

Oakbank Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Viewlands Road West
Perth
PH1 1NA

Telephone: 01738 447577

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 24 January 2018

Service provided by:
Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003370

Care service number:
CS2003017340

About the service

Oakbank Primary School Nursery class operates from a large, purpose-built classroom within Oakbank Primary school in the city of Perth. Children have direct access, through the main nursery classroom, to an enclosed nursery garden.

The nursery is registered under the following conditions: 'To provide a care service to a maximum of 55 children of an age not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than five will be age 2-3 years.'

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection which was carried out by two inspectors and took place on 24 January 2018. We gave feedback to the head teacher and her depute with responsibility for early years, at the end of our inspection.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIREFEC), 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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

The service shares the school's vision which is: 'Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow' Ambition Community Opportunity Respect Nurture.

The nursery has a comprehensive list of aims which can be accessed on the school's website.

What people told us

We provided the service with 26 questionnaires for parents of children using the service. Fifteen completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. All of those who completed our questionnaires agreed or strongly agreed that overall they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received while in the service. A number of parents 'didn't know' or 'disagreed' with a number of statements. We explored their concerns as part of our inspection.

We spoke to a number of parents and carers on the day of inspection, they confirmed the findings from our questionnaires. The comments from which included:

'The nursery staff are very friendly and welcoming to parents and children. My daughter's learning and confidence has come on greatly since she started. I am a little disappointed with the topics they cover, they don't seem to be very child led or hugely stimulating.'

'My son is very happy at Oakbank Nursery. However recent staff changes have led to disruption and uncertainty that is no good for anyone. The staffing issue needs to be resolved so that a nursery teacher is re-instated asap.'

'I feel Oakbank Nursery is slightly over populated and children may not be getting the attention that they could/ should have. Overall a very good nursery and I am a happy parent.'

'As a brand new purpose-built nursery I think it is very disappointing how small the Oakbank Nursery is. I also think that the outdoor space is limited due to it not having grass/natural ground for the children to explore. Due to the lack of space both indoors and out I feel the resources and experiences for the children are a lot more limited than I have witnessed in a number of other nursery settings.'

The service offers a variety of placements, part-time morning and afternoon sessions, full-time sessions as well as two-year old placements. On the day of inspection 49 children attended in the morning and 44 children in the afternoon of whom 16 attended all day, accessing the lunchtime provision.

During the inspection we observed the children at play and found them to be happy and confident, enjoying their activities, snack and lunches. They were keen to involve us in their play and to share their learning with us. The children were happy to tell us about the nursery and the things they enjoyed doing there. They told us:

'This is rugby!'

'There is no hippopotamus in nursery, I only found muddy puddles.'

'I had blueberries for breakfast!'

'The glue is over here, look!'

'Look I've got sausages. I'm not having this one, it's squished.'

'I wonder what's in my sandwich? It might be ham or cheese. Look it is cheese!'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

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 considered the quality of care and support, from the evidence gathered during our inspection we evaluated this theme as good. We also looked at the quality of the environment which we evaluated as good.

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 service users were protected.

We saw that the staff knew the children and their parents well, they enjoyed positive nurturing relationships. This was confirmed by the parents and carers we spoke to. We observed staff to be respectful and encouraging with most giving children time, where needed, to answer and to find their own solutions to problems encountered during their learning and play. The children shared achievements with staff throughout our visit and these were celebrated appropriately. Families were encouraged to share children's wider achievements and these were displayed on a SHANARRI 'achievers board' in the cloakroom area.

We saw that children were busy and purposeful. They interacted well together and made use of the space and resources available to them. Children were seen to be confident and were familiar with routines and processes. They were given the opportunity to select areas and activities of interest for themselves. Most of the resources supported children's independence, providing them with opportunities to investigate and be creative.

Staff told us that parents and carers were given a range of opportunities to be involved in the life of the nursery through stay and play sessions and open days. They were encouraged to give feedback about the service and the experiences they provided. Dates had been identified for parents and carers to come in to the nursery to update children's All About Me information and to set individual learning targets.

The outdoor area provided children with free flow opportunities to explore and be creative as well as providing them with experiences using more traditional resources. We observed children being active and enjoying their play.

Staff had begun to introduce some loose parts (the provision of open-ended resources) and we observed children being creative and working collaboratively to solve problems together. We were told that staff would be attending training on loose parts over the coming weeks.

What the service could do better

We shared the parental concerns identified through our questionnaires and discussions with parents and carers with the management team. The management team was relatively new and they had already identified a number of areas for improvement. They told us that due to staffing shortages within the school they no longer had a full-time nursery teacher. Support was now being offered by the recently appointed deputy head and a support teacher from the council's early years team.

We looked at children's learning journals. Some staff observations were descriptions of children's activities. We suggested that staff should ensure observations were significant and reflected children's individual achievements. We were unable to find next steps for learning in the children's journals. Children would benefit from reviewing their own learning and identifying their own next steps. Regular monitoring of the folders would ensure consistency. Staff should begin to develop a responsive planning tool to ensure they capture and document children's learning and interests. A number of floorbooks illustrated how staff were consulting with children however this did not translate onto the nursery plans. We observed a number of missed learning opportunities where staff could have further developed children's interests.

We looked at medications and the information contained in permission sheets. We would ask the service to ensure that permission sheets are all fully completed and that any medications administered by staff are recorded and signed by the staff member giving the medication and by the parent or carer of the child receiving the medication. See requirement 1.

Accidents and incidents were recorded and shared appropriately with parents. We would ask the service to ensure that a regular audit of accidents and incidents is carried out to identify common features and how the service intends to minimise any identified risks to children. Staff had recently updated risk assessments. We suggested that the children should be included in risk assessing their environment to develop their awareness of their own personal safety and the safety of others.

We asked staff to consider how they could further develop the room identified for children accessing the 'strong start 2's' provision, to make it feel warmer and create a nurturing environment. Staff should consider the range of resources on offer and the value and purpose of the wall displays.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. The service must review its practice to ensure that the administration of medication is safe. The necessary paperwork must be completed fully, including when medication has been administered. Permissions must state exactly the circumstances when medication should be given.

This is in order to comply with: Regulation 4 (1)(a) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI /210).

Timescale: by Wednesday 28 February 2018.

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	
30 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
17 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
10 May 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Feb 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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