

Braemar School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

School Road
Braemar
Ballater
AB35 5ZS

Telephone: 013397 41250

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

8 May 2019

Service provided by:

Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000029

Service no:

CS2003015750

About the service

Braemar School Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

This day care of children service operates in the town of Braemar, to the south west of Aberdeen city.

The service is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children. The age range of the children will be 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service aims include:

- Empower each child with skills and knowledge through play.
- Working in partnership with parents/carers.
- Equal opportunities.
- Mutual respect.
- Observing, assessing and recording progress, strengths and achievements.

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

During this inspection visit there were ten children attending the service, the children ranged in age from three years to pre-school. The children were fully engaged with the activities and were comfortable including us in their play.

Throughout the session children enjoyed free flow access to a secure outdoor play area and some children chose to have snack outside. The group were currently exploring time as their topic, together with other areas in which children had shown an interest.

Six parents returned care standard questionnaires. We had the opportunity to speak with a further seven parents during our inspection. Parents told us that the service was welcoming and that their children really enjoyed attending.

Parent comment included:

"We are provided with a fantastic service here in Braemar. The staff go to great lengths to ensure the children are happy. The activities are always changing and involving the children's interests."

"Braemar Nursery is amazing. The staff have been a fantastic support to my child."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own quality assurance processes. These demonstrated 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	4 - Good

What the service does well

Staff were welcoming and nurturing and had created a warm and inclusive environment within the nursery.

Staff had a very good knowledge of their children and families. In discussion with children and parents, staff gathered comprehensive information about children and families before they started with the service and this effectively supported children's settling in process.

Each child had an appropriate personal/care plan, which indicated how children's changing care and support needs would be met by the service. Staff kept these records up to date in consultation with parents and other professionals when appropriate. Changes to children's care and support was then appropriately reflected in staff practise.

All staff had a very good knowledge about children's individual care and support needs. Staff supported children in a manner which was effective, consistent and individualised and it was clear children felt included and empowered.

Staff effectively involved children in all aspects of nursery life (including the direction of their own learning), actively listened and were responsive to children's interests. Children were supported to be emotionally resilient and have a strong sense of their own identity and wellbeing.

Children were engaged and motivated within the nursery (including when outdoors) and the availability of well planned, freely chosen, extended play encouraged children's thinking and investigation.

Children and families were fully involved with the service. Parents and children were consulted about their thoughts regarding aspects of the nursery and their feedback influenced service improvement.

The lead practitioner was currently involving children, parents and staff in assessment and improvement of the service against the Health and Social Care Standards (human rights based standards, which set out what should be expected when using health, social care or social work services in Scotland).

In the nursery, the lead practitioner was effectively applying learning from the childcare degree that she was currently working towards. Staff were enthusiastic to have children at the centre of nursery life.

Staff had been safely recruited by Aberdeenshire Council with reference to current safer recruitment guidance.

Two staff were currently undertaking professional childcare qualifications and their ongoing learning was being effectively applied within the nursery, to improve outcomes for children and families.

What the service could do better

Staff were beginning to record references to the Curriculum for Excellence (CofE) Experiences and Outcomes (Es and Os) within the planning recorded in the big floor books. These indicated the manner in which the children's experiences related to areas of the Scottish curriculum.

Whilst staff were using the Es and Os in relation to the planning of children's experiences there was no consistent record showing which Es and Os related to individual children's experiences.

Staff were beginning to use the CofE Benchmarks when assessing children's learning and may find this process more efficient if they also recorded Es and Os, as they related to individual children.

The lead practitioner, involving children, parents and staff, had begun to assess, evaluate and improve the service in relation to the Health and Social Care Standards. Effective improvement had been made within the service using this method and was a good start towards developing a comprehensive and effective quality assurance system.

We discussed how the use of the Education Scotland's, How good is our early learning and childcare? best practice document would support the development of more comprehensive quality assurance strategies.

Best practice document/s discussed (this list is not exhaustive),

- How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare?
<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/575657/hgioelc020316revised.pdf>

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.

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

Recommendation 1

The provider, head teacher and staff to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to regularly review their training and development needs and undertake timely and relevant training, including but not exclusively, core training. This is in order to ensure up to date knowledge and practise and good outcomes for the children in their care.

National Care Standards Early Education and childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 12 - Confidence in staff
Standard 14 - Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 22 June 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff were undertaking relevant early years qualifications. Staff had maintained up to date core training and one staff had undertaken further comprehensive training and development, as required to meet the needs of the children and her own personal development. The new head teacher confirmed that she would ensure regular review of the staff's training and development needs and that staff would undertake timely and relevant training and development. This recommendation has been actioned.

Recommendation 2

The provider, manager and staff to ensure that they develop comprehensive and effective quality assurance strategies which ensure timely identification of areas for improvement. Once identified they are to develop and implement effective improvement plans. The quality assurance strategies to involve all those with an interest in the service.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 13 - Improving the service
Standard 14 - Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 22 June 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The lead practitioner, together with nursery staff had begun to undertake review and improvement of aspects of the nursery. Please refer to the body of the report for further information.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
22 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
21 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
2 Jul 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
6 Nov 2008		Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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