Haugh of Urr Nursery
Day Care of Children

Hardgate Primary School
Haugh of Urr
Castle Douglas
DG73LD

Telephone: 01556660070

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 April 2023

Service provided by:
Haugh of Urr Nursery

Service provider number:
SP2022000042

Service no:
CS2022000065

About the service

Haugh of Urr Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 26 children not yet attending primary school at any one time; no more than 26 are aged 2 years to those not yet attending primary school full time, with no more than 5 aged 2 to under 3.

The nursery is located within the grounds of Hardgate Primary School in the village of Hardgate, Dumfries and Galloway. It is close to the local primary school, forest area, local amenities, and bus routes.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced which took place on 18th April 2023. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with ten people using the service
- gathered feedback from twenty one of their family from online questionnaires
- spoke with six staff and management
- spoke with one chair person on the parent committee
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children were happy and confident in the nursery
- Children were supported by a caring and nurturing staff team
- Children accessed an environment that was warm, welcoming and inviting
- The manager should continue with plans to effectively record and track children's learning journeys in the nursery

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, play and learning?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning? 4 - Good

1:1 Nurturing care and support

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children were happy and settled throughout the inspection and it was evident they had formed positive relationships with each other and the team. Children were supported by warm, caring and nurturing staff who were kind and respectful towards them, taking time to listen and respond. This ensured children felt valued and loved in the nursery. Children we spoke to told us their favourite thing to do in nursery was play with their friends.

Children experienced a sociable lunchtime with peers as they could choose who they would like to sit beside. Children's independence and life skills could be further enhanced with opportunities to set up the tables, collect cutlery and cups while they wait for hot meals to be served by staff. We spoke to the manager on the day of inspection and are confident our suggestions will be considered and improvements made. Water was available throughout the day for children to remain hydrated.

Personal Learning Plans (PLP) were in place for each child which were shared regularly with families. Information gathered within personal plans supported meeting children's needs. For example their likes, dislikes and interests. However not all PLPs demonstrated progression in learning, next steps and how the team would support individuals to achieve this. Staff were conducting observation of children's learning however the manager should monitor children's online learning journals and PLPs to ensure a consistent approach to recording achievements and identifying next steps in learning.

We sampled the nurserie's medication policy and consent forms. We suggested they are updated to reflect current Health and Social Care standards. We also highlighted that all medication stored within the nursery should be clearly labelled with children's name and date of birth in line with the current health guidance 'Management of Medication in Day care and Childminding Services'.

Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. They had attended child protection training and knew how to address any concerns. Children were supported to feel safe and nurture by the manager and staff who recognised the benefits of partnership working with parents and other agencies. Regular communication with other key agencies ensured the team had up to date information to support children's current needs and any changes in the child's life. All parents who responded to our questionnaire agreed they felt their child was safe whilst in the setting.

1:3 Play and Learning

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

Children were meaningfully involved in leading their play and learning through a balance of spontaneous and planned high quality experiences that promoted children's choice and independence. Staff members responded well to children's initiations of play and supported them to engage in risky play opportunities, problem-solving, working together and imaginative play which enhanced their play and learning.

One parent told us "Their approach to learning and play is fantastic. The creativity and use of resources in a manner that is developmentally appropriate is refreshing."

Children's interests were recognised, scaffolded and extended by staff providing a variety of creative and innovative approaches that sparked children's curiosity and imagination. On the day of inspection we observed children create a track for cars using a variety of wooden planks, crates and chalk. Children also engaged in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities with a member of staff and explored different weights and shapes using scales.

Staff had a very good understanding of child development, relevant theory, and practice, and skilfully use this to support high quality play and learning experiences. The manager and staff were proactive at identifying, planning and implementing additional support required for individual children and their families.

How good is our setting? 5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

The setting was very comfortable, furnished to a high standard and welcoming for the children. The room had natural light and was ventilated. The nursery had embedded the Hygge approach into the environment, which ensured the space was warm, homely with soft lighting and materials. This gave a strong message to children that they mattered. One parent told us "It has such a cosy and welcoming atmosphere which is what drew me to it in the first place".

Toys and resource were structured to meet the needs and interests of the children attending. Children could lead their play as they could easily access toys and equipment at their level. Children could move equipment around the space available which ensured their play and learning was not interrupted. Respecting their right to choose.

Natural, opened ended materials were available to stimulate children's curiosity and extended their play. Loose parts play was also supported by a variety of materials readily available for children. One parent told us "They have lots of lovely resources to choose from."

Infections prevention and control measures were in place in line with current guidelines and best practice. Toilets were clean and accessible for children. The setting had an adequate supply of personal protective equipment which was stored appropriately. Children were confident in handwashing and could tell us when they should wash their hands and how to do this. This ensured a safe environment for the children and staff.

Risk assessments were in place for all areas and activities within the setting. Mitigation measures were well considered and realistic.

How good is our leadership? 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The nursery had created a vision, values and aims in partnership with families. Aspirations for the service were shared by all team members and supported by the manager which showed us the service has a good capacity for change. All members of the team inputted into the improvement plan for the service. Championship roles were being developed within the team following introduction of the Planning in the Moment approach.

The manager was visible in the setting to children, families, and staff. They created conditions in the nursery where people felt confident to discuss their ideas, opinions or if needed, concerns. Staff told us they were listened to and their ideas for improvements were respected. This supported a positive team ethos, which was also highlighted by families as a strength of the service. All parents strongly agreed the manager had the right abilities and skill to lead the service to a high standard.

Children were at the heart of any changes and improvements in the nursery. The team met weekly to discuss what was working well within the nursery and any areas they wanted to improve. We discussed ensuring the children voice was being recorded as part of the improvement process. One parent told us "The manager is passionate in her role and works hard to ensure all the needs are met for all the children".

The manager, in partnership with the staff, should continue to develop quality assurance processes which will support sustained improvements in the service. This should include further development of the online learning journals for recording, tracking and monitoring of planning and children's learning using the planning in the moment approach.

Staff were encouraged to reflect on their practice in a meaningful way which supported sustained and continuous development for them as individuals and the service as a whole. The manager should continue to develop opportunities for staff to continue to grow their knowledge, practice and learning to support sustained and continuous development for them as individuals and the nursery as a whole. Using supervision and appraisal sessions to highlight not just areas of strength, but developments, goals and championship roles.

Views of families had been actively sought to support the development of the setting. This was achieved through questions of the month, newsletters, and evaluation forms, information received was then discussed as a team and used to inform planning and improvement plans and review any changes made with in the nursery.

The nursery had a complaints policy and procedure in place which followed good practice guidelines however the Care Inspectorate contact details should be updated.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

Children were supported in a nursery that was appropriately staffed to meet their individual health, wellbeing and safety needs. Continuity of care and effective communication was promoted by the manager and the team minimised the impact of staff breaks on children during their time at the nursery. Effective use of the teams differing skills, knowledge and experience ensured the children stayed safe and stimulated through out their day. One parent told us the staff are "all compassionate, well trained and experienced professionals."

Children experienced a warm, caring and nurturing setting as good working relationships and effective communication had been established between the team, senior management and families. We found staff worked well together within the playrooms. They were respectful in their interactions with each other, creating a positive ethos and role models for the children. One parent told us "The staff seem to work really well as a team".

Staff were proactive and flexible in their deployments throughout the day, they followed the children between the indoors and outdoors, which ensured children led their play and engaged in free flow opportunities whilst remaining safe.

Complaints

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

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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