Penpont, Keir and Tynron Pre-School
Day Care of Children

Penpont Primary School
School Lane
Penpont
Thornhill
DG3 4BH

Telephone: 01848 330591

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 February 2019

Service provided by:
Penpont, Keir and Tynron Pre-School

Service provider number:
SP2003002522

Service no:
CS2003010775

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services can be found on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to 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. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by the Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affects children, young people and their families.

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 indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Penpont, Keir and Tynron Pre-School is a voluntary organisation operated by a voluntary management committee. The playgroup committee employs a manager for the day-to-day responsibilities of the service and the delivery of the childcare services.

The playgroup is in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and provides a service for 20 children aged from 2 years 6 months to those not yet attending primary school of whom a maximum of 13 children will be aged between 2 years 6 months and under 3 years. The playgroup operates morning sessions, term time only.

What people told us

The children present during the inspection visit enjoyed playing with the resources available to them in the playroom and outdoor area and were secure and confident in the environment. Children we spoke to told us they were happy to come to the playgroup.

We did not receive any completed care standards questionnaires from parents prior to the inspection. We spoke with four parents, during the inspection, all whom agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care provided.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These clearly 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	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection, we considered whether children and their families had access to the right support at the right time. In addition, we looked at individual children's personal plans, as well as evidencing that children and their families were listened to, were safe and protected from harm. We found that outcomes for children and their families in these areas were very good. (Health and Social Care Standards 1.13, 1.15, 1.23, 2.17, 3.1 and 3.20)

Staff had successfully established an inclusive care and learning environment. We observed children, and their parents, being welcomed and included into the nursery. Staff recognised the importance of working in partnership with parents. We saw examples of staff supporting children who were less confident in expressing their views and preferences.

We saw evidence that communication was effective between staff and the new management committee. The staff team worked hard to ensure that communication with parents and children was active and current; we saw evidence of newsletters and daily discussions with parents. Staff and management knew the children and their families well and had their interests at the heart of the service they provided. Staff engaged with parents, children and other agencies to build a clear picture of the child.

The nursery had individual personal plans in place, these should continue to be streamlined with regards to health, welfare and safety and should then be linked to the planning, evaluation and observation cycles. We also suggested that the personal plans reflect the progression children have made in these areas. Staff should continue ensure that personal plans are consistently in place for every child within 28 days of them starting the service.

There was evidence to show that the nursery involved parents and partner agencies to ensure all children benefited from the right support at the right time. Children and their families had access to a nurturing approach, from staff who understood nurturing principles and effectively delivered these.

The committee and staff worked together as a team. Formal and informal consultation with parents, children and staff helped to identify what was working well and where improvements in care and support could be made.

Staff had a very good understanding of child protection procedures and the steps to be taken.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection, we considered how the environment supported children to direct their own play and learning. We looked closely at whether children had access to a wide range of experiences and resources within a safe indoor and outdoor environment. We found that the environment was offering good outcomes and experiences for children in this area. (HSCS 1.32, 2.27, 5.17)

The environment was calm, warm and welcoming for children and their parents. Children were happy and relaxed within the nursery and relationships were positive throughout. The environment was safe and secure with the main exit door alarmed. The children would benefit from a smaller free flow, café style snack, affording them less time sitting and waiting and more time to play. We spoke with staff about increasing self help skills and encouraging child led activities and experiences at snack, and throughout the nursery session.

Effective health and safety procedures had been developed, risk assessments had been established that were well thought out and linked to a risk matrix. A risk benefit approach had been used in the outdoor environment, enabling children to take controlled risks in their play experiences. Children were involved in carrying out daily risk assessments of the outdoor area. During the inspection visit, we observed good hand washing procedures and found infection control measures were in place. We asked the staff to ensure that the toilet door was closed to avoid possible contamination to the snack area and playroom. We sampled accident and incident records and found these were recorded, audited and shared with parents.

