

St. Ninians Nursery (Dumfries) Day Care of Children

St. Ninians Primary School
Lochside Road
Dumfries
DG2 0EL

Telephone: 01387 720364

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 13 November 2017

Service provided by:
Dumfries & Galloway Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003501

Care service number:
CS2003015538

About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

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'.

St. Ninians Nursery (Dumfries) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 27 children aged from 3 years upwards to those not yet attending school. The service operates during school term times.

St. Ninians Nursery is based in St. Ninians Primary School, Dumfries. It has the main nursery room as well as the use of other spaces within the school. The nursery has a secure outdoor area, where children have opportunities to play energetically and to explore outdoors.

What people told us

We sent out nine questionnaires to find out what parents thought about the nursery and six of these were returned. All parents responded positively and were very happy with their child's experience. We also contacted parents by email and sought additional information about children's care.

Parents told us about the times when staff had supported them, for example by recognising that their child needed some additional support and said "we appreciate the steps they are taking to get my child support and extra learning in class".

They said:

"I feel each member of the team at St. Ninians are great at their job and so welcoming."

"The staff have always been so friendly and helpfully, they taught all my children, they couldn't have had a better start to their school years."

Parents described some of the learning opportunities their children had had whilst at St. Ninians.

"My child learnt a lot from nursery and is really enjoying nursery baking and even doing wood work and made more friends with doing the different activities they do in the nursery."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service's own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These 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	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

The caring and supportive staff team worked well with parents to ensure that children's needs were met in a nurturing and safe environment. They understood the parents' role as their child's main carer and they respected the bond between them. This meant that they were able to support both parents and children to settle into the setting's routines sensitively, for example by introducing opportunities for home visits, which enabled children to become familiar with staff.

Staff knew the children and their families well. The open relationships they had developed with many parents meant that they trusted them and shared information with them confidently. Parents told us about the way staff had supported them and their child to deal with a variety of different situations. They thought that staff were supportive and reassuring and had enabled their children to develop and enjoy being at nursery.

Children had opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles and to keep themselves safe. They were involved in planning the snack menu, shopping for the food and preparing snack. The nursery were part of the Childsmile toothbrushing programme and parents were encouraged to help their child with brushing their teeth. Staff discussed risk with children and included them in their risk assessments. This gave children responsibility for keeping safe and helped them to care for others.

Children were engaged in their learning and were curious about the world around them. They were confident about asking questions. Staff respected their opinions and encouraged them to share their knowledge and to develop their interests. They had recently been learning about the people who help us and were very interested in the Fire Service. We observed that many of the children were using what they had learned in their play and that staff were using their ideas to plan for future activities.

Children moved freely around their nursery environment. They could choose whether to play outside or indoors. Children and staff were appropriately dressed for the weather. Most children were enthusiastic about being outdoors. Staff had continued to develop a variety of different outdoor experiences for them, which included finding out about birds and growing their own vegetables. We learned that the children had used what they had grown to make soup. Parents and the local community had been involved in developing the outdoor area and had helped with additional materials and resources.

There was a strong focus on improvement in the nursery. The management and staff of the service were keen to ensure that the children in their care experienced a high quality of care and learning. Staff met regularly and used this time to discuss how they could improve what they were doing, the needs of individual children and how to safeguard their health and wellbeing.

The management team valued their staff team highly and supported them effectively. Staff were confident that they were listened to and respected. All staff had had professional reviews and their continuous professional development was well supported. Since our last visit, management procedures had been strengthened and these included an induction programme for new staff and improved monitoring of practice and other important procedures. Management and staff welcomed feedback from parents and actively sought their opinions. Tea and toast sessions had been successful in developing parental involvement in the service.

What the service could do better

Whilst staff knew the children well and were using their knowledge to care for them, we found that they needed to improve the way they were recording children's personal plans. We discussed this with staff and agreed that they would review the format and storage of what they were doing so that it formed a clear plan for every child, which could be used in regular reviews with parents and by all those caring for the children, including where there are shared placements. We also suggested that the format should refer more to the wellbeing indicators, SHANARRI.

An improvement plan was in place for the service and was regularly reviewed and updated by the staff. We observed that it was very long because staff continued to add new developments, but did not take out those items which had been completed. We understood the reasons for this and suggested that staff develop a way of celebrating their own achievements and continue to develop the way they tell their own improvement journey.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
20 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
31 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
11 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Dec 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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