Auldearn Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Auldearn Primary School
Manse Road
Auldearn
Nairn
IV12 5SX

Telephone: 01667 452 118

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 February 2022

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003017169

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About the service

Auldearn Primary School is in the village of Auldearn close to the town of Nairn. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 48 children aged three to primary school age up to 12 years at any one time, with no more than 20 children attending primary school.

The service operates from a new, purpose-built nursery within the school grounds consisting of two bright playrooms with access to an enclosed garden area. Toilets are accessed directly from each playroom, there is a dedicated changing area and a spacious, open-plan cloakroom.

We compiled the report following an unannounced site visit to the service on 27 January 2022 between 10:00 and 14:45. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors, and we gave feedback virtually on 2 February 2022. During this inspection we spoke with the management team and staff. As part of the inspection process, we undertook the following:

- observations of children's play
- discussions with children
- telephone contact with parents
- review of documents such as personal plan. Policies, procedures, minutes of meetings.

What people told us

During our visit, we observed children in the nursery were engaged in their play and relaxed in their environment. Children were playing cooperatively with their peers and were happy to engage with us. They told us they enjoyed playing with the blocks and playing outside.

Parents and carers we spoke with told us they were happy with the service and the care their children received, they were particularly happy with the staff's nurturing care and support during Covid-19. They felt that staff knew their children very well and were responsive to their needs.

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	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

During the inspection we evaluated care and support, and management and leadership. We found a number of important strengths which, taken together, clearly outweigh areas for improvement therefore, both care

and support and management and leadership have been evaluated as good.

Children were happy and content during our inspection. Staff had developed caring and nurturing relationships with the children, supporting them to manage their emotions. Children directed their own play and were having fun. Staff used well-timed questioning to extend children's thinking and promote the development of their imagination. As a result of this children felt secure and valued.

Effective strategies were in place to support children settle and feel secure. One child told the inspector that they had a visual timetable to help them know what they were doing after nursery, "I'm not going there today as it's not on." Children were treated as individuals whose needs and wishes were respected.

Staff felt supported by the management team. The head teacher and depute head teacher spent regular time working on the floor in the nursery and told us they used this time to role model interactions and to get to know the children. This gave staff the opportunity to discuss anything with them informally. Regular staff meetings also gave the whole team the opportunity to discuss what was going well and areas for development. Children experienced consistency in their care as the staff team worked well together.

Mealtimes were a sociable experience for children, they were able to choose where they wanted to sit with their friends. The pace of mealtimes was unhurried and relaxed, children were able to return to their play once they had finished. We discussed with the management team increasing opportunities for children to develop their skills and independence, such as pouring their own drinks and setting the table. When staff had time, they sat with the children and spoke about the food they were eating. Children received support when needed and good manners were promoted.

Staff had made good use of online communication with parents and carers, which helped maintain relationships, especially when parents were unable to come into the nursery on a regular basis. The parents we spoke with told us they received regular updates and photos of what the children had been doing. This helped them feel involved in how their child spent their time in nursery.

What the service could do better

Personal planning was in place for all children, however we found that significant information was not always recorded in these. We discussed the importance of recording information for individual children consistently and routinely. This would ensure that children always received the care and support that was right for them.

The management team acknowledged that formal monitoring was not taking place. Formal monitoring of play and learning should take place to ensure that all children are being supported to reach their potential.

There were no clear processes in place to regularly share information on children's learning with parents and carers. Some parents told us felt they were not well informed about their child's individual learning and progress. Staff and management should develop ways in which to work together with children and families to support children to enjoy their successes and share their achievements.

Some self-evaluation had taken place. Comprehensive systems should be developed to ensure there are no gaps, areas for improvement are identified and the impact of any changes can be evaluated. Regular feedback from parents and carers will enable staff and management to deliver high quality care and support tailored towards children's and families' particular needs and choices.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
12 Sep 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment	4 - Good 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed
29 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
20 Jun 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
25 Jun 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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