St. Clement's Nursery
Day Care of Children

St. Clements School
Dingwall
Dingwall
IV15 9JZ

Telephone: 01349 863284

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 6 March 2018

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Care service number:
CS2003013602

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

The nursery is located in Dingwall and provides a service for up to eight children with special and complex needs. The nursery is an integral part of the school. At the time of the inspection, there were five children attending. The service is based in a new building some 100 yards from the main school. There was a secure outdoor play area which could be accessed directly from the nursery room.

The aims of the nursery included: allowing the children to learn in a happy, relaxed, safe and caring atmosphere; offering equal opportunities for all regardless of age, gender, disability, religion or race; ensuring inclusion for all; treating each individual with respect and dignity; and promoting healthy ethos issues throughout the school to help pupils and staff understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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 Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke to one parent at the service on the day of inspection. The parent was very happy with the service that was delivered. They appreciated the caring manner in which the staff cared for their daughter. They were also satisfied with very good communication and were informed on a daily basis of how their child had been. They found the staff and manager very approachable and would have no hesitation in raising any issues if unhappy with the service. No questionnaires were returned to the Care Inspectorate.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring of the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

During the inspection we considered the quality of care and support. From the evidence gathered during our inspection, we evaluated this theme as good.

We found that children were warmly welcomed to the service and that the staff team were caring and thoughtful. Parents were encouraged to visit the service and observe how care was provided before agreeing for their children to be placed.

The service welcomed parents/carers to raise any issues directly and due to complexity of children's needs, good communication was vital.

We found that excellent links had been established with health and other professionals to provide support and care that met with children's needs. We found detailed and prescriptive reports that clearly instructed staff on the moving and handling of children with physical challenges along with motorised hoists in each room for the transfer of children from chair to floor.

Staffing levels were such, that identified children were provided with one to one care, which allowed them to be supported in taking an active part within the nursery setting.

Very good infection control measures were in place and changing rooms were well equipped to provide personal care in a safe and private area.

Members of staff had attended child protection, food preparation along with manual lifting and handling courses that were children based. Additional workshops and training was provided by local health staff when it came to administering specific medication. Very good protocols for the dispensation of medication was in place, these protocols were reviewed on a regular basis.

Children had the opportunity to play outside on a daily basis as well as being accompanied on local walks and visits to the town centre.

What the service could do better

On the day of inspection we found that staff members from the school were using the nursery as an entrance to other classrooms. **(See Requirement 1)**

A number of children attending were able to make choices when it came to accessing play materials. We suggest that the service considers how all children can make choices by considering the storage and layout of play materials along with showing children pictures (book style) of what is available in storage. We would encourage children to take the lead and direct their own play and that members of staff support children rather than direct.

On the day of inspection the set up was very 'classroom style' as the table and chairs were centre stage.

We found that the service had structured the children's day and that breaks for snack, story time and circle time did not consider natural breaks (child very involved in play), but gave the impression of being programmed. We accepted that this was a very new staff group and that through time they would develop their own group style that may include a less structured approach and encourage the children to take the lead when it comes to their learning.

The outdoor play area was sparse and lacked materials that would encourage children to problem solve or create imaginative play. We found that the children were attracted to and enjoyed the wooden wendy house that was

outside. The remaining equipment was not suitable for the children attending, as it did not challenge them or encourage problem solving or teamwork.

We would welcome more natural materials for the outside play area that would offer children physical and mental challenges as well as encouraging imaginary play.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. It is a requirement that members of staff from the school must stop using the nursery as a corridor to other classes.

This is to comply with: SSI 114.4 (1) - health and welfare of service users.

Timescale: with immediate effect.

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	
10 Mar 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
18 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

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