

Care service inspection report

Quality themed inspection (day care for children)

Hecklegirth Nursery Day Care of Children

Hecklegirth Primary School
Solway Street
Annan

Service provided by: Dumfries & Galloway Council

Service provider number: SP2003003501

Care service number: CS2003015487

Inspection Visit Type: Unannounced

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and set out improvements that must be made. We also investigate complaints about care services and 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.

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1 About the service we inspected

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It's a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it right for every child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included - often referred to as 'SHANARRI'.

Hecklegirth Nursery is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 50 children, aged from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery uses two rooms, the Rainbow Room and the Sunshine Room within Hecklegirth Primary School. The nursery has its own outdoor area, which is used by the children from both rooms. They are also able to use the school playing fields and other areas in the school like the gym hall.

Hecklegirth Nursery is located in a quiet area of Annan and is close to shops and other local resources in the community, like the museum.

What we did during the inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Tuesday 31 May 2016 and a second visit on Wednesday 1 June 2016 to give feedback.

We issued forty questionnaires to parents of children who used the service and twenty-five of these were returned, showing that parents were very happy with the quality of care and support provided.

In this inspection, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documents, including:

- Children's records and folders
- Policies and procedures including child protection, complaints
- Photographs
- Observations of how the children interacted with one another and with the staff
- Observations of how the children used the toys, and the space in the setting
- Examining equipment and the environment
- Talking to the staff, parents and the children

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

We spoke to children during our visit and we observed how they interacted with staff and with one another. Children were happy to be at nursery. Most children chose to play outside.

Taking carers' views into account

Parents told us:

"Excellent nursery with friendly staff who always say good morning and make a point of engaging with parents as well as children. A wonderful start to the education system."

"Thoroughly impressed. Could not ask for more"

"Fantastic nursery, my child has received great care and loves going. More staff would always be helpful for the children to get more individual attention, however as it is, it's a good opportunity for my son to develop his friendships and work out his own problems, if any with his peers".

"The nursery has a lovely, bright, spacious environment. The staff are friendly and approachable"

"Hecklegirth Nursery has provided outstanding educational care for my child. I strongly think nursery should be for pre-school only ie age 3/4 and would be

hesitant if the age bracket was younger."

"I am very happy with the quality of care my children receive"

"can not praise the nursery enough"

"The staff and service have been wonderful."

"I feel the soft start removes the opportunity for parents to get to know other parents and children"

"My child feels confident in nursery and enjoys going every day"

"My child is very happy, he is becoming very confident and social. Staff are very good"

"Snacks - require attention - I don't think there is a good balance (fruit)"

"my child is very happy there and the staff and school excellent"

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

The service provided us with an assessment which gave us some information about what it did well and identified some areas for improvement.

2 The grades we awarded

We grade the quality of care and support, quality of the environment, quality of staffing and quality of management and leadership. In each case, we award a grade on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent.

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

3 Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The friendly staff team provided a safe and nurturing environment for the children in their care. Parents told us "My child is very happy and is becoming very confident and social. Staff are very good".

Staff knew the children very well and used their knowledge, observations and discussions with children to provide them with a variety of learning experiences. Children had opportunities to be curious and to learn about their world. We observed children going on a bug hunt in the outdoor area with their magnifying glasses. Children were encouraged to share and to be aware of one another. They had opportunities to be helpful and to take responsibility for tasks around the nursery, like tidying up.

Children were offered a variety of healthy snacks. Staff had been to training on the Setting the Table guidance and had recently reviewed the snack menu to ensure that it met these guidelines. Children had the opportunity to try a variety of different foods, including fruit. We saw that they were learning where food came from and used an atlas to see how far the food had travelled. Whilst snack was generally healthy, we observed that on the day of our visit the children in one room were only offered fruit. Best practice guidance advises that a carbohydrate should also be offered.

We discussed the information given to parents about snack because we found that information about snack did not always reflect what the children were being given. We suggested that a weekly snack menu would let parents know that their children were being given a varied snack over the week.

