Gretna Nursery
Day Care of Children

Gretna Primary School
Victory Avenue
Gretna
DG16 5AG

Telephone: 01461 339 105

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 September 2023

Service provided by:
Dumfries & Galloway Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003501

Service no:
CS2003015491

About the service

Gretna nursery was registered on the 1 April 2002. The nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children aged between 2 years and those not yet attending primary school of whom no more than 10 are aged 2 years.

Gretna nursery is located in a residential area in Gretna, Dumfries and Galloway. The service is connected to the local school and is close to parks and other amenities. Children are accommodated in two open plan play rooms and two enclosed outdoor play spaces.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 18th and 19th of September 2023. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors 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 children using the service
- Gathered feedback from families by online questionnaires
- Spoke with staff and management
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children were confident and comfortable in the nursery.
- Children enjoyed playing in the outdoor spaces with friends and staff.
- The manager and team had made notable improvements in the nursery setting which supported positive outcomes for children.
- The manager and team should continue to develop their observations, tracking and monitoring of children achievements as discussed during the inspection.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning? 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

On both days of inspection children were happy, confident, and having fun in the nursery. They experienced warm, patient, and nurturing care from staff which supported their wellbeing. Staff knew children well and interacted in a caring and supportive manner which promoted their sense of belonging and developed their self-esteem within the setting. One parent told us "My child and the family as a whole feel welcomed and nurtured in the setting."

Children experienced mealtimes that were sociable and provided some opportunities to develop their independence. Children were confident in their routine; choosing their seats at the table, collecting lunches they had chosen, pouring drinks, and cleaning up after themselves. We made some suggestions on the day of inspection to further enrich the mealtime experiences for children, such as staff sitting with children for the duration of the meal to engage in meaningful conversations and role modelling eating vegetables on offer. Rolling mealtimes ensured children's play was not interrupted. We found staff were mindful not to disrupt play and learning when encouraging children to come for their lunch. Meals were nutritious and water was available throughout the day to ensure children remained hydrated.

Personal care plans were in place for each child and completed appropriately. We saw evidence that they were updated twice per year with families. One-page profiles had been created for each child which were used by all staff to record achievements and changes in support needs. However, personal plans should continue to be developed and streamlined to ensure next steps and strategies for each individual child are clear and meaningful. Management should monitor children's profiles to ensure a consistent approach to recording achievements, evaluative observations and identifying next steps in learning.

Children's health and wellbeing were supported by a clear administration of medication policy. We sampled the nursery's medication consent forms and health plans and found these were in line with current good practice guidance. We suggested the manager could further enhance monitoring and quality assurance processes by sampling completed consents and medication records to ensure a consistent approach to recording by the whole team.

1.3 Play and learning

On both days of inspection, we observed children leading their play and learning as they could free flow between all spaces in the playrooms and outdoors. Children had built good relationships with staff and their friends in nursery, and we saw lots of fun and imaginative play.

Children engaged in spontaneous play opportunities and some planned activities available. We observed children play with friends building tracks, painting pictures, and making cards. As well as playing on bikes and making obstacle courses outdoors. We observed children eagerly engage in staff led activities such as yoga, baking, and story time. One parent told us "My child is offered a variety of learning experiences".

We suggested the team continue to develop play and learning opportunities available each day by focusing on children's interest, provocations, and experiences that spark children's curiosities.

Planning approaches were currently being reviewed and developed by the team. The focus of the planned changes was to ensure a child centred and responsive approach was embedded, resulting in meaningful observations and assessments for each child. We agreed with the service's plans to continue to develop their processes for observing, recording and tracking children's progression in learning at the nursery.

Staff were knowledgeable and had a good understanding of development, theory, and schematic play. We observed staff extend children's schematic play with new resources and ideas. Staff's skilled interactions help scaffold and enrich this play and learning experience for individual children in their care. One parent told us "Staff are patient and knowledgeable with my child."

When children required extra support, this was planned in partnership with families and external professionals. Staff demonstrated a good understanding of proactive approaches to support children's behaviours and they were attuned to children's needs. When needed, they sought appropriate training and additional support for children. This meant that children received the right support at the right time. One parent told us "I like how they treat my child needs, cognitive mind and use their skills to suit what's best for him."

How good is our setting? 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

Children accessed a nursery environment that was clean and welcoming. Soft lighting, fluffy rugs and comfortable sofas created a homely space for children. On the day of inspection, we highlighted that some indoor areas were cold. The team advised they have jumpers available for children and thermometers are situated in the playrooms to monitor temperatures. There was a secure entry system in place that was monitored by staff which helped keep children safe. One parent told us the nursery was "very safe where children enter and leave via locked gates".

Children could free flow between two playrooms that were set up into various zones to provide a range of play and learning experiences. Children could access a construction corner, small world area, crafts and mark making table, sand and water tubs, malleable play table, dress up and home corner. Children had opportunities to rest when needed. We saw children accessing cosy areas to relax throughout the day which had a mixture of comfortable cushions. One child told us "It's very comfy, comfy here".

