

Craigclowan Preparatory School Pre School Day Care of Children

Edinburgh Road
Perth
PH2 8PS

Telephone: 01738 626310

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

24 January 2019

Service provided by:

Craigclowan Preparatory PreSchool

Service provider number:

SP2003003587

Service no:

CS2003016198

About the service

Craigclowan Preparatory School Pre School operates from a building located in the grounds of Craigclowan Preparatory School close to the centre of Perth. The pre school consists of a large playroom downstairs and an additional play space upstairs which is used for snack. The children have access to a wide range of outdoor areas including a forest school, the mound, a garden and a play area. The children also make use of the school gym hall for active and physical play.

The nursery registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2002 to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children at any one time. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection carried out by two inspectors which took place on 24 January 2019. We gave feedback to the head of pre school at the end of the inspection.

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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

The pre school aims are as follows:

- To give children in our care the best possible start in life.
- To be a caring family community where childhood is cherished.
- To provide an extensive pre-school curriculum which caters for the child's individual needs.

A full list of aims are available from the service.

What people told us

We provided the service with ten Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) for parents of children using the service. Nine completed questionnaires were returned to us before the inspection. All of those who completed our questionnaires agreed and strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care and support their child received while in the service.

Parent's comments from the questionnaires included:

'The experience our son has had since starting at Craigclowan has far exceeded our expectations, we couldn't be happier. Within six weeks of starting we received his first report which summed up our child perfectly and shared that they had really got to know him. Each member of staff knows him personally and has a full understanding of his idiosyncrasies! He really is thriving at Craigclowan.'

'Fantastic team of staff who know the children very well. Talk to and welcome the children at drop off as well as discussions with parents. Great space, facilities and opportunities. My little boy loved his swimming. Very healthy lunches, table manners all encouraged. My child loves his school lunches.'

'We feel completely happy with the level of care, variety of activities and extra curricular activities (from yoga to French). She loves and respects her teachers. The food is fantastic and she is happy and well cared for.'

'I am pleased that the service has been responsive to my child's dietary needs.'

'Craigclowan Pre School is everything we could hope for or want for our child. The staff throughout the school are encouraging, loving and supportive. My son is very happy here and we have been very pleased with the school.'

We had the opportunity to speak with parents during our inspection. They confirmed that they were very happy with the service provided.

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

'It's freezing outside. It's freezing on the ice and outside.'

'What's your name? My name is xxx. I like playing in the house.'

'I'm making a picture for my mum.'

'I have a big orange train.'

'At pre school we do snacks and lunches because that's what we do.'

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 working knowledge of their responsibilities and the procedures to ensure that children were protected from harm.

Staff clearly knew the children and families well and used what they knew to support and meet their needs. We observed warm and nurturing relationships between staff and children which were kind and respectful and we saw that children's ideas were taken forward as staff took a responsive approach to planning. Staff provided a good overview of children's learning and activities through children's monthly tracking records which were readily accessible to children and parents. Learning was also shared through home link jotters giving families the opportunity to work in partnership with the pre school.

Transitions were well thought out and considered which enabled children to feel safe and supported when moving on from pre school. The service had reflected on the previous transition programme and had identified ways to improve the experience for children. We liked how families had been consulted on the changes made to the transition programme to ensure they were included and involved.

Children had plenty of space to play and explore in pre school. The children had good opportunities to be healthy and active making regular use of the gym hall and playing outside. Staff had given careful thought to ensuring the outdoor areas provided children with opportunities to be creative, problem solve and explore their natural environment. The children had the opportunity to experience a broad range of activities using both traditional and natural resources. They also had opportunities to participate in a range of activities including French, swimming and yoga.

We observed the lunchtime provision and found this to be of a very high standard. Lunchtime was an enjoyable experience for the children which was unhurried and relaxed. The pre school children were given the opportunity to be independent, serving themselves when visiting the extensive salad bar which encouraged them to be responsible.

Tea and Tot sessions provided very good links with the wider community reaching out to families in the local area.

What the service could do better

We looked at children's monthly tracking records. Staff should ensure that observations are significant and personal to individual children. Next steps, where identified, should be meaningful, measurable and achievable.

Staff should further develop floorbooks to ensure that children's interests are recorded and that they are more involved in planning, evaluating and reviewing their own learning. Staff should ensure that all entries are dated. We would like to see more evidence of children's early and emergent writing within the floorbooks and more opportunity for them to take ownership and responsibility of their learning.

Staff told us that children were consulted about the resources. We asked that this be further developed for all areas of the playroom. We suggested they could use mind maps to record their ideas and suggestions. This would enable children to be more involved in making decisions about their play spaces.

We observed some interruptions to children's play and missed opportunities to extend their learning. We would ask that the service reflects on how interruptions can be minimised and that staff reflect on their use of effective questioning to further extend children's learning. We suggested that they revisit the messages contained in 'Building the Ambition' - National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare.

We looked at medication permission and administration forms. We suggested some changes to ensure medication paperwork follows current best practice guidance including ensuring records are fully completed and are countersigned.

Whilst we acknowledged that a refurbishment is planned for the pre school, staff should consider changes which need to be made. This should include thinking about visual harmony, the organisation of the space available and softening the area where children rest and relax. Staff should also ensure that they follow current best practice guidance in relation to infection control. This should include the removal of items from the storage area in the toilets.

We would ask staff to consider reviewing their snack policy to enable them to manage food allergies more easily and to offer children opportunities to be involved in snack preparation.

Accidents and incidents were recorded and shared with parents. We would ask that staff further develop their accident and incident audit to identify common features and actions taken to minimise risks to children.

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								
14 Mar 2016	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	5 - Very good									
17 Dec 2012	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	5 - Very good	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	5 - Very good									
Management and leadership	5 - Very good									
1 Mar 2010	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	4 - Good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	4 - Good									
Management and leadership	4 - Good									

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.