St. Ninians Episcopal Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

1-5 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 5RW

Telephone: 01738 477 587

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 November 2021

Service provided by:
Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003370

Service no:
CS2019378388

About the service

St Ninians Episcopal Primary school Nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate in August 2020, and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 24 children not yet attending primary school at any one time:
of those 24 no more than 5 are aged 2 years to under 3 years.

Other conditions unique to the service:
Adult:child ratios will be a minimum of:
2 years to under 3 years - 1:5
3 years and over - 1:8 if the children attend more than 4 hours per day, or
1:10 if the children attend for less than 4 hours per day.

The service is provided from St Ninians Episcopal Primary School and planned with a nursery environment in mind. It is located in Perth close to local shops and residential areas of the town. Children have access to an outdoor space.

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 Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection carried out by two early learning and childcare inspectors on 2 November 2021. We gave feedback to the management team virtually on 9 November 2021.

What people told us

Four parents responded to the questionnaires we sent out during the inspection and we spoke with one parent on the telephone. They all 'strongly agreed' they were happy with the care and support their children received.

Their comments included:

'Very kind and caring staff and my child always comes out with a big smile';
'I cannot fault the nursery one bit';
'The teachers and supporting staff within the nursery are absolutely brilliant with my child';
'My child has enjoyed every moment of nursery and looks forward to going every morning';
'All staff are friendly and very informative';
'Absolutely delighted with St Ninians nursery';
'My child comes home telling me about the planets in our solar system, can name all the dinosaurs, can count to 100 and can spell their own name plus recognise their friend's and siblings' names written down';
'(Staff member) is fantastic with the children and gives updates at the end of the day if there's anything important to know';
"Ask me about...." stickers so parents can have conversations with the children about what they've done, learned that day';
'Brilliant nursery and I'm so glad my child is able to spend their day in such a nurturing environment';
'Communication is good, feel very informed';
'My child comes home telling me about all the learning';

'They really focus on learning';
'Like that Makaton is used as a universal approach all children are included, inclusive nursery';
'Over the moon with the place';
'Don't have any suggestions of improvement, very happy with service'.

Children were happy to engage with us, they told us:

'I like playing';
'I like to play in water tray';
'We like group time';
'We play with boing boing its a space hopper';
'Made all these friend';
'What is in here';
'I have made you a coffee';
'Have a blanket to keep you warm';
'Look what is in here'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. We made some suggestions as to how quality assurance processes could be further developed to give clear direction and drive forward improvements.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered, we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

On the day of inspection there were a small group of children in attendance. We found them to be happy, confident and having fun with their friends. Staff were kind, caring and responsive to children's needs, it was clear that positive and nurturing relationships had been built.

Staff were passionate and committed to getting it right for all children and had high aspirations for the children in their care. We found there was a strong focus on wellbeing. The children had chosen animals to represent each wellbeing indicator, these were embedded into daily routines which supported children in reaching their full potential. We heard staff give children gentle reminders to be safe, responsible, and nurturing. We saw this was reflected in the way children kindly interacted with one another during their play experiences. These sensitive approaches contributed to children feeling valued and respected.

Children were very engaged in their play and learning. We found them to be independent and they were very confident in making choices as they enjoyed periods of uninterrupted play. Planning was responsive to children's interests and ideas which resulted in children leading their own learning. There was a wealth of opportunities available to them and they worked collaboratively with their peers to problem solve and investigate the interesting experiences on offer to them. Parents, staff and children worked together to identify appropriate next steps in learning. We saw that these were monitored, and progress recorded with stars, contributing to children feeling valued.

Children were achieving, we found language development was very well supported. Staff engaged children in conversations and skilfully encouraged them to express themselves. A parent told us they liked the' ask me about' sticker's sent home, to start a conversation on the day's learning activities. This contributed to families feeling included in their child's experiences.

We spoke with staff about the service's child protection policy. We were satisfied that they had a good working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that children were protected.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, we found children being supported to understand the need for good hand hygiene and we saw that the playroom was well ventilated.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered, we evaluated this quality theme as good.

The indoor environment was calm, clean, and inviting, children were cared for in a safe and stimulating environment.

The learning was of high quality. It offered a broad range of resources which were attractively presented and easily accessible to the children. Children had an opportunity to develop their play and learning using natural, open ended resources and objects of interest. We saw the children used real food in their café and they offered us pretend drinks in real crockery. These resources supported children well with creativity, enquiry, problem solving and collaborative play.

We saw children interacted well with displays presented at their level, and there was lots of evidence of children's voice and contributions. Their successes and achievements were well celebrated throughout the

nursery. This supported children to feel valued and respected.

Children had free flow access to a nursery garden. On the morning of the inspection this area was not used. We found it lacked resources and materials to promote investigation and curiosity. The service should consider developing the outdoor area further to inspire children's curiosity in their natural environment. Staff told us the outdoor area was a priority of service improvement planning and we agreed this area should be prepared and made available to the children throughout the nursery session.

Children had some opportunities to engage with their local community. They confidently told us of a recent outing to the local library. Staff told us they had identified children's engagement with their local community and celebrating their wider achievements as an area of improvement.

Lunchtime was a sociable and unhurried experience with some opportunities for children's choice and independence. The children used real crockery and utensils and we heard good discussions on healthy eating and nutrition. Staff sat with children, role modelled and promoted manners. We suggested that staff consider eating with the children to further promote the family meal experience. Staff should now consider other opportunities they could make available to the children to support responsibility and self-help skills during their lunch experience.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

Staff empowered children and supported them to persevere with activities which encouraged independence and life skills. Staff were held in very high regard by parents. They knew children and their families well. This was confirmed in comments made in the returned questionnaires and though our discussion with a parent during the inspection. They told us 'The staff have taken the time to get to know my child, they know the children as individuals'. Staff used this information to provide the appropriate support which ensured children received consistent care.

The small staff team worked well together. We found they were very skilled, motivated, and committed to providing positive outcomes for children. The staff told us they felt well supported and valued by the manager and were happy within their roles. They identified strongly with the service and a strong team ethos was evident which supported children to feel safe and secure.

Staff were reflective practitioners and clearly wanted the very best for the children within their care. They

were very knowledgeable and well trained. We found staff to have a very good understanding of current guidance and how they used this to enhance children's experiences.

Staff confidently told us of their learning and how they shared this with their colleagues. They used their extensive knowledge of early education and childcare to support children to reach their full potential. Interactions in children's play were sensitive, well considered and well timed. We found staff used effective questioning techniques which supported children to extend their thinking and learning.

Effective communication between staff and the manager worked well within the small staff team. They regularly discussed their progress and development which contributed to a shared approach in providing good outcomes for children. Staff told us they had opportunities for professional discussion and how areas of the service were to be improved. Staff should now record these meetings and how any improvements identified will be actioned.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality theme as good.

The manager and staff team had a clear vision for the service and the manager was committed to ensuring the service was ran well. She told us of her plans to invest more time for nursery developments and was working on improvement planning when we arrived at the service. The improvement plan was ambitious and following a recent support visit from the local authority the manager was working on reducing key priorities. We agreed this would help priority planning to be achieved. In addition, it would allow for effective measuring of progress to support positive change.

Staff benefitted from leadership roles. These were linked with improvement priorities. We found that the levels of staff experience complemented each other well. There was an ethos of mutual respect between the staff team which promoted positive outcomes for everyone.

The service demonstrated a commitment to ongoing self-evaluation which involved staff and children. The nursery staff through consultation with the children had evaluated improvement priorities and identified next steps in achieving its aims. Parent's felt involved in the service, they told us they had opportunities to give feedback at pick up times. We asked the manager to develop systems to engage parents more in evaluating the service and use the information gathered to inform future improvements and influence change.

We looked at the quality assurance processes. The nursery staff worked from a quality assurance calendar that ensured their roles and responsibilities were monitored and reviewed. We suggested the manager implement a quality assurance framework to support them with the monitoring of important aspects of service delivery and review them on a regular basis. When fully introduced this process will contribute positively, to the overall running and monitoring of the service and support improving outcomes further for children.

The service had a full range of policies which supported staff to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the children. These were kept under review and updated when necessary.

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we had confidence that the centre had the capacity to continue their improvement journey.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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