Pitreavie Playgroup
Day Care of Children

The Bungalow
Pitreavie Playing Fields
Queensferry Road
Dunfermline
KY11 8PP

Telephone: 01383 622 107

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
5 September 2025

Service provided by:
Pitreavie Playgroup

Service provider number:
SP2003001601

Service no:
CS2003006977

About the service

Pitreavie Playgroup is a daycare of children service registered to provide care to a maximum of 12 children aged from two years to an age to attend primary school.

The service is situated in Dunfermline and is close to shops, green spaces and other amenities. The playgroup is based in a detached bungalow and consists of two playrooms, an office, kitchen, toilet facilities and large garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 4 September 2025 between 08:45 and 15:45 and 5 September 2025 between 15:15 and 16:15. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with seven children using the service
- received feedback from six families
- spoke with five families
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

As part of this inspection we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

Key messages

· Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing interactions. Staff knew children very well and were responsive to their needs.

· Children had fun as they experienced a range of high quality planned and spontaneous play opportunities.

· Staff provided effective support and challenge through skilful interactions which helped children to extend their learning.

· Children benefitted from a homely environment. They had opportunities to explore, take risks and be curious.

· Children had access to toilet facilities however, these did not meet current guidance. This had the potential to increase the risk of spread of infection in the event of an outbreak.

· Purposeful self-evaluation and realistic improvement planning supported a continuous cycle of improvement within the service.

· Staff were knowledgeable and skilled and worked very well together as a team. This meant children experienced high quality care, play and learning.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing interactions which supported their wellbeing and development. Staff were attuned to each child's cues and responded in a sensitive and respectful way. They offered children comfort and reassurance which helped them to feel safe and secure. Families commented very positively about the care their children experienced. They told us, "So personal, really tailored approach to your child, qualitative care where you are not just a number" and "Very child centred".

Personal plans were developed in partnership with families and reflected children's needs. Staff knew children very well, including their strengths, needs, and interests. Staff used this information effectively which meant that children experienced care and support which was compassionate, responsive and right for them.

Children's food choices were nutritious and well balanced which supported them to be healthy. Families were positive about the new lunches being offered. Children experienced relaxed and sociable mealtimes which offered opportunities for them to develop their independence, for example self-serving at snack. This helped them to build confidence and life skills. Staff consistently sat with children throughout mealtimes and recognised the benefits of promoting learning. They recognised children's achievements, such as trying new foods and celebrated their successes.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children had fun as they experienced a range of high quality planned and spontaneous play opportunities. They were actively involved in leading their own play and learning experiences and as a result, they were highly engaged. Staff were responsive to children's interests. They were given time, space and support to make decisions about their play and learning. Staff provided challenge through skilful interactions such as commenting and effective questioning, tailored to children's individual stage of development. This meant they were effectively supported to extend their learning.

Children were very well supported to develop skills in language, literacy and numeracy. For example, they experienced singing relevant to their interests which created a joyful, positive atmosphere and supported their language development. They had many opportunities to reflect and consolidate their learning in meaningful ways.

Children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections with their community. For example, they had opportunities to use money to pay for items in shops which supported their learning in real life contexts.

Most families told us they had opportunities to discuss their child's care, play and learning. They were positive about the digital app used to share children's play and learning experiences. Observations of children's learning were of high quality and reflective of their individual progress and achievements. To reflect the depth and breadth of learning taking place, there was scope for some children's observations across curricular areas to be more frequent.

How good is our setting? 3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from a homely environment which was clean, well-ventilated and comfortable. They had plenty of space to play, rest and relax. They experienced spaces which were developmentally appropriate and took account of their stages of development and interests. Children had exciting opportunities outdoors to explore, be curious, and take part in risky and active play. As a result, they were engaged and challenged in their play.

Children were developing their understanding of how to keep themselves safe using the SIMOA campaign. They were involved in a variety of experiences such as learning about safety in the community and engaging in experiences such as woodwork. They were supported effectively by staff to assess risks and implement measures to keep themselves safe. This helped children to develop essential skills and build confidence.

Children were well supported to wash their hands at key times throughout the day. This helped to keep them safe and healthy. Children did not have access to toilet facilities which met current guidance as both children and staff shared facilities. This had the potential to increase the risk of spread of infection in the event of an outbreak. The service were aware of this, however, sufficient action had not been taken in a timely manner to make improvements. Following the inspection, the service had identified measures to put in place to address this (see area for improvement 1).

Children's information was securely stored and managed. CCTV had recently been installed. The service had not yet developed a policy in relation to the use of CCTV within the setting. Families were informed about its use, for example, through clear signage displayed. We signposted the service to 'Guidance for care providers in Scotland using CCTV (closed circuit television) in their services' for further information.

Areas for improvement

1. To protect children's health and wellbeing and to minimise the potential spread of infection, the provider should ensure that toilet facilities follow current guidance.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11) and 'The premises have been adapted, equipped and furnished to meet my needs and wishes' (HSCS 5.16).

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The leadership team promoted a shared vision. One family described the service as "a homely, family feel". This was clearly reflected in the life of the setting. The leadership team had identified there was scope to revisit the vision, values and aims with children and families to ensure they continued to be meaningful.

Quality assurance processes were in place to support improvement. For example, effective monitoring and tracking of children's progress supported staff to identify where improvements could be made to the environment to enhance the quality of children's experiences. As a result, children experienced high quality play and learning.

A continuous cycle of improvement was embedded within the service. Purposeful self-evaluation enabled staff to reflect on practice to identify strengths and areas for development tailored to the needs of children and families. A realistic improvement plan with relevant key priorities had been developed. This meant staff had clear, achievable goals to support ongoing improvement.

Children and families had a range of opportunities to be involved in the development of the service such as sharing feedback at open days and through the digital app. Most families agreed and strongly agreed that they were involved in a meaningful way. Families spoke positively about their involvement in giving feedback on the new lunch menu, including having the opportunity to try the food. The management team were continuing to explore ways to engage and involve families within the setting.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 4.3: Staff deployment

Staff were knowledgeable and skilled which meant that children experienced high quality care, play and learning experiences. They worked very well together as a team and communicated effectively to ensure children were consistently supervised and supported. They were very responsive to children's needs and moved flexibly throughout the play spaces to provide support, interaction, and engagement. As a result, children experienced fun and challenging play experiences.

Children were well supported to transition between the setting and home as staff communicated effectively. This helped to maintain continuity of care and support positive transitions. Staff breaks were well planned and flexible to meet children's needs. For example, familiar staff supported children during mealtimes which provided consistency. Families told us there were always enough staff to meet their children's needs. Their comments included, "The small classes make for a great experience with staff" and "[My child is] safe and well cared for".

New staff were supported to use the national induction resource to reflect on practice. This supported them to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to meet children's needs.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	3 - Adequate

How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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