Auchtertyre Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

The Old School
Balmacara
Kyle
IV40 8EG

Telephone: 01599 566 209

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 June 2022

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003017168

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About the service

Auchtertyre Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 30 children, from the age of three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery operates from within a village community resource. The nursery premises consist of a playroom with kitchen area and direct access to the enclosed outdoor play area, a further large playroom, large reception area with cloakroom facilities and notice boards. The nursery could also access the school playground and playing fields for energetic physical play.

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place between 26 May 2022 and 17 June 2022. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

What people told us

The children present during the session were observed as being very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. There was a very good rapport between the children and staff which allowed for natural and open communication. The children were all engaged in a range of activities throughout the session, both on their own or as a group. Spending time outdoors was particularly popular with the children and they enjoyed the range of activities available there.

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the service as part of this inspection. We assessed the service's improvement plan and quality assurance processes as part of our evidence gathering.

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 evaluated two quality themes, Care and Support and Environment. Both themes have been evaluated as good. We found that there were a number of important strengths which outweigh the areas for improvement. These strengths have a significant positive impact on children's experiences and support positive outcomes.

The children were all happy, settled and relaxed during their time in the nursery. The staff knew all the children well and had formed positive attachments with them. We saw warm and nurturing interactions between staff and children, with staff coming down to children's level to communicate effectively with them. Staff were responsive to the needs of the children and offered comfort and cuddles when required. This supported children to feel safe and respected during their time at the service.

Staff were all aware of and responsive to the individual care needs of the children attending. Each child had a personal plan in place which contained information necessary for staff to meet their needs and ensure consistency and continuity in care routines. Staff had established good working relationships with families and also worked in partnership with other professionals to ensure that they met any specific care needs.

The children were all engaged in their play in a purposeful and meaningful way. We observed them having fun indoors and in the outdoor play areas. Children were encouraged to follow their interests and curiosities and lead their play experiences. Staff offered appropriate levels of provocation to extend the children's learning. They used skilled, open-ended questioning to extend children's curiosity, problem solving skills and promote development of imagination. We saw the children all engrossed in their play in the outdoor area directly accessible from the playroom. We saw the children working together, having fun and becoming involved in their chosen play without interruption.

The children experienced positive and relaxed meal and snack times. They were able to have lunch at a pace which was right for them. The children had their lunch in the school canteen before the primary school children arrived. These were social events where the staff also sat and had their lunch with the children. The children received appropriate levels of support and independence skills were promoted.

The nursery was well maintained, clean, bright and welcoming. The manager and staff continued to develop the playrooms to create a calming, cosy and neutral environment. Both the indoor and outdoor environments offered a good range of learning experiences. Good use was being made of natural, open ended resources both indoors and outdoors. Children were able to direct their own play and activities in a way that they chose. We saw the children who explored happily and were engaged in their play. Consideration had been given to the variety of activities and experiences on offer to stimulate the children's curiosity and imagination.

Being outdoors was popular with all the children and much of their time was spent either in the outdoor play area directly accessible from the playroom or the main primary school playground after lunch. The nursery outdoor space contained a wide range of resources and activities to stimulate their imagination, encourage children to take turns, share and problem solve. The outdoor play areas was well organised, maintained and children had access to a variety of engaging, creative resources for example, a mud kitchen, digging area, loose parts resources, balls, water play, numeracy and literacy resources and mark making.

What the service could do better

Staff were all aware of the individual care needs of the children attending. As part of the inspection, we looked at the personal plans for some of the children. Several of the personal plans contained only limited information. We discussed with the manager, the need to ensure that all personal plans were kept up to date and routinely reviewed.

We discussed with the manager how they might make lunchtime a more family experience and extend the opportunities for the children to develop their independence skills, for example serving themselves veg, salad and drinks. We signposted the manager to useful best practice guidance including 'Food Matters' and 'Setting the Table.' The meal experience could also be improved with replacing the plastic trays with proper crockery.

The layout of the playrooms should be reviewed to ensure that they offer children an environment rich in numeracy and literacy. During the inspection we could see elements of this in different areas however it

needed to be extended across the nursery environment. This would allow children the opportunity to interact with print, text and numbers in their daily play and progress in literacy and numeracy skills.

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.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The provider is to update the service risk assessment to ensure staff and service users are able to fully utilise the resources available in a manner that promotes free play while maintaining a safe environment.

This recommendation is in line with NCS 2 Early Education and Child Care up to the age of 16 -A Safe Environment.

2 Children and young people have access to accommodation which is secure and suitable to meet the needs of all users. Arrangements are in place to make sure of the safety and security of children and young people, inside and outside.

This recommendation was made on 10 May 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation had been actioned. The service had in place appropriate risk assessments which they routinely reviewed and updated.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
10 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
25 Nov 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
16 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
16 Jun 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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