

Deshar Primary Nursery Class

Day Care of Children

Deshar Primary School
Deshar Road
Boat of Garten
PH24 3BU

Telephone: 01479 831226

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

11 September 2018

Service provided by:

Highland Council

Service provider number:

SP2003001693

Service no:

CS2003015983

About the service

The service is a part of Deshar Primary School which serves the Highland village of Boat of Garten. The service operates from a small playroom which is part of the main school. The nursery children have access to sizeable and secure outdoor areas.

The nursery have clear aims which include:

- To be a happy, safe secure and nurturing nursery.
- To promote a positive ethos of achievement by celebrating success.
- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum, promoting active and collaborative learning.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 10 children from three years up to but not yet attending primary school. Two adults will work in the service at all times.

On the day of the inspection there were eight children attending the morning session along with two members of staff.

Deshar Primary School Nursery was first registered by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) on 1 April 2011.

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.

What people told us

We received four completed questionnaires in advance of the inspection. All of those who responded told us that they strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children in the service. During the inspection we spoke to parents and their comments were positive.

They told us,

- "There are added extras and my child really benefits from forest schools plus other outings outside at other times. They recently had dancing at Nethy. It is really positive to forge links with other schools."
- "I love it here. The staff tell me lots and I know that he is always safe."
- "I am so happy that we are here."
- "I love that the children are outside so much."
- "It is so great that the children in nursery mix so much with the children in the rest of the school."
- "They are really great with any medical needs."
- "They make the best of a very small space."

The children were happy to tell us the things they enjoyed about nursery, and they told us:

- "We are making a campfire. Look it's getting bigger."
- "Can I be your partner when we go outside. I want to be at the front."
- "I like this game. We can put the colours together."
- "I don't like pineapple."

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	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

Deshar had a welcoming and nurturing ethos. Children were cared for by staff who knew them well. The staff team had been consistent over a number of years, and they were liked by the parents. Staff listened to children and followed their ideas and interests. Topics were planned using these.

They worked effectively with parents and partner agencies to meet the needs of all children and offered them appropriate support. Children were encouraged to be independent. New children were being settled into the nursery routines and were coping well.

The children had regular opportunities to play outdoors. They spent time each day in the garden, playground and grassed areas around the school. This helped to promote their physical health and fitness. They had a weekly forest school experience where they collaborated with both of the other classes in the school. This benefitted the children by allowing them to work alongside their older peers, siblings and teaching staff.

The children had a variety of different learning experiences presented by specialist staff who worked in the nursery to promote learning. The limited space in the playroom had some impact on the experiences that could be provided for the children. Staff did their best to promote learning in early literacy and numeracy through activities and games. At the time of the inspection the headteacher had made an additional room available to the nursery, and they were beginning to make plans as to how to put it to the best use.

The staff used their training in food hygiene and infection control to protect the health and wellbeing of the children. They understood their responsibilities to protect children. They had regular child protection training and knew the systems which were in place for recording and reporting any concerns. Children's food allergies and intolerances were understood and well managed by staff.

The nursery had a strong commitment to quality assurance and self-evaluation. A monitoring calendar ensured that this was regular and rigorous. As a result the management team had a very clear knowledge of the nursery strengths and development needs.

The headteacher and principal teacher were regular visitors to the nursery and were supporting staff to improve the quality of experiences and outcomes for the children. They had identified training for staff which supported them in their professional development. This now needed to be embedded into their daily practice.

What the service could do better

During the inspection we identified some areas where we considered the nursery could improve. We looked at the service approach to the administration of medication. We asked that they reviewed this using the most recent best practice guidance.

We looked at the learning journals for each of the children. These had observations of children's play but did not regularly identify significant learning or next steps for the children to achieve.

The staff should consider how learning journeys are used to reflect the individual attainment and achievements for each child. Where appropriate children should contribute to their own learning journeys and identify their own learning targets. Through their planning the staff should consider how to better meet the learning needs of all children. The learning opportunities should be differentiated to give pace and challenge appropriate to the individual children's ages and stages of understanding. This is to allow all children to meet their full learning potential.

We saw that during the nursery session there was lots of time when children were kept waiting for each other. All children should be able to have more choice in their activities and have long periods of uninterrupted play to encourage them to explore and develop skills. The current structure of the day did not allow this to happen. We asked that they reviewed their organisation of their sessions. We suggested that the staff work with small groups or individuals more often and gave children more choice in how they spent their time, by decreasing the time spent in whole group activities.

The service was facing some challenges in offering a snack which gave choice and an independent experience for children. We would like to have seen the children having choice when they had snack and allowing it to be a seamless part of the nursery session. We gave some advice on how this could be achieved.

We were confident in the ability of the staff and the management team to meet the areas of improvement outlined in this report.

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
29 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
1 Jun 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
4 Dec 2009	Announced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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