

Little Beehive Nursery Day Care of Children

70 Main Street
Strathkinness
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Telephone: 01334 208 166

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
6 March 2025

Service provided by:
Little Beehive Nursery (St Andrews)
Limited

Service provider number:
SP2014012386

Service no:
CS2014332818

About the service

Little Beehive Nursery is a daycare of children service situated in the village of Strathkinness. It operates from a converted cottage set in a fully enclosed garden. The service provides funded early learning and childcare places for Fife Council, and provides care for a maximum of 56 children aged from birth up to 8 years. No more than 12 children aged under two years may be cared for in the baby room.

Children are accommodated in three spacious playrooms. There is a large, well-equipped garden to the rear of the property and a smaller outdoor space that has direct access for younger children.

About the inspection

This pilot inspection was a shared visit between Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland HM Inspectors to test the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors'. The pilot took place on 5 March and 6 March 2025. The pilot was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector and one HM inspector.

To prepare for the inspection, the Care Inspectorate 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 shared pilot. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

During the inspection, the Care Inspectorate:

- spoke with children using the service, and two of their family members
- received seven completed questionnaires/survey responses
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Education Scotland will provide a high-level summary of the meetings and discussions held between the HM inspector, senior leaders, stakeholders and practitioners in the setting. This will not include evaluations and will not be published.

Key messages

- Children had fun and experienced joy as they explored the inside and outside spaces.
- High quality spaces in rooms supported children to feel respected and valued.
- Children benefitted from links to the local community.
- Children's experiences were enhanced through resources which supported their creative thinking and problem solving.
- Children experienced a relaxed pace which meant that they were able to learn and develop at the pace that was right for them.
- The service should continue with their plans to introduce a new approach to monitor children's progress in numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

Quality Indicator – Children experience high quality spaces.

Children had fun and experienced joy as they explored the different spaces in the rooms. They had access to three playrooms on two floors. All children had access to outdoor areas which overlooked the countryside. Spaces benefitted from natural lighting, real plants and were warm and homely. The staff ensured a high level of detail, which meant that the environment was maintained to a high level. This gave a strong message to children that they mattered.

A range of resources were available to children in all rooms. These included large blocks, books and loose parts. Staff had a good understanding of how resources supported and extended children's creative thinking and problem solving. For example, one child, while exploring cardboard boxes and pieces of plastic, told us, "I made a plane". This supported children to remain engaged in interesting play and extend their thinking.

Children benefitted from a provider and staff team that ensured recent renovations had been designed to enhance children's experiences. For example, the well-developed outdoor area provided children with ample space to run and explore. Large loose parts were available outside along with a mud kitchen and water play. Staff enhanced these experiences as they joined in their water play, laughed and had fun together. This meant children benefitted from regular fresh air and were active.

Spaces in the service represented children's families and celebrated their different backgrounds and cultures. Photos from home were displayed thoughtfully in the service and were valued and celebrated by the staff team. Almost all families shared that they felt welcomed in the service. As a result, children's home experiences were valued which promoted a strong sense of belonging.

Almost all children benefitted from spaces which reflected their current interests. Some staff felt that there was scope to enhance resources in some rooms to ensure children experienced challenge in their play. For example, due to recent changes, one room had some children that were older than previously. This meant that the staff were changing resources to meet these children's needs. We encouraged the service to continue with their plans. This would ensure that all children benefit from challenge in their play and learning.

Children experienced a service that was maintained to a high level. The provider had developed a computer program to ensure that all maintenance issues were addressed quickly and effectively. A robust approach to daily risk assessments was in place. This meant that all children were accounted for and their safety was promoted.

Children play and learn

Quality Indicator - Play and learn.

Children engaged in meaningful play and had fun as they explored. Children in most rooms remained focused and enjoyed their time in the service. Almost all children experienced challenge in their play, which supported progress in their learning and development.

Parents had regular opportunities to be part of their children's learning. There were home learning bags which went home to families, electronic learning journals and opportunities to share learning together. One parent told us, "There are regular opportunities to talk about my child's learning and development." Families' feedback highlighted that established staff had built positive relationships with children and were skilled in their role. This supported most families to feel involved in their child's learning.

Children's learning was celebrated and recorded through learning walls, floorbooks and individual electronic journals. Achievements from home were celebrated in the service through a meaningful display called the 'proud cloud'. For example, one child had recently practised brushing their teeth independently. Observations across the service were of high quality, highlighted children's skills and linked closely to their individual next steps. This supported children's progress and enabled them to thrive.

Literacy and numeracy were supported through a range of experiences and interactions. There were opportunities to explore books in all of the rooms. In one room, children had fun as they read a story with staff using props. The service recognised that the system they were using to monitor children's progress in literacy and numeracy was not effective. They had recently met with the local authority and planned to introduce a new system which would highlight children's individual progress and identify next steps in these areas. We encouraged the service to continue with their plans, as this would ensure all children are supported to achieve.

Children were almost always fully engaged in the wide range of resources and experiences on offer. Staff were supportive, kind and extended children's thinking. Recent changes in staff meant that there was scope to develop some interactions to ensure they enhanced children's experiences and were consistently positive. The leadership team had plans in place to support staff to develop these skills and ensure a consistent approach. This would ensure that children's learning is supported through consistent quality interactions.

Complaints

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

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