

Torphins School Nursery Day Care of Children

Beltie Road
Torphins
Banchory
AB31 4JT

Telephone: 013398 82269

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 20 January 2017

Service provided by:
Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000029

Care service number:
CS2003015746

About the service

Torphins School Nursery has been registered since 2002. The service is registered to provide a daycare of children service to a maximum of 20 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery is operated by the service provider, Aberdeenshire Council. It is located in Torphins, close to local amenities.

The main aims of the service include "to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children can feel happy and secure", "to promote the welfare of children", "to create opportunities for play" and "to provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination".

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What people told us

During the inspection we found children were happy and settled. They had clearly formed very good relationships with the staff. Children readily approached staff who responded in a nurturing, respectful and caring manner. Some of the older children told us activities they enjoyed whilst at the nursery, these included playing outside and playing with the cars.

We sent out seven Care Standards Questionnaires and four were completed and returned to us. When asked about the overall quality of care their child received at the service:

- three parents indicated they were very satisfied
- one parent indicated they were satisfied.

Overall, the parent questionnaires and discussions with parents indicated parents were very pleased with the service provided. Parents spoken with found the staff helpful and approachable and felt confident to raise any concerns. Parents told us their children enjoyed coming to the nursery and found the staff to be caring. They particularly liked the very good access to outdoor play. Comments from parents included:

- "The staff have always been very helpful anytime I've had to speak to them".
- "As a parent with a very shy child this nursery and it's teachers have bought out their confidence and seen them try lots of new things which we think is great".
- "My child loves attending nursery and the staff and the environment are great".

Self assessment

The service submitted a self-assessment online in advance of the inspection taking place. It gave relevant information for each of the quality themes and identified areas for improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff worked with parents to ensure children's needs were met in a warm and nurturing environment. Staff knew the children well and cared for them in a respectful and responsive manner. Detailed information had been gathered to support staff to meet children's needs; this was updated as children's needs changed. As a result children were happy and confident in the service and their care and support needs were being met.

Procedures were in place to safeguard children. All staff attended regular child protection training. Staff spoken with had a good understanding of child protection issues and were confident with the procedure to follow in the event of any concerns. A child protection policy was in place to provide guidance for staff. The child protection policy should be updated to refer to the current national guidance.

Very good arrangements were in place to support children to transition from other services into the nursery, as well as from the nursery onto school. There were a range of opportunities provided to ensure children were fully supported and confident with the transition.

Children were supported to be healthy and active. Snacks provided were healthy and we saw staff talking with children to develop their understanding of healthy foods. Children had very good access to outdoor play with a range of interesting learning experiences to support them to achieve their potential. The door to the outdoor area was left open to allow children to freely choose whether to play indoors or outdoors, this supported children to make choices and be independent. However, at the time of the inspection it was extremely cold, meaning it was very cold for the children inside who were not dressed appropriately. We discussed other ways this could be managed when it was very cold.

There was a high level of importance placed on parental participation. This resulted in close partnership working between the staff and the parents to support children throughout their time at the nursery. Staff valued children's views and used their views to involve children in determining the direction they wanted to take their learning.

All staff were qualified and registered, or in the process of registering, with an appropriate professional body. Staff were keen to develop their skills and knowledge and had attended a range of training. We saw this training impacting positively on their practice. Regular team meetings were held where staff evaluated the sessions and identified improvements. Staff had a clear understanding of the improvement plans they were working on. We saw evidence of the identified improvements areas being worked on by staff.

Staff were enthusiastic and keen to provide good quality care and experiences for the children. They readily used praise and children's achievements were celebrated. This helped build children's self-esteem and confidence.

What the service could do better

The staff team was relatively new and had formed positive working relationships. However, they were still identifying the best ways to work together to provide consistently high quality experiences for the children. For example, staff interactions to extend children's learning were not yet consistent to ensure children were being supported to achieve their potential. The opportunities for children to develop their independence at snack time was also inconsistent. The head teacher was aware of this and was providing support to the staff team.

Some of the infection control practices in the service needed to be improved to reduce the risk of spreading infection. Staff were due to attend training on infection control shortly. The head teacher advised she would ensure staff put their learning from the training into practice.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
25 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
11 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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