We looked at the way medication was stored and administered in the centre and found that generally good practice was being followed. We suggested that it would be useful to keep the permission form with the medication so that the person giving the medicine is aware of the information. In discussion, we found that staff were not aware that it is a requirement to keep a record of medication stored in the nursery.

Staff worked well with other agencies and professionals involved in children's care. Both parents and visiting professionals spoke highly of staff and told us about how accommodating and supportive the staff were.

Grade

The quality of care and support is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

4 Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Management and staff had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for keeping children safe. We found that the service had appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that the environment was safe and secure.

During our visit we observed that most children chose to be outside, where they were able to take part in a wide variety of activities. A well-resourced mud kitchen area had been developed, which included ready access to a water supply. Children were using their imaginations and we observed a pretend camp-fire, which children had created. Staff told us about further plans to develop the outdoors so that it included more opportunity to cook on a fire pit.

Children had opportunities to learn about keeping safe and about risk. We saw that children helped to get snack ready by cutting up fruit and we have asked the service to ensure that children are given vegetable preparation knives for this.

Some children now stayed over lunchtime. We found that staff had recently reviewed the way they stored packed lunches so that they followed good practice. We found that the children were able to take as much time as they needed for their lunch. We suggested that staff review the lunchtime routine so that children had a break in their day.

We discussed plans for developing the environment to accommodate younger children coming to nursery. We suggested that staff make greater use of the Building the Ambition practice document to evaluate the environment so that it meets children's needs effectively.

Grade

The quality of environment is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

5 Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

There was a caring, motivated and professional staff team working at Hecklegirth Nursery. Staff felt well supported by their management team and by colleagues. Staff had regular opportunities to meet and discuss their work and were confident about challenging practice.

Students were well supported. They received induction training and were familiar with policies and procedures like Child Protection. They were offered opportunities to take part in the full range of work in the service, and this included opportunities to meet with other professionals and agencies.

All staff were registered with the relevant registering body, like the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). There was a programme of professional review for all staff working in the nursery. Staff were encouraged to develop as reflective practitioners and a format had been introduced which staff used to reflect on the impact of training on their practice. We suggested that a pre-training format may be useful to get staff to think about what they hoped to get from training they were planning to attend.

Whilst management had a good idea of the training needs of the setting, there was not a formal training plan for the team. We suggested that this would be a useful tool for overseeing and planning for future training needs.

Staff were encouraged to visit other centres for a variety of purposes including meeting children who were about to start at the nursery as well as to learn about practice elsewhere.

Grade

The quality of staffing is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

6 Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Improvement and offering the best service they could was a main focus for management and staff. We found they were open to suggestions and welcomed feedback. They used information gathered from authority and nationally identified school objectives, previous inspections, evaluations, parents comments and monitoring to create the school and therefore the nursery improvement plan.

Self-evaluation was well embedded in the centre. Staff had regular opportunities to reflect on and discuss their work. They met regularly as a team, and we observed that meetings were much more focussed on improvement in the nursery. They were familiar with the relevant good practice indicators for their service.

Feedback was sought from a variety of people involved in the nursery including visiting professionals, parents and the children themselves. Staff kept a blog up to date with information about what children had been doing and parents were able to make comments on it. Staff used surveys with parents and regularly sought feedback after reports and events like Open Days. We suggested that they look at other online ways of getting parents views.

Care services are required to make notifications to the Care Inspectorate about a variety of matters which are detailed on the Care Inspectorate website. We had received only one notification from the service in the last year and through discussion found that staff were not aware of the range of notifications which are required and with which they should now become familiar.

Grade

The quality of management and leadership is graded 5 - Very Good

Requirements

Number of requirements - 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

7 What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at our last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

8 What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at our last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

9 Complaints

No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

10 Enforcements

We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

11 Additional Information

There is no additional information.

12 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
4 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very Good
		Environment	5 - Very Good
		Staffing	5 - Very Good
		Management and Leadership	5 - Very Good
1 Jul 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very Good
		Environment	5 - Very Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and Leadership	5 - Very Good

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