

Blairhall Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Rintoul Avenue
Blairhall
Dunfermline
KY12 9HG

Telephone: 01383 602444

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 31 August 2017

Service provided by:
Fife Council

Service provider number:
SP2004005267

Care service number:
CS2003015905

About the service

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The nursery is registered to accommodate a maximum of 36 children. At the time of inspection, there were 18 children registered to use the service, of whom 11 were present in the morning.

The service is provided by Fife Council. The headteacher is the designated manager for this service.

The nursery is based within hatted accommodation in the school grounds. The nursery accommodation comprises one spacious classroom. There is also a cloaks area, toilets and an enclosed outdoor play area/garden. The nursery also has access to other areas in the school including the gym hall, when available.

What people told us

We saw that the children were familiar with nursery routines. They were happy to talk to us about what they were doing in nursery. Examples of their comments are as follows:

- "Look! I've mixed blue and yellow and it's turned green."
- "I'm going to put my shoes on to play outside. Is this the right way?"
- "I'm playing superheroes. We are both superheroes. We have power and can do this."
- "I can balance on my head. I need to put my arms out. I am fast at this."
- "I'm very fast. Look at me run. I'm Wonder-woman."
- "I like oranges."
- "My mum is at work."

We asked the service to issue questionnaires to parents, in order to allow us to take account of their views. Eight were returned to us. We also spoke to a few parents/carers during our visit. All concerned were happy with the quality of care provided. Examples of parents' comments (anonymised) are as follows:

"The nursery provides a safe, secure environment. The staff are fantastic with the children. My child has formed good relationships with the staff and has grown in confidence. They also show their nursery friends support and care when they are unsure of any activities."

"My child is always excited about going to nursery. She loves the staff and always has a smile on her face when she is there."

"Fantastic learning environment that puts the needs of individual children first. A safe and happy start to children's early education. Staff work well with parents and try their best to communicate all aspects of learning and development to help each child's development and progression in learning."

"The service is always friendly and welcoming and my child loves going there."

"The teachers are lovely and very caring. Have always went out of their way to help me and my child in any way they can. Extremely happy with the service and support they have provided."

"It's great. I'm going on the woodland walk with them tomorrow. The staff are so friendly and good."

"I have received excellent service from the staff at Blairhall Nursery and School."

Self assessment

We did not ask the provider to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service's own improvement plan. The plan included information about the service's priorities for development and how the manager was monitoring the quality of the provision.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Staff were respectful and caring with children, and knew them, or were getting to know them and their families well.

The curriculum was based on learning through play. Staff had taken account of children's interests in planning learning, for example, in finding out about making bread. Children's achievements were celebrated through discussion, the learning wall and in children's personal learning journeys (PLJs).

Children actively participated in a variety of experiences, many of which were outdoors, that supported their all-round development. Staff provided a very good selection of loose materials including logs, tyres and wooden blocks for the children to experiment with. They supported children to use their problem solving skills as they worked out how to help their friends transport water from the water tray to another area to 'paint' the wall, for example. Other children explored cause and effect in their play, for example using guttering as a slope for their cars. Children talked to us confidently about what they were doing.

Staff helped children to learn about keeping safe and being healthy. Children could choose from healthy snack options, for example. They served themselves and poured a drink, which promoted their independence skills. The planting and harvesting of vegetables further promoted the children's learning of healthy eating and understanding where these foods come from. Active physical play was promoted by having a free-flow between indoors and outdoors. Staff talked with children about how they could reduce the risk of injury during play. Parents supported staff to use nearby woodland to carry out weekly Forest School activities with children which enhanced children's learning.

Nursery children were included in the life of the school. They had the opportunity to take part in activities with older children and to visit other areas in the school building. This also supported children's transition to primary one.

Satisfactory arrangements were in place to safeguard children. The child protection procedure provided information for staff to follow in the event of any concerns.

We concluded that the outcomes for children were very good. They were engaged in their learning and developing secure relationships with staff and other children, and were cared for in a safe and interesting environment.

What the service could do better

We discussed the need to improve some aspects of record keeping and asked the manager to further support staff with documenting children's learning. We advised that children's personal information, including enrolment information and medication forms should be reviewed no less than six monthly and updated when necessary.

The staff planned to give children more opportunities to further develop their literacy skills outdoors.

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
17 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
20 Jun 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed

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