

Southesk Pre School Class Day Care of Children

Southesk Primary School
Hill Place
Montrose
DD10 8BP

Telephone: 01674 662655

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

28 February 2019

Service provided by:

Angus Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000043

Service no:

CS2003015754

About the service

The service has been registered since April 2002 and registered to provide a service to a maximum of 25 children at any one time. The age range of the children will be from three years to those attending primary school.

Southesk Pre School Class is a sessional day care of children service provided by Angus Council, and is situated in the coastal town of Montrose. The nursery is managed by the school head teacher with support from the deputy head teacher. The nursery is situated within the school building and had access to an exciting and inviting nature garden and a playground area adjacent to the nursery.

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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

Eighteen children were present during the morning session and 15 during the afternoon session on the day of inspection. All of the children had fun playing and we saw they were very confident as they used the resources and outdoor space well.

We spoke with most of the children throughout the inspection. Some of the children commented about the nursery and activities they were involved in. Their comments included:

"We're making a monster trap - to catch the monster".

"This is the food to make the trap to keep it away from us".

"It's mud food".

"I opened it up for (child) (playing with conkers)".

"I might grow into a tree".

"I jump really high"

"Dirty hands, it was all the jumping".

"This is where I dig, we're looking for treasure".

"I need a bigger spoon to dig a bigger hole".

"Do you want to see what I'm doing?"

"I'm mixing the mud and dirt, you add it together, you dig deep to get the mud then mix it".

"Look, a worm".

"I can jump over the tyre".

We spoke with one parent and one visitor during the inspection who both praised the level of care provided to the children and quality of the staff team. They particularly liked how the children had fun as they gained in confidence and were supported well to learn about their environment. We received seven completed questionnaires from parents and carers, who all told us they were very happy with the service their children receive.

Comments from the questionnaires included:

"...happy with the nursery.."

"(child) settled in well, really enjoys the nursery garden."

"I am confident my (child) is completely happy at Southesk Nursery, meet all targets expected. As a result, I have full confidence in the nursery as a whole, as well as the staff".

"Excellent service".

"Staff always make my child feel welcome and (child) loves coming to nursery".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the nursery improvement plan and quality assurance information. These identified the services priorities for improvement and development and detailed how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support and 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.

We saw very positive and nurturing relationships between the staff and children throughout the inspection. This helped to build children's confidence and feel safe within their play environment. Staff provided a welcoming, relaxed and friendly atmosphere for children and their families which enabled them to be included and involved.

Staff knew the children well and showed genuine care and attention towards them and their families. They provided individual support to each child and responded well to their needs, supporting children to reach their potential in a fun and safe manner. This helped to make the nursery an inclusive environment, with children's choices, ideas and wishes being encouraged and supported by responsive and skilled staff.

Children were able to influence the flow of the day through regular discussions about what they wanted and we saw how children's interest were supported through their fun play activities. These included activities such as helping to prepare snack, creating a monster trap, dissecting conkers and digging in the mud. The children spoke confidently about these experiences and their learning and understanding they gained. We found children to be very happy and enjoy a wide range of fun, stimulating and creative activities.

Staff supported children to be respectful of their peers, role modelling positive behaviours and encouraging children to be responsible for their own behaviour. Staff provided encouragement and praise, celebrating children's achievements whilst building their confidence and self-esteem. We found staff to be clear about their roles and responsibilities for keeping children safe and protected.

The transition from nursery to Primary 1 was progressing well, with children provided with opportunities to build their confidence in preparing to move on to their next stage in learning. Good links were in place with other local childcare establishments to best support children with transitions into and out of nursery.

Parents and carers are encouraged to contribute to the life of nursery, including joining stay and play sessions. This supports better inclusion for families and enables them to actively contribute to the development of the nursery.

The environment was secure, safe and overall well maintained. It was welcoming with displays of children's artwork presented throughout the nursery room. There was space for the children to play safely indoors and outdoors. Children had direct access to their own outdoor play area and to the school nature garden.

The children made very good use of 'Loose Parts Play' in the nature garden during the inspection. They spoke positively about their outdoor play as they explored digging, building a trap, climbing and jumping and developed their creative and imaginary play using a range of natural resources. The children had fun and enjoyed their outdoor activities as staff supported their development through relevant questioning and providing appropriate challenge.

Children were supported to develop a good understanding of personal hygiene and health. Staff reminded children about washing their hands at appropriate times, such as after toileting and before eating. The children spoke to each other about hand washing, reminding one another if they hadn't washed their hands, demonstrating their understanding of the importance of good hand washing.

What the service could do better

We discussed with staff that children's learning journals and records could be developed further to reflect more outcome focused evaluations of children's learning. We highlighted the need to more clearly identifying progression and next steps in children's learning and link these to the development of children's experiences.

Staff and children organised and made use of the nature garden very well on the day of inspection. We did not see the children use the outdoor space adjacent to the nursery during the inspection. Staff told us about the limitations of the nursery outdoor space and their preference to use the nature garden, which was scheduled one day per week. We saw that the nature garden area provided more child friendly, creative and imaginative play opportunities and agreed this should be used more frequently. This will provide children with exciting, fun and natural resources to explore their open-ended play more freely.

The nursery room provided a large open space for the children to explore and play. Staff spoke about the age of the building and restrictions for making changes to the room. Staff were aware of the limitations of the indoor space and told us they regularly review the layout to ensure it meets the needs of the children attending. We agreed that this should continue to be reviewed and consideration should be given to the flow of the session to provide more opportunities for children to make choices and direct their own play.

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.

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

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

To ensure children's safety, ceiling tiles within the nursery vestibule should be secured to ensure the risk of them dislodging and possibly falling is minimised.

Reference: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 - Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011/210 - 10 (2) (a) and (d)

This requirement was made on 9 December 2015.

Action taken on previous requirement

The ceiling tiles were secured and made safe following the previous inspection visit.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 2

The Care Inspectorate should be provided with the information required as reassurance that quality assurance systems are in place to safeguard children and provide good outcomes. To do so, the provider must ensure that the self assessment required by Care Inspectorate is completed and submitted each year on request.

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 2011/185 Regulation 5 (2) (a) Power to require information.

This requirement was made on 9 December 2015.

Action taken on previous requirement

The annual return containing all relevant information has been submitted as requested each year.

Met - within timescales

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

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The service should review the absent child policy in relation to when they contact parents/carers of children's unexplained absence from the nursery. Contact should be made quickly to establish the reason for non-attendance, and to ensure the child's safety.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare - Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 9 December 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The absent child policy has been updated as identified.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings								
22 Oct 2015	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	4 - Good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
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Environment	4 - Good									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	4 - Good									
27 Nov 2012	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
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15 Jun 2009	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
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Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	4 - Good									

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