Freuchie Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Lomond Road
Freuchie
Cupar
KY15 7HF

Telephone: 01334 659 416

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 May 2023

Service provided by:
Fife Council

Service provider number:
SP2004005267

Service no:
CS2003015919

About the service

Freuchie Primary School Nursery is a day care of children service which is provided by Fife Council. The service is located within the village of Freuchie, on the same site as the primary school and close to local amenities. Children benefit from an open plan playroom with free flow access to an enclosed outdoor space. They also have access to areas within the school, for example the large playground area and the use of resources within it.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 children at any one time. Those attending the service should be aged between three years to those not yet attending primary school.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 4 May 2023 between 08:45 and 17:15. The inspection was carried out by one inspector 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 in the service
- reviewed digital responses from nine families and five staff
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Nurturing and caring approaches from staff created positive relationships with children and families.
- Children were busy and engaged as they were supported to fulfil their potential.
- Planning approaches were child centred and responsive to children's interests.
- Staff worked well together to ensure children were safe and having fun.
- Children had daily access to outdoor play opportunities.
- The service had developed strong links with the local community.

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

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

How good is our care, play and learning? 5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children were nurtured and cared for by a responsive staff team who knew each of them very well. Care routines were individual to children's needs and were delivered with kindness and compassion. The staff team understood the importance of developing secure relationships with children and families, and the positive effect this could have on children's experiences. It was evident that these relationships had been established. Parents described staff as "warm, kind, patient and knowledgeable." One parent said "the team at Freuchie nursery provide a lovely environment for children, parents and carers alike." As a result children felt loved and secure as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

Nutritious snack and lunches were provided by the service. Children were supported to learn important life skills, such as cutting, as they used knives to chop and prepare fruit for snack. They were also encouraged to help staff to set the tables for lunch. Lunch was served in the school dining hall. Management and staff had a good understanding of the importance of ensuring this was a positive experience for children. They continually reflected, discussed and made adjustments where necessary. We observed children collecting their meals and pouring their own drinks. They were encouraged to tidy their dishes away when they had finished. Staff and children enjoyed eating and chatting together in an unhurried, relaxed atmosphere. As a result children were safe and well supported as they experienced a caring, positive social experience.

Children and families were involved in the effective gathering of information for children's personal plans. This took account of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Personal plans provided clear guidance on strategies and techniques to support children and promote consistent care. This meant that all children were respected and valued as an individual.

Children's health and wellbeing needs were being met with appropriate systems in place for storing and recording medication. Staff had undertaken training to support children with particular healthcare needs and had developed supportive relationships with their families.

Quality indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Children were confident and had fun as they happily explored all that nursery had to offer. They benefitted from a skilled staff team who were responsive and planned play experiences that promoted children's choice, based on their interests. We observed children being supported to extend their thinking by staff through the use of effective questioning. Children proudly showed us their personal learning journals (PLJ's) and spoke confidently about the skills they had learned. As a result children were busy and engaged as they were supported to fulfil their potential.

Staff worked well together and met regularly to share observations of children's play and learning, and to discuss possible next steps. Sharing information about each child meant that staff supported and encouraged all children to take forward and develop their interests and learn new skills.

The service had established strong links with the local community, this enhanced play and learning

opportunities for children. For example, Bookbug sessions were delivered by the nursery in the local church hall and within the setting. This promoted and encouraged language and literacy skills in a fun and playful way. It also provided opportunities for parents and toddlers to develop relationships with the service and for nursery children to be actively involved in their community.

Children's emotional wellbeing and resilience was supported through positive, nurturing and trusting relationships with staff. The service offered children a variety of ways to help talk and learn about their feelings. For example, displays had been created using a colour monster chart where children could place their marker to let others know how they were feeling. This meant that children's needs were being met as their wellbeing was supported.

How good is our setting? 5 - Very Good

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

Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from a calm, welcoming environment where consideration had been given to their needs and interests. Restful, quiet areas had been developed to offer children space to rest and relax during the day. The indoor space was furnished to a high standard and was safe and secure. The well-resourced playroom was organised and provided children with opportunities to lead their play and have fun with their friends. We suggested that an audit of the indoor environment may support staff to identify ways to increase available floor space for children to extend activities. For example, space for children to build and create with block play as they developed their imagination. This would further support children's learning and give them a strong message that they mattered.

Children had free flow access to the outdoor area, which was enclosed and appropriately staffed to ensure children's safety. There were opportunities for children to develop independence and self-help skills as they changed into all-weather suits and wellies to go outside. Staff recognised the positive impact being outdoors had on children's overall wellbeing. They told us of the ongoing work they had undertaken to improve the outdoor area, and how children had been meaningfully involved in this. Children had opportunities to further develop their gross motor skills as they had fun exploring the larger school playground, MUGA and the local community. As a result children were learning the importance of an active lifestyle.

Risk assessments ensured that children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. Infection prevention and control routines were embedded and supported a safe environment. We advised that the use of foot pedal bins would further reduce the risk of cross contamination. Playrooms were clean and ventilated throughout the day. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times and regular cleaning procedures meant that the spread of infection was kept to a minimum.

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvements are led well

Strong and encouraging leadership supported staff to develop confidence to take on lead roles. For example, a member of staff had taken responsibility for regularly sharing children's learning with parents via a digital platform. The committed manager and staff team understood the positive impact family involvement could have on outcomes for children.

The shared vision, aim and values of the service were evident in the kind and nurturing interactions we witnessed throughout our visit. Regular meetings offered staff the opportunity to come together to share information and had a clear focus on reflection, self-evaluation and improvement. The manager protected time in their diary to ensure team meetings were prioritised and took account of staff working patterns. This ensured all staff had the opportunity to be involved and share their views. A positive ethos and strong leadership supported staff to have high aspirations and confidence in their abilities. As a result children were cared for by a dedicated staff team that felt well supported and valued.

The service had created an improvement plan which had been developed through self-evaluation and considering the views of staff, children and families. Effective policies, procedures and quality assurance processes were in place and also supported the development of the service. This meant that an environment of continuous improvement was promoted and further secured positive experiences for children.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 4.3 - Staff deployment

Effective use was made of staff experience, knowledge and skills to ensure children's experiences across their day were positive. Staff communicated very well with each other and worked together to keep children safe and engaged in quality experiences throughout the day. This was particularly evident as staff supported children with personal care and accessing toilet facilities which were located out with the playroom. During busier times of the day staff ensured appropriate levels of support were in place to fully meet the needs of all children. This meant that key tasks and responsibilities could be carried out whilst ensuring continued positive outcomes for children.

Staff knew children well and secure relationships between them were evident in the kind and compassionate interactions we observed. Parents told us that staff were friendly, caring and supportive. One parent shared that their child had "just clicked with Freuchie [staff] very quickly and it's a huge relief. Freuchie feels like a family environment and the warmth and commitment to each child's individual needs is palpable." This meant that children felt safe, secure and happy in a service where a caring staff team nurtured and supported them.

Staff wellbeing was important to the manager. Staff shared that they felt "really lucky to have such a supportive headteacher who fully engages with the staff, children and families." This was also evident as the manager recognised and valued the importance of ensuring the service was appropriately staffed at all times. Staff were flexible and breaks were planned to minimise the impact on children whilst making sure staff had time to rest and be refreshed.

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?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very 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?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very 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.