe: Practice notes. Staff were vigilant and communicated well to ensure children were accounted for throughout the day. As a result, children's play was well supported.

Children and staff had access to running water, hand soap, and paper towels in all areas of the site. This supported effective handwashing at key times. Cleaning routines meant we were satisfied that effective infection prevention and control measures supported a safe environment and reduced the risk of infection.

Toilet cubicles and nappy changing facilities were housed in a log cabin. Several more toilet cubicles had been constructed and were available across the site. The use of door bells within cubicles alerted staff to children's need for support with personal care. This meant staff could respond quickly and ensure children's privacy and dignity was further promoted.

Effective arrangements were in place to monitor spaces and report maintenance of the setting. The service made good use of technology to record information. This provided the manager with an overview and supported them to follow up and make sure repairs were carried out promptly. This ensured children experienced high quality spaces.

The management and staff team had a very good understanding of the need to protect children's personal information. They were confident in their practice, and our findings supported that sensitive and personal information was being maintained and stored securely.

Children play and learn

Quality Indicator - Play and learning (For school age childcare, play, learning and development)

Children were having fun as they explored all that nursery and the out of school club had to offer. They told us that they liked coming to nursery and the club, and enjoyed playing with friends.

Staff had a good understanding of children's right to play, and enabled them to play and learn at a relaxed pace. Interactions were respectful and staff had an understanding of the importance of promoting children's choice and independence. We discussed ways in which some staff could further enhance children's experiences. For example, recognising when joining in would support and extend children's learning. The management team shared that this had been identified and was being addressed through nursery quality improvement systems.

Children were mostly busy and engaged in leading their play and learning. The physical environment supported them to be curious and develop their imagination. For example, as they made "chocolate soup" in the mud kitchen using "ingredients" from the forest. As a result, children were happy as they explored and developed their creativity.

Children attending the out of school club had opportunities to plan and lead their play. They had planned field games on the day of inspection and as there were a small number of children attending the after school session, staff suggested nursery children could join in. Younger children, were supported and encouraged as they learned new games, such as, 'duck duck goose'. This responsive and flexible approach meant children had fun as they developed confidence in their abilities and this promoted their self-esteem.

The use of visual prompts, such as symbols and posters, supported children's routines and communication. Staff further supported literacy and language development as they read stories and sang songs with children. We discussed ways to deepen children's thinking and understanding through more effective use of questioning.

Planning approaches were responsive to children's interests and needs. Learning was recorded through observations, and possible next steps were identified by staff. Tracking systems had been developed to provide keyworkers and management with an overview of children's progress. Considering this information in more detail may highlight to staff where a targeted approach might be needed to provide and support additional learning opportunities.

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

The provider should ensure that all medication brought into the service by children and parents is stored securely. Medication should be clearly labelled to support quick access and staff are confident in administration of medicines when required.

This is to ensure children's health needs are met. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice." (HSCS 4.11)

This area for improvement was made on 14 June 2023.

Action taken since then

All medication is now stored in a locked cabinet. Children's medication is stored in individual lidded boxes. They can be accessed quickly and are easily identifiable by their name label and photograph. Senior staff carry out medication audits and are confident in administering when required.

This area for improvement has 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.

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.