

Balmerino Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Main Road
Gauldry
Newport-on-Tay
DD6 8RP

Telephone: 01334 659450

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

11 March 2019

Service provided by:

Fife Council

Service provider number:

SP2004005267

Service no:

CS2003015879

About the service

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 01 April 2011.

Balmerino Primary School Nursery is a Fife Council education provider, providing day care for a maximum of 18 children at any one time, from three years of age, up to, but not exceeding an age to attend primary school. At the time of the inspection, the nursery operated sessions each morning. The service operates from one playroom, within the primary school building, situated in the village of Gauldry. It benefits from a separate entrance and designated outdoor play area. Gauldry is a village located approximately two miles from Newport on Tay. It has good access to public transport links and local amenities, including woodland walks. The service aims to support children's development through play and to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment, with experiences that engage children and inspire learning.

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.

What people told us

There were ten children present at the time of the inspection. We observed children enjoying their play and joined them on a 'flower hunt' walk. They presented as happy, confident and relaxed during our visit.

They told us-

"I am having a baby, so these books are for me." (pointing to the stories about babies)

"Can you see my shadow?"

"We have been learning about keeping our bodies healthy, look we made smoothies."

"We did our exercises too." (when talking about a recent visit to Leng Resource Centre).

We sent out five care standards questionnaires to parents of children who attend the service. We received five completed questionnaires from parents before the inspection. We spoke with six more parents individually during our inspection. Overall, all parents were very happy with the care and support their child received in this service.

They told us -

"I am very happy with the service at Balmerino Nursery. The teachers keep me well informed; they do so much with the kids. My son has blossomed since he started nursery."

"My child and I are extremely happy with the quality of care my child receives. My child is always happy and safe in his nursery setting; I am never concerned for my child's safety while he is at nursery. He is very well looked after."

"I am very happy with Balmerino Nursery. The staff are extremely helpful, very informative and approachable. One of the best things that has been implemented is the visits to the local nursing home. My child loves it and I am sure the benefits to both the resident and children are significant. I do hope this will be a permanent inclusion to the nursery and would love to see it rolled out across Fife."

"The nursery is very inclusive of parents, the wider community and all the children. The children love visiting the older people at the Leng home. Parents have been consulted about various projects and are involved in sharing the children's learning. We are very fortunate to be able to access the beach and the woods and the children love these. The staff are very committed, knowledgeable and kind. They have done a brilliant job. Our nursery and early years officers are second to none. We consider ourselves very lucky."

"This is a lovely nursery and the staff are very approachable. We feel very supported."

"My Grandchild has made really good progress since starting at Balmerino Nursery."

"I think this is the best nursery in the world."

Self assessment

The service was not 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. Priorities identified on the improvement plan aim to ensure there is a shared understanding of how to record significant learning and how learning opportunities could be promoted and extended.

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

We saw confident, relaxed and happy children, who were keen to share with us what they had been learning. They showed us their personal learning journals (PLJ's) and the interactive learning wall where they confidently and enthusiastically showed us photographs of recent learning experiences, for example, making healthy smoothies. We saw that children had a positive attitude to learning and skilled at evaluating play experiences.

There was a positive and respectful atmosphere and we saw that there had been a focus on different cultures and countries and learning to say hello in different languages. Children were learning to understand and respect themselves and others. They could choose from a range of open-ended, natural and realistic play materials to support their imagination and creativity. An example of this was designing pictures using natural materials that they had collected from outdoors.

Staff worked hard to create a culture of trust and respect where children were involved and made decisions about their learning. Their ideas were respected and formed the basis for planning: which was driven by their interests and wishes. Examples of mind maps and children's voices were evident on displays and in floor books. Children felt respected, valued, and were engaged in play.

Children had rich and meaningful opportunities to be active participants in the local community, including the beach and woodland areas. On the day of the inspection, we joined them on a flower hunt walk. They regularly visited Leng Resource Centre, where they joined in social and recreational activities with the older people who used the centre. We saw photographs of them practising their exercises together when learning about how to keep healthy. These opportunities promoted greater understanding and respect between generations.

Parents were supported to be regularly and meaningfully engaged in their children's learning and were invited to be involved in various groups, such as, Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP), Book Bug, Stay and Play sessions and visits to the Leng Resource Centre. Similarly, children and parents were included in the primary school sports day, end of term celebrations, garden party and performances. The service had effective systems in place to share information with parents, for example the weekly newsletter. This helped them to feel valued and included.

Confident and experienced staff provided a warm and compassionate approach when supporting children. They understood and responded to individual children and family's needs well. For example, they provided books about new babies for a child who was about to have a new baby in their family. Staff told us about strategies used to support children who required additional support, such as visual communication symbols to support communication needs and helped them make choices.

The service had worked hard to carefully support children and families to make successful transitions when they first start, for example giving children a phased start when they struggled to settle and similarly careful support as they move onto primary one. Children developed their knowledge and understanding in their own way and in their own time.

The passionate and forward thinking staff worked hard to develop innovative practice, through the support of the head teacher. They took forward their ideas as a solution for improvements to outcomes for children, for example, improving the relevance of information on children's care plans. This made sure that care, safety and welfare needs of children were fully met.

What the service could do better

We advised staff to further explore the range of best practice documents available on our hub website at www.careinspectorate.com and make best use of the Health and Social Care Standards to drive improvements and ensure better outcomes for children. Similarly, we advised the head teacher to familiarise herself with the notifications guidance and make appropriate notifications to the care inspectorate.

Snacks provided for the children included fresh fruit and vegetables. We suggested that staff explored ways for children to be able to access and engage in snack when playing outdoors. This would minimise interruptions to play experiences.

We viewed the personal plan information and advised that all information held on children must be updated at least every six months to ensure care and support is consistent with children's changeable needs. We also reminded staff about the procedures for recording accidents. See recommendation one.

We advised that the nursery teacher should lead planning and support staff to understand how to identify children's individual significant learning through effective use of observations. Next steps in learning should be used to inform future planning, which would help children to progress and support staff to track individual progress more effectively. We suggested that the nursery teacher developed a manageable system to

cross reference and identify next steps. This would support children to progress at a consistent pace. Similarly, staff welcomed advice given during the inspection and told us that they would like more opportunities to be given feedback and suggestions on how to improve the service. We advised that the head teacher and nursery teacher improve formal monitoring systems. See recommendation two.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. Staff should update and improve accident recording procedures to ensure that information about every accident is effectively recorded. This may include:

- recording of all accidents, regardless if further medical treatment is required or not
- notifying parents of all accidents that happen within the service and ask them to sign the accident record.

This will make sure that care needs are fully met.

My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event. (HSCS 4.14).

2. The head teacher and nursery teacher should improve formal monitoring systems to ensure the staff team have the appropriate information, support and learning opportunities to provide the highest possible outcomes for children. This may include:

- the nursery teacher monitoring the effective use of planned next steps and the impact this has on children making good progress, across the curriculum, at a consistent pace
- having a calendar of monitoring activities, which are carried out throughout the year
- using a system to track the journey of improvement and show impact to ensure high quality learning opportunities, for example a model for improvement
- creating a culture of improvement through sharing practice and peer support and challenge
- giving parents and children more opportunities to support improvement through evaluating the range of quality experiences offered by the service.

This is to demonstrate the impact of quality assurance and how evidence is used to improve outcomes for children.

I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes. (HSCS 4.19).

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

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
9 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent
12 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
2 Dec 2009	Unannounced	Care and support
		6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings
		Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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