Keith Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Keith Primary School
School Road
Keith
AB55 5GS

Telephone: 01542 882802

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 October 2018

Service provided by:
The Moray Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001892

Service no:
CS2003016014

About the service

Keith Primary School Nursery is a Day Care of Children, registered for a maximum of 30 children during the morning session and 20 children in the afternoon session aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service was previously registered and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The service operates from a large room situated within the main building of the school and has its own entrance. A secure play area/garden is accessed directly from the playroom; children also have use of the gym, library and music room located within the school.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

- create a happy, secure and stimulating environment
- allow each child to develop at his or her own pace
- offer a varied but balanced curriculum and encourage learning in different ways
- encourage children to share time and adult help as well as resources with others
- work along with and support parents in the education of their children.

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 GIRFEC, safe, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included (also known as SHANARRI).

What people told us

There were a total of 23 children present during the inspection. We observed the children having fun during play activities which included creative and imaginary play both indoors and outdoors. Children played happily and confidently together with each other as well as individually, and remained engaged throughout the sessions. Children told us that they had lots of fun at nursery, they were learning about pirates and had made a pirate ship and treasure maps.

Specific comments included:

'this is our treasure, the pirates stole it'
'I am drawing a pumpkin, it's going to be pink'
'I have made some chocolate buns, I will put them in the oven to cook'
'this is my treasure map, there are crocodiles and a river, x marks where the treasure is'
'this is our pirate ship, we made it'
'I am building a wall stay by the cones as it's safe'
'I have made a spider, it has wobbly eyes'.

Five parents returned completed Care Standards Questionnaires. We spoke with six parents during the inspection and two by e-mail. Most parents had started using the service in August 2018 so it remained relatively new. All parents were very happy, they felt involved and there was good communication, staff were friendly and helpful. Children had settled well and always came away happy.

Specific comments included:

'great service I have nothing else to say'
'a very positive and welcoming learning environment, my child has developed in many ways including socially and emotionally and always looked forward to going'
'excellent nursery and brilliant staff'
'I cannot fault it, we are very happy'
'we feel involved in our child's learning, wonderful service'
'communication was excellent, staff would happily meet with you, lots of variety for the children to help their learning'
'staff are excellent and friendly, the nursery covers a wide range of activities, my child learns something new each day, it is well managed and the set up is brilliant'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own plans for improvement and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision.

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 experienced a bright and thoughtfully arranged environment that included a variety of resources to stimulate creative and imaginary play. Children were cooperating well with each other during play and being encouraged to see each other's point of view. We saw that children shared items during activities and helped each other during tasks.

The senior management team and staff knew the children very well and liaised closely with parents/carers, and other professionals, advocating early intervention. Children with additional support needs had been responded to in a meaningful way, to help them achieve the best possible outcomes. The holistic approach to the recording, monitoring and wellbeing of each of the children by the service encompassed Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). The friendly, attentive and responsive interactions of each member of staff and their awareness of the immediate environment helped to capture children's interests. Parents told us that they felt involved in their child's learning and progress and had seen their child grow in confidence.

Snacks consisted of a range of healthy foods that complied with children's dietary needs and preferences. It was a flexible arrangement that supported children's decision making and independence. Children were able to learn good social skills and behaviours associated with eating and drinking.

Children's physical and emotional wellbeing was being promoted during free flow (indoor/outdoor) play and a weekly visit to small woodland space. A number of children chose to play outside. They used their imagination when using natural materials, building bricks and traffic cones to build a wall after putting on their flash bib and hard hats. At the wood/work bench a couple of children used real life tools to measure, hammer and align

pieces of wood. Real life items in the mud kitchen helped children to create all sorts of pies and cakes. Active play included a number snake game, bikes and balance. Children learned about the wider community on visits to the library, Tesco and a local care home for the elderly.

A child protection policy was in place and staff had sound knowledge of child protection issues, which contributed to safeguarding the children. The establishment of positive relationships also enabled staff to be alerted to changes or signs of stress that needed to be recorded and monitored.

Leadership and management reflected the commitment and aspiration of the senior management team and in particular the deputy head, who had overall responsibility for the nursery. They provided a clear direction and focus for the setting and supported staff well so that they felt valued and had an opportunity to take the lead and improve their skills. Qualified and experienced staff had established positive relationships with the children and to try new things that supported children's creativity and learning. Systems of evaluation involved staff, children, parents/carers, and the local authority, with a view to improvement and enhancing outcomes for children.

What the service could do better

The manager and staff should continue to evaluate the interactive nature sessions and indoor/outdoor play so that changes help to maintain a rich environment that supports children's development. We suggested that the good practice guidance document: our creative journey - hub.careinspectorate.com could also be used for such purposes and further inspire practice.

Whilst parents/carers were advised of medication given and accidents, to affirm that accurate information was exchanged we suggest that they sign and date the relevant documentation.

The senior management team continue to support staff to further develop their skills and knowledge that support child led activities and learning that have meaning for the children.

Systems of self evaluation remain manageable so that they maintain depth; records of accidents/incidents should be included, with observations being used more effectively for such purposes. Ref: How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare and Health and Social Care Standards - hub.careinspectorate.com

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	
2 Sep 2015	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
29 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
16 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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