Acharacle Primary Nursery
Day Care of Children

Acharacle Primary School
Acharacle
PH36 4JU

Telephone: 01967 431645

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
21 November 2018

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003013551

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service has been registered since 2002.

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 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. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. 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.

Acharacle Primary School Nursery operates from within Acharacle Primary School. The accommodation comprises of a playroom with kitchen facilities, a reception area and toilets. The nursery also has access to the gym hall and large outdoor play areas.

The service has extensive aims and objectives which include "to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment. We will do this in partnership with parents ensuring each child has their individual needs met."

The service is registered as a day care of children service to provide a care service for children aged from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. It is registered for up to 18 children, Monday to Friday during term time. The service provides opportunities for children to experience both Gaelic medium and English. Joint sessions also take place on a weekly basis.

What people told us

We sent six care standards questionnaires to parents/carers of children who attended the service. We received two completed questionnaires before the inspection took place. Both respondents indicated that they were very satisfied with the quality of care provided.

Comments shared with the inspector at pick up time added to this understanding and we were told that the staff involved with the service were "great" and that information sharing "helped support the children to learn"

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the improvement plan and discussed with staff their current focus for team action points. From these discussions we were able to note their priorities for development and how staff were monitoring of 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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff had a good understanding of children's needs and had been trained to support those with specific medical needs. We discussed how information held on all children is stored and specifically the importance of being able to access important information quickly and easily. Minor changes linked to this area of practice were agreed and are to be put in place.

Throughout the inspection visit we were aware of the relaxed, nurturing environment. Children received positive interaction from the staff members. Children were able to play and learn at their own pace. The children were given lots of praise and positive re-enforcement linked to having done well. We observed children engaged in activities such as singing action songs which helped develop language, social and motor development, while good quality resources helped promote learning and development. The children were supported by the staff members who listened to what they were saying, discussed ideas and provided appropriate resources to extend their learning and development.

Active, outdoor opportunities helped the children to learn about their bodies and develop their physical skills such as running down hill, climbing and balancing.

Snack time was a particularly important part of the day and staff were aware of the importance of this social and educational activity. We spent time with the children at snack time and learnt how much they knew about healthy eating and tooth care.

We noted parents/carers had been invited to informal and formal sessions to discuss and see what their child had been doing while at the service and give feedback to staff. The service operated an open door policy. The parents/carers spoken with on the day of the inspection agreed that the staff shared relevant information linked to the children's time at the nursery. This was confirmed by our own observations when we witnessed staff members speaking with the children's parents/carers during the pick up time. It was evident that all parties took the opportunity to share or update information linked to the children's wellbeing.

Despite being a relatively new team staff members worked well together to provide children with a fun stimulating environment in which to play and learn. Staff had benefitted from training and interaction with peers at other schools in the area to work on shared areas of development. Staff have talked with the children and parents/carers to further develop the breadth of experiences avialble whilst at the service. Mind Maps had

been subject of review and it is evident how these had been used to promote children's involvement in planning activities and learning. We noted that following a recent review of how staff evidence children's achievements that electronic learning journals are to be further developed to recognise achievements and support identification of personal targets for each child.

The staff team recognised that this was an area of ongoing development and they planned to continue to review how the children's care and learning was supported within the service.

Throughout the inspection we found staff to be motivated to provide very good quality care, meeting children's needs and ensuring positive outcomes for them. We saw positive, respectful, interaction between staff, the children and their families. All the families we spoke with commented on the quality of the staff team and their professional attitude.

Staff told us that regular updating of child protection training ensured that they were aware of the procedures they should follow. We spoke with a few of the staff members on their knowledge on child protection issues. We considered that they had an good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children from harm and abuse. We found staff communicated effectively, formally and informally, with colleagues and the manager.

What the service could do better

We discussed plans the service had to further develop the community woodland to further promote numeracy and literacy. The use of loose parts in the service are well established. Plans to develop the woodland area are ongoing and once completed will further enhance children's outdoor experience.

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	
11 Dec 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
14 Nov 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
9 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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