Fintry Primary School Early Years Centre
Day Care of Children

10 Findcastle Terrace
Fintry
Dundee
DD4 9EL

Telephone: 01382 307 837

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 July 2021

Service provided by:
Dundee City Council

Service provider number:
SP2003004034

Service no:
CS2003016935

About the service

Fintry Primary School Early Years Centre is located within Fintry Primary School in Dundee. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 79 children at any one time age from 2 years to those not yet attending primary school of whom a maximum of 15 children are age 2 years.

The nursery has two playrooms, and a large secure outdoor area which can be accessed directly from the playrooms. The large playroom has recently been spilt into two areas, each with their own outdoor play space to enable children to be cared for in separate cohorts during the Covid-19 pandemic. Both indoors and outdoors offer a selection of resources, including loose parts to promote children's creativity. Children have access to the school gym.
The nursery aims to:
'Ensure that all learners achieve their highest potential
Ensure the quality of opportunity for all
Raise aspiration by promoting confidence and self-esteem in all of our children.'

An inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out an unannounced onsite inspection on 13 July 2021. The inspection was completed virtually once requested documentation was provided by the service. Inspection feedback was given on 16 July 2021.

This was a focused inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

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 parents 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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

Children were seen to be settled, relaxed and happy in the service and to be enjoying the range of activities on offer. Children played outside for much of the observed session, returning inside for lunch and to use the toilet facilities. We viewed feedback gathered by the service through their consultation with children, which included their responsive approach to planning and good quality Floor books which evidenced routine consultation with children and evidenced how their interests informed planning. The inspector had some opportunities to speak with children during the on site part of this inspection and they spoke keenly about their play. Their comments included:

'We're chasing the butterfly and the bugs'

'I love the bubbles'

'I like playing inside sometimes'

'I'm making the mud thick'

'Its all sticky'

'I'm hot'

'I always like coming to nursery and seeing all my friends'

'I need sunglasses'

'That's the dinosaur house - where he lives'

We spoke to six parents and a childminder, all commented most favourably on the service. They told us that the nursery was friendly, that staff were all amazing and that their children loved coming to nursery. Some parents felt that their children had made very good progress since they had started to attend and that they had made good friendships. One parent told us that their child spoke about the nursery all the time at home and so she had a good awareness of what her child had been doing at nursery. Parents were happy with communication and information sharing and felt that the nursery was safe for their children with the changes that had been made.

The service's own feedback from parents also confirmed very good levels of satisfaction with the service.

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 and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic? 5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 5.1:

Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19:

- Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.
- Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

There was a calm, relaxed and most welcoming atmosphere, with a reduced number of children attending during the school holidays. Children were active and focused at play and seen to be enjoying their play and interaction with staff and peers. Children played outside for most of the observed session. They were motivated by the experiences on offer, including very good opportunities to investigate, use imaginations and engage with nature. The large, well-resourced mud kitchen was very well used by the children, enabling children to experiment, work together and share ideas. Children were particularly interested in 'bugs,' they were supported to learn more through use of books and discussion. Children could make choices and lead their own play. Outdoor learning was a key strength of the service.

Staff were kind, warm and approachable. They knew the children in their care very well and were responsive to their needs. Children had formed very good attachments with staff. There was laughter and spontaneity, with staff having great fun with the children. They engaged enthusiastically in their play, supporting and extending learning. Staff communicated warmly with the children, supporting them to share, take turns and be considerate to each other.

Children had been well supported with the changes to the environment and their routines. Staff reported that children had adapted very quickly and that they had tried to keep as much as possible familiar to the children to help them feel settled and secure.

Information was gathered and reviewed to support and inform children's care and support within the service. Learning journeys were accessible to children with relevant observation's tracking progress. Staff were supported by other professionals and agencies when needed, and good partnership working with parents was reported.

Children enjoyed a relaxed and sociable lunchtime, where they ate well and engaged in relaxed conversation. Staff sat with the children and helped them when required, they modelled good social skills, like gently reminding children to say please and thank you.

Effective communication between the service and families throughout the pandemic had sustained links and kept parents well informed. A range of activities were set up to sustain and encourage participation at home during periods of lockdown.

Outcomes for children were seen to be very good, children were happy, safe and thriving in this nurturing and well organised setting.

Quality Indicator 5.2

-Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.
- Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

The service had incorporated Scottish Government guidance into the setting to keep children, staff and families safe. Staff were kept updated with guidance and changes as needed. Risk assessments, policies and procedures were developed to take account of Covid-19 and to support staff in their daily practice. Parents told us that they felt well informed about changes made to the service and were confident that their children were safe and well whilst attending.

The environment was clean, uncluttered, and well-maintained. We saw that regular cleaning took place throughout the day, including additional cleaning of high touch areas. There was natural ventilation throughout the setting, with windows and doors open therefore reducing the risk of spread of infection. There were systems in place for the routine cleaning of resources and equipment and checklists to note when tasks had been completed. Very good infection control practice was seen which was robustly audited and monitored by management to ensure consistency.

The environment was comfortable and there were several areas outside for children to relax, rest and shelter from the sun in shaded areas. There was a very good approach to sun safety, with all children having sun screen applied, good hydration and wearing of sunhats.

Staff told us that they felt confident and safe in their roles as they had been well supported and prepared to make adaptations to their practice. Children were cared for in three consistent cohorts in designated areas, each with their own indoor and outdoor space, which prevented wider mixing within the setting.

Staff maintained social distancing with each other and with parents at drop off and collection times. Numbers using the staff room were reduced at any one time and appropriate use was made of PPE. We saw that tables were cleaned before children had lunch and there was clear nappy changing guidance displayed that reflected best practice. There was a very good approach to handwashing, children were remined and supported when needed but most were fully independent and familiar with nursery routines.

Staff had established safe arrangements for arrivals and departures, with parents having designated places to drop off and collect their children to avoid congestion. Parents were respectful of social distancing.

We asked the service to continue to be mindful to the safe storage of children's coats during the pandemic.

Quality Indicator 5.3

Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19:

- Staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families.
- Staff are well supported and confident.

The service was very well-led with a supportive and respectful ethos that valued all. This inclusive management style was effective in establishing a happy and motivated staff team. Staff present told us that they were very happy working at the service. They felt well supported and informed to manage the required change in the setting to keep everyone safe and well.

There was effective staff deployment in place that took account of experience, skills and personalities to

create effective teams that met children's needs. Mentors modelled good practice to support less experienced staff, who told us they had very good learning and development opportunities within the service. Staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities to ensure the safe running of the service and confidently spoke about their work during the inspection. Staff told us about relevant training, reading and team discussions to ensure that guidance was fully implemented, and that skills and knowledge were enhanced.

Consistency of care was provided through small teams working within each cohort. Staff knew children very well, had formed strong and trusting relationships with children and their families. They also kept good written account of children's needs and progress. Staff used Seesaw to communicate and share information with parents, in addition to their daily informal conversations. Children were safe, secure and confident in the setting.

This was a committed and caring staff team. They had worked effectively together to reorganise the environment, daily routines and working practices to ensure that children continued to enjoy high quality play and learning experiences within a safe setting. The whole team had contributed to completing the Self-evaluation Key question 5 document, which had increased staff involvement and their understanding of key issues and responsibilities.

Very good teamwork was observed. Staff were supportive and respectful of each other, this created a warm and comfortable atmosphere for children to thrive.

The positive and compassionate team had shared vision, ambition for children and a commitment to families and the local community. The reflective approach to their work ensured the ongoing review and improvement of the service.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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