Dunscore Pre-school Centre
Day Care of Children

The Old School
Dunscore
Dumfries
DG2 0SY

Telephone: 01387 820273

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 November 2019

Service provided by:
Dunscore Pre-school Centre

Service provider number:
SP2003002530

Service no:
CS2003010817

About the service

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

Dunscore Pre-school Centre is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The service is provided by a voluntary management committee and is in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council. The service operates from Monday to Friday term time only and provides five morning and two afternoon sessions per week. Each session operates for 3 hours and 10 minutes.

The service is based in a former school building in a rural area. Children have access to two playrooms and a small, enclosed outdoor area. Children have a variety of opportunities to explore the local area and make use of other community resources.

A full statement of aims and objectives is available to people using the service.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to success and live longer, healthier lives. In Scotland, the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight indicators of 'wellbeing' that form the basis of GIRFEC are - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included - often referred to as 'SHANARRI'. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

What people told us

We sent questionnaires out to parents so that we could find out what they thought about the nursery and five of these were returned. We provided further opportunities for parents to make comments by emailing and speaking to them when they collected their children.

Parents said that they were very happy with the service and told us:

"I think that Dunscore Preschool is excellent. I feel my child gets a wide range of learning experiences."

"Very pleased with the level of care and education my child is receiving at Dunscore Pre School. My child loves all the staff and never has a problem attending in the morning; which can be put down to the fun and care the children are getting".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service's own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. We have made some comments about these in this report.

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

Children were being cared for by a friendly and approachable staff team in a safe and nurturing environment. Staff worked in partnership with parents so that they had the information they needed to meet children's needs and support their development effectively. We found that the staff knew the children well and were aware of changes in their lives. Staff respected children's interests and choices and used their knowledge to meet children's needs effectively.

Children had fun as they learned. We saw that children had a variety of opportunities to explore and investigate the world around them. Children were learning new skills and developing confidence in what they could do. Staff supported this development by working with professionals from other agencies, like Speech and Language Therapists. They also worked closely with other experts, like local artists so that children had a variety of experiences and opportunities for creativity and curiosity. Children told us about their experiences confidently and showed us their artwork with pride.

Children played together well and were forming friendships. They shared toys and other resources. Children had opportunities to be helpful and take responsibility around the setting, for example they helped to tidy up and could dress themselves. Staff were good role models as they sat with children at snack time and encouraged good social skills and conversation. Children were learning about healthy lifestyles and knew about healthy foods and exercise. We saw that most children willingly took part in a yoga session and were learning about keeping active.

All children in the setting had personal plans and learning stories. Plans were regularly reviewed with parents to ensure that the service was able to meet children's needs. Staff used on online app to share children's learning and achievements with parents, which ensured that parents were aware of their progress.

There was a strong focus on improvement in the setting. Staff met regularly for a variety of reasons including self evaluation, continuing professional development and planning for children's needs. Staff had some opportunities to take a leadership role in developments.

A voluntary management committee of parents provided the service. Management and staff of the setting were well supported by the committee, who took an active role in the service. They were aware of the service improvement plan and had regular updates from the service management. The improvement plan took account of national priorities like the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare and improving communication and language as well as the areas for improvement which had been identified by staff and parents.

What the service could do better

We found that management were aware of the limitation so their service, for example they were aware that opportunities for children to play outside when they wanted to could be improved. Although there are none of the children currently attending are in nappies, we also discussed nappy changing arrangements because the current area does not comply with best practice guidance in Space to Grow.

Whilst children had opportunities to develop independence, we have suggested that this could be developed further by always including children in all stages of preparing snack and other tasks like setting the table.

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

Recommendation with reference to Quality Theme 1, Quality Statement 3.
The manager should continue to formalise care plan recording systems. Written records should be used to support and track when changes to children's health, wellbeing and safety are identified and show actions taken to meet their current routines and additional support.

National Care Standards Early Education and childcare up to the age of 16:
Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 23 March 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

All children attending the service had a formal plan in place, which set out how their health, welfare and safety needs were to be met. These were reviewed in line with legislation. Children's learning plans and folders told the story of how children were developing skills and interests.

The recommendation is: Met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
2 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
4 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
3 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
11 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
9 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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