

# St. Serf's Nursery Class Day Care of Children

St.Serfs Road  
Tullibody  
Alloa  
FK10 2RD

Telephone: 01259 722950

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 28 May 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Clackmannanshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002713

**Care service number:**  
CS2003015593

## About the service

St. Serf's Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged 2 years to those not yet attending primary school of, whom there will be a maximum of 10 children aged 2 to under 3 years.

The nursery is part of St. Serf's Primary School and operates from a separate building close to the school. Within the nursery building children have access to a designated entry area, large playroom with an additional room specifically for children aged 2 to 3 years. Other smaller rooms are available for quieter activities, including a designated sensory room. A kitchen area is available for the preparation of snacks and other activities. Toilets are situated outwith the playroom area. Children also have access and choice to three separate garden areas.

The vision and aims of the service included:

- "Providing a learning environment, which is imaginative, stimulating, and well-resourced and provides opportunities for active learning in a variety of ways.
- Liaising with parents and carers to share information about their child's interests and progress by encouraging them to become involved in the work of the nursery.
- Observing and responding to the child's individual needs and ensuring that the child maximises all available opportunities at an important stage of their development.
- Providing a learning environment, which promotes challenge and enjoyment, personalisation and choice at each child's level.
- Ensuring children are fully engaged in their learning and supported by qualified staff that will be appropriate role models and will provide well-judged interactions to extend most of the children's interests.
- Providing experiences for children, which are planned, purposeful and defined, within the outcomes and experiences of a Curriculum for Excellence."

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

## What people told us

Throughout the inspection children were having fun as they explored the variety of activities and experiences on offer. Children happily chatted and sang as they played on their own or with others. Interactions with staff and each other demonstrated the children's feeling of belonging, inclusion and security in the nursery environment.

Children confidently chatted as they proudly showed us around the nursery. As they took us to their favourite areas they told us about their friends and what they liked to do at nursery. This

demonstrated their sense of ownership of the nursery and their ability to take responsibility and leadership roles.

A group of children shared their learning about good dental hygiene and healthy eating habits. They excitedly told us about "good and bad foods" and how these "bad foods" cause "cavities." It was evident this had been a topic of great interest and had captured children's interests.

We sent 20 Care Standards Questionnaires to parents of children who attended the service. Nine were completed and returned to us before the inspection visit. In the returned questionnaires five parents 'strongly agreed' and four 'agreed' that overall they were happy with the quality of care their children received in the service. Parents' written comments included:

"I believe this is an excellent nursery with highly trained and experienced staff and my child has learned a vast range of skills and has grown so much with the help of the nursery."

"We are grateful for staff who embraced our whole family and feel my child's welfare is always paramount. They have a varied assortment of activities available daily - full of fresh new ideas to keep the children engaged and eager to learn."

"I feel staff have went above and beyond to help my child thrive and for this we will always be grateful. The staff allow me to be involved with many activities within the nursery and always make me feel part of my child's nursery journey."

"Since starting nursery, my child's speech, social skills and overall confidence has significantly improved. Teachers at St. Serfs have an excellent understanding of each individual child's needs, resulting in a specific and tailored action plans which allows parents to do the same at home."

"Always and pleasant and interested in my daughter. Really enjoy visiting the nursery."

"There has been a massive improvement in the nursery this year. New staff have made a big difference. Reporting about my child's day/progress is much better too. The whole atmosphere in the nursery is very positive and vibrant."

Parents made positive comments about the settling in process experienced by them and their child and also gave good examples of how staff had specifically supported them and their child.

During the inspection we spoke to two parents. These parents made positive comments about staff, the settling in process, daily activities and communication. They also spoke positively about the care their children had received whilst at nursery.

## 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 which 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:

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

## What the service does well

Throughout the nursery session children remained happy and confident as they experienced nurturing care and support from a knowledgeable, professional and motivated staff team. Positive relationships were forming with staff successfully recognising when individual children needed additional comfort and support. Sensitive interactions and a variety of communication tools supported children in making choices and remain settled, promoting a feeling of being well cared for.

Children were respectfully listened to with most of their individual needs and interests influencing the planning of daily activities and experiences. This supported enjoyment and continuous achievement as children remained engaged in the variety of activities. Most children could access activities with ease, further supporting choice and enabling them to lead their own play and learning.

Available activities offered children breadth and balance in their play. Natural and real life materials were used well in all areas to support emotions, curiosity, exploration and learning.

Staff knew the children well and developed an understanding their individual needs. This and working with parents and other professionals supported children's continuous achievements and ongoing development. Personal records were of a good standard. Staff gathered important information that would help them to provide the right level of care and identify where additional support was needed.

Free flow access to all the garden areas gave children choice, promoting independence and physical and energetic play throughout the whole session. Children enjoyed a wide variety of experiences in the outside areas including exploration, discovery and risky play. As children played on large structures they explored their surroundings and assessed their own abilities. The layout of activities encouraged children to challenge themselves, for example climb higher, move faster and try new things. Children were growing in confidence and with the support of staff they were extending their learning of positive risk and valuable life skills.

Children were supported to develop important social skills such as resolving conflict and promoting their understanding of the needs and personalities of others. This encouraged caring and inclusive attitudes.

A particular strength within the service was the opportunity in place for younger children to visit and engage in activities within the local community. This included walks and attending local groups such as toddlers. This supported children and their parents as they mixed with others and widened their experiences.

## What the service could do better

Older children's emotional wellbeing was supported as they enjoyed cosy spaces where they could rest, relax and spend time on their own or chat with their friends if they wanted. This included inside the nursery and out in the garden areas. Consideration should now be given to enhancing the opportunities in place for younger children to experience quiet, cosy spaces.

Children's emotional wellbeing was promoted through varied opportunities to experience and engage in sensory and textural play. This could now be enhanced by making better use of the designated sensory room. Children should be supported to understand the benefits of this type of play and promote mindfulness.

There was scope to develop children's e-journals (information on personal development) and the planning system. Including more information about identified next steps and how staff will support children to achieve will provide a clear tracker of children's experiences and outcomes. Also the overall planning for the nursery could be developed to further support achievement by identifying how all children effectively influence these plans.

Staff should ensure that when changes happen, these are updated in children's personal records. This will ensure information remains current and effective in planning provisions and support for children.

The room used by the younger children could be improved. Staff should ensure there are enough resources to promote choice and independence.

The staff team worked well together to ensure positive outcomes for the children. Consideration could now be given to further promoting staff leadership skills. This could include using the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) 'Step into Leadership Pathway' online resource. More information can be found on the SSSC website.

Management and staff had developed good working relationships and regularly discussed their work and improvements which could be made. Support and supervision sessions enabled staff to reflect on their practice and set targets. Action should now be taken to ensure these targets and plans are monitored and implemented.

## 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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
28 Apr 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
25 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
15 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings						
		<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 226 1114 264">Environment</td> <td data-bbox="1123 226 1469 264">4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 264 1114 302">Staffing</td> <td data-bbox="1123 264 1469 302">4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 302 1114 340">Management and leadership</td> <td data-bbox="1123 302 1469 340">4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Environment	4 - Good	Staffing	4 - Good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
Environment	4 - Good							
Staffing	4 - Good							
Management and leadership	4 - Good							

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