

Holm Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Stratherrick Road
Inverness
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Telephone: 01463 232697

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 8 November 2016

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Care service number:
CS2003017218

About the service

Holm Primary School Nursery is based in a residential area of Inverness and in the grounds of the primary school. The nursery has its own entrance and enclosed play area. The accommodation which was purpose built was all on the one level. A small fully enclosed play area is situated to the rear of the nursery and can be accessed directly from the playroom. The service provides both morning and afternoon sessions Monday to Friday during the school term. Extended care is available for the morning children only.

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 and can care for up to 16 children at any one time.

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.

The aims of the service were to:

Holm School is a learning community where everyone is capable of improving and high standards are promoted for all. The expectation is that the whole school, teachers, parents and the children take responsibility for improvement and that high quality learning and teaching should be at the heart of the school.

In Holm School we aim to enable all children to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. We do this by:

Successful learners

- Promoting achievement and high expectations of children and staff
- Celebrating successes both within and outwith the school environment
- Encouraging independence and creative thinking
- Providing a learning environment which stimulates and motivates pupils
- Involving children in dialogue about their learning which encourages them to make choices about their learning
- Providing opportunities to explore a wide range of experiences
- Using new technologies to enrich learning

Responsible citizens

- Promoting a pride in ourselves, our peers, school and community
- Fostering a positive atmosphere of respect and tolerance for others
- Encouraging the use of good manners with the expectation of self discipline
- Involving children in many ways in the life and work of the school
- Recognising the importance and influences of the wider community

Confident individuals

- Ensuring children are acquiring a range of skills and abilities relevant for living in the 21st Century
- Ensuring a safe and supportive atmosphere where a positive and healthy sense of self-worth can flourish
- Listening to and valuing others' views and contributions to enable confident and well-informed decision making
- Encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle

Effective contributors

- Promoting confidence in our own abilities
- Promoting a positive ethos throughout the school
- Encouraging initiative
- Providing opportunities to be individual thinkers and collaborative learners
- Being open-minded

We value parents, outside agencies and local community as partners in children's learning.

We encourage an open, supportive climate where all staff work effectively as a team, reflecting and evaluating their practice to improve learning and teaching.

We compiled the report following an unannounced inspection, which took place between 8:30am and 3:30pm on 7 November 2016. Feedback was given to the manager on 8 November. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate inspector.

As requested by us, the service sent us an annual return.

We issued questionnaires to parents of children who used the service. Four completed questionnaires were returned before the inspection.

At this inspection, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documents.

What people told us

Views of children

Children arrived with big smiles and were keen to enter the playroom to meet with staff and friends. The day's news along with pleasantries was exchanged before the children got down to playing and exploring.

Children were warmly welcomed by staff who encouraged them to explore and experiment both in and out of doors.

Children were able to make choices and request specific activities or games when attending.

We spoke to a number of parents who made the following comments:

"This is my third child to attend Holm Nursery and I can honestly say I have been delighted with all aspects of the nursery".

"Staff are very approachable at drop off and collection. They are developing each child to be more responsible, getting them to take on/off shoes, hang up a bag, and walk into class independently. A safe environment is always displayed in class. Very happy with the overall care given to my child".

"Very organised nursery and not too busy. Teachers can't do enough to help".

"My daughter has recently started Holm Nursery and I am very pleased with the setting and the teachers. She has settled well and I look forward to working with the teachers where necessary".

"We as parents have been very impressed with the attention and care our children have received at Holm Nursery".

Self assessment

The self assessment gave a fair reflection of how the service was provided.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Children and parents were warmly greeted by a member of staff who welcomed them at the entrance each morning. Information for parents on how the service was delivered which included the Curriculum for Excellence was displayed within the entrance.

Observation of practice and conversations with parents confirmed that information on children's health and wellbeing was exchanged when dropping off or picking up children. Parents could also telephone or request a meeting with staff, who they found very approachable, if they wished to discuss any aspects of their child's care.

Parents were invited to 'play and stay' sessions, parental evenings and to accompany children on outings, all of which gave them the opportunity to view how the service was delivered and to talk with staff.

Questionnaires for parents and carers were distributed for comments, which were carefully considered and taken into consideration.

Children enjoyed attending the sessions as there was lots of laughter and chatter with staff who listened attentively and encouraged the children to identify their own learning by encouraging free play and supporting them to identify their individual learning. Mind-maps and floor books (participation tools) evidenced children's choices and the routes they wished to follow when investigating themes.

Infection control procedures were in place and very good hand washing was evident. Parents were informed of exclusion periods for children who were unwell and outdoor play was part of the children's day.

Members of staff had attended child protection training along with first aid and food hygiene workshops.

The nursery was all on the one level and children were able to access the toilets independently. Furniture and fittings were appropriate for the age of children attending and there was ample floor space for children to play on. Children could access toys and games independently along with requesting help from staff to investigate learning on the World Wide Web. Members of staff assisted children's learning by drawing a real life size giraffe in chalk on the playground as well as making models and encouraging children to measure and weigh everyday objects to understand size and mass.

Literacy was promoted through books, displays, story time, songs and rhymes.

Outside play to the enclosed play area was available for most of the time and children also had access to the sports field and play gym. Children enjoyed playing with the trikes and scooters and the beginnings of the mud kitchen.

What the service could do better

Children were very keen to share their learning journeys with the inspector and their parents. To encourage this; the nursery could place folders in the foyer on specific days for parental viewing. Encouraging children to make choices by offering a number of learning objectives (picture cards) when they first start the nursery may help them to understand that choices can be made when it comes to 'stepping stones'.

The outdoor learning space would benefit from having additional resources to stimulate and further challenge the children. Developing this area that reflects what is available indoors whilst offering different challenges may be appreciated by the children.

The morning session should consider the use of circle time, free flow and how the day is structured. There was good evidence in the afternoon of how snack time and story time were rescheduled as the children were very involved in learning activities outdoors.

Children were able to access the toilets independently though some of the younger children had not the strength to operate the push down taps. Within the play room; again the sinks for children were at their height but due to width (standard kitchen sink) smaller children had difficulty in reaching taps.

Only one IT station was available for children and frustrations were evident from waiting children. Timers were introduced by staff to ease this problem. The service should assess if another IT station is required.

Two parents did comment that trips for the children outwith the nursery were limited and that the children may enjoy visiting local places of interest.

Nappy changing was discussed at this inspection with members of staff. Identifying an area and equipment that is suitable for both services (Pink Panther and Holm Nursery) should be considered.

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	
11 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
15 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Nov 2008	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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