The nursery had an open plan playroom and a fully enclosed outdoor area. Staff told us that they used the local community to widen children's experiences.

Children confidently planned their own play from the activities and resources available. As a result, we saw happy, curious children engaging with the play environment. Areas within the nursery environment would be further enhanced by setting them up to encourage different types of play including cooperative, imaginative and loose parts play. We also suggested that the role play area included real food and utensils promoting real life play experiences.

Both the indoor and outdoor environments should continue to offer open-ended play experiences that encourage children to develop key skills such as problem solving. We spoke with staff about how free flow access throughout the session to the outdoor area would support richer transitions for children from the indoor to outdoor learning environment, allowing them to freely lead and direct their own learning.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection, we considered whether staff were trained, competent, skilled and able to reflect on their practice to provide the right care and support for children at the right time. We considered how skilled staff were in supporting children to resolve conflict and build positive relationships with others. We found that the outcomes for children in this area were good. (HSCS 1.19, 2.15, 3.14, 3.17)

Staff were professional, enthusiastic and motivated. They communicated very well together and showed respect for their colleagues' abilities. Staff told us they felt well supported by the manager and freely able to approach the committee when matters required.

A range of external and in house training had kept staff skills up-to-date. Outcomes for children were being positively affected by training that staff had attended. Staff showed awareness of this impact. We suggested that staff continue to reflect this impact in their Scottish Social Services Council Post Registration Training and Learning Logs.

A training plan was in place supporting staff to further their own professional development. Staff should continue to share learning from training attended with their colleagues to ensure outcomes for children remain positive.

Staff recognised when children required additional support and we saw evidence that showed us the impact of early approaches to supporting children's speech, language and communication needs. Progression had been tracked and shared with parents.

Staff were knowledgeable and freely engaged in professional dialogue throughout the inspection visit. During the inspection visit, we observed on a number of occasions that outcomes for children were clearly and effectively improving as a direct result of the staff team engaging the family in the learning process.

We spoke with key committee office bearers, they were able to tell us about the robust recruitment procedures. However, the paperwork was at home. We requested that this be filed safely and securely within the nursery environment.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection, we considered how well children and their families benefited from a culture of continuous improvement whilst looking for assurance that their human rights were being respected. We found that the service was good in these areas. (Health and Social Care Standards 1.2, 2.3, 4.11, 4.19 and 4.23)

The committee and manager had established good communication and working relationships. We saw minutes of regular meetings between staff and management that showed good support, monitoring and active discussion relating to the operations of the nursery.

Staff worked collaboratively as a team to ensure positive outcomes and quality experiences were available for children and their families.

Policies and procedures were in place; these should continue to be developed and updated to reflect the good working practices that the nursery operated and local and national best practice guidelines. A General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policy should be developed to reflect the practice in the service, and risk assessments undertaken to ensure the children's data is safe and protected. Staff should continue to be included in this process and the policies reviewed regularly.

Parents told us they had confidence in the quality of the service provided for their children by the staff team. Parents felt their children were safe and happy and that they benefited from the wide range of play and learning experiences provided. Parents particularly commented positively on the involvement and communication they experienced.

We heard that the manager had a vision for the future development of the service. Staff told us that they felt included in the life of the nursery, the adjoining primary school and a big part of the local community. The service would benefit from robust and effective self evaluation being undertaken. We asked the manager to consider using the challenge questions available in How good is our early learning and childcare? and Building the Ambition documents. This will support the service to identify areas for future improvement and development.

Staff were aware of child protection and safeguarding procedures, however the manager should access training as soon as possible in order to refresh and update their knowledge and understanding of the role they play in ensuring all children are safe.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The provider should ensure the manager and staff implement their plan to review each child's personal care plan with the parents. The care plans must be reviewed six monthly or earlier.

This requirement was made on 27 February 2018.

Action taken on previous requirement
See Quality of care and support for details.

Met - outwith timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
19 Sep 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
20 Apr 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate
12 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
16 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
27 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
10 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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