

Little Beehive Nursery Day Care of Children

70 Main Street
Strathkinness
KY16 9SA

Telephone: 01334 208166

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

17 July 2018

Service provided by:

Little Beehive Nursery (St Andrews)
Limited

Service provider number:

SP2014012386

Service no:

CS2014332818

About the service

Little Beehive Nursery is situated in the village of Strathkinnes. It operates from a converted cottage set in a fully enclosed garden. There is staff and parent parking available adjacent to the building. The setting is very rural with farmland surrounding the nursery. The service has been registered since July 2015. The nursery is operated by Busy Bee Nursery Limited.

The children are accommodated in three spacious playrooms. There is a large, well equipped garden to the rear of the nursery used by all the children.

Care may be provided to a maximum of 56 children aged from birth up to 8 years. No more than 12 children aged under two years may be cared for in the baby room.

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 27 July 2015.

On the day of the inspection there were 9 children in the baby room, 6 children in the toddler room and fifteen children in the pre-school room. Appropriate staff:child ratios were maintained at all times.

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 Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

What people told us

Before the inspection we received 11 completed questionnaires from parents. During the inspection we spoke to five parents as they dropped off or collected their children.

All parents who responded, either agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the care that their children received while in the service. Most parents agreed or strongly agreed that they had been involved in giving ideas and feedback on the quality of the service.

Parents made the following comments:

"Excellent nursery and wonderful staff"

"I am more than happy with the provision, balance of activities and range of equipment available in the pre-school room. However the baby room has not provided the same balance and choice"

"The daily email is great at updating parents on what children do. We have disappointed our child's name/ picture has hardly been used in 2 years. We would love to hear more about what our child participated in with friends"

"My child is very happy...his experience is very positive. A happy child and a happy parent"

"Excellent service. (child) settled quickly and formed secure relationships with staff and other children"

"(child) loves going to nursery. The staff have a really good relationship with (child). They support learning through activities and really look after their needs"

"Superb food, healthy and varied. I love the daily email newsletter and the good use of on-line journals. Could make more use of the beautiful garden and go out more often..."

"Amazing staff. They work hard to create engaging play based learning opportunities...I feel my views are always sought and acted on. Most importantly my child loves it and is thriving as a result"

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 discussed their quality assurance. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring of 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	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Families were warmly welcomed into the nursery and had opportunity to become involved in a variety of ways. Their views were valued and their feedback was used to make improvements in the service. Children were consulted in a number of ways and this meant that planned activities were meaningful to children because they were based on their interests, and what was important to them. By consulting with children, staff contributed to them feeling valued, and included.

For parts of the day some children had free access to the outside areas giving them choice and providing opportunity for physical and energetic play. The very good variety of play equipment and the range of activities and different play types, offered challenge and enabled children's curiosity and creativity. As they climbed and enjoyed creative and discovery play opportunities, they were stretching their abilities and building confidence. Some staff maintained a positive attitude to risk and supported the children well with risky play, helping them to think and learn about their own safety and that of their peers.

All children were engaged in their play and we observed some children involved in complex and challenging play. In the pre-school room for example, two children were making a boat out of cardboard. One child told us "We are figuring out how to make the mast". This imaginative play helped develop children's sense of identity, independence, problem solving skills and friendships and supported good outcomes for the children. Older children enjoyed playing in the garden, building an obstacle course and learning how to balance. Some staff supported children's play