The space and resources within the nursery continue to be developed to stimulate children's curiosity, investigation, and experimentation. We could see the journey for the small outdoor garden and small playroom in floor books available. The areas the nursery had focused on were improved to a high standard. However, we highlighted areas within the playrooms that the team should continue to develop by considering what provocations and initiations they can create in line with current children's interests, to help enrich play and learning.

Children could free flow between the indoor playrooms and enclosed outdoor gardens across the day. This enabled children to lead their play and engage in a variety of outdoor activities that supported their health and wellbeing while building their coordination skills. One child told us "I love the garden".

Infection prevention and control measures were in place, in line with current guidelines and best place practice. Toilets were clean and accessible for children. The setting had an adequate supply of personal protective equipment which was stored appropriately.

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

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

Clear vision, values and aims had been created and embedded into the nursery. The manager and staff were aware of their roles in promoting this and spoke passionately about working in partnership with families to support children to reach their full potential. The team had a shared vision for the nursery and understood their responsibility for supporting the improvement plan. One staff member told us "I feel as a team we communicate well and use each other's skills to provide fun experiences for children."

Aspirations for the service were shared by all team members and supported by the manager which showed us the service had a very good capacity for change. The manager had created conditions where the team felt they could share ideas and lead changes to support the service's improvement plan. Any changes considered in the nursery were clearly linked to theory, good practice guidance and current legislation. The team continued to develop their approaches to self-evaluation and self-reflection to support a robust improvement cycle. One parent told us "Fabulous leadership, it shows in how happy my child is."

Children were at the centre of any improvements in the nursery. We saw lots of examples of children's voices in the floor books. Children were meaningfully involved and driving improvements in the nursery which supported their sense of belonging and their rights to lead their play and learning. One parent told us "Friendly and extremely organised nursery. Staff go beyond for the children but also the parents."

Families were welcomed into the nursery and school community. Their views were actively sought by the team and manager through face-to-face discussions, questionnaires, and calls. Families told us they felt well informed and happy with the communication they received from the nursery. Parents also told us the manager was always visible and available for support, guidance and to discuss any issues that arose. One parent told us "The manager is a fantastic team leader; she is always available and on hand to offer support and guidance."

How good is our staff team? 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

Staff were compassionate and respectful in their engagements with children and each other. They were invested in children's development. We observed staff genuinely celebrate children's achievements during our inspection. One parent told us "The staff are friendly, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic."

Staff were motivated in their roles to support the service to continue to develop and improve. Staff felt respected and listened to which enabled a positive team ethos, that was evident on the days of inspection. Most parents told us the staff and team were the strength of the service. One parent told us "The staff are approachable, kind and compassionate in their work."

Staff were deployed throughout the playrooms and outdoors spaces by a rota system. This ensured children's play was not interrupted or areas closed over the day. Overall, staff communicated well together to ensure children's wellbeing. We observed staff communicating effectively with each other to support continuity of care for children that required additional support. However, we discussed with the manager that staff deployment during busier times of the day should continue to be developed to ensure supervision levels remain consistent. Staff highlighted that supporting all children's individual needs through effective deployment is an area the team continue to focus on.

Appropriate policies were in place to maximise the attendance of staff and all staff understand the impact of unplanned absence on the provision of the service.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

Gretna nursery should expand their accident and incident recordings to include clear records for all children involved. Gretna nursery should develop an audit system to identify any common patterns and identify steps taken to minimise risk.

This is to ensure the environment is consistant with Health and Social Care Standards which states, "My environment is safe and secure" (5.17).

This area for improvement was made on 10 October 2019.

Action taken since then
We were satisfied with the progress the team had made in this area for improvement. Robust accident and incident systems were in place.

Previous area for improvement 2

Gretna nursery should develop their register to ensure it records the accurate times of children's arrival and departure.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards which states, "My environment is safe and secure" (5.17).

This area for improvement was made on 10 October 2019.

Action taken since then
We were satisfied with the progress the team had made in this area for improvement. Registers sampled were completed appropriately.

Previous area for improvement 3

Gretna nursery should update their medication procedures. This should include; ensuring all medication comes with its original packaging and label, reviewing medication recording formats and reviewing their audit process.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Heath and Social Care Standards which states, "Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective" (HSCS 1.24).

This area for improvement was made on 10 October 2019.

Action taken since then

We were satisfied with the progress the team had made in this area for improvement. The storage of medication and paperwork completed was in line with current good practuce guidance.

Previous area for improvement 4

Gretna nursery should develop the quality of experiences and play resources available to children to ensure children receive high quality play opportunities within an enabling environment.

This is to ensure that the environment is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state; 'As a child I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving including through imaginative play and storytelling' (HSCS 1.30).

'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31).

"As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity" (HSCS 2.27).

This area for improvement was made on 10 October 2019.

Action taken since then

We were satisfied with the progress the team had made in this area for improvement.

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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good

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?	4 - Good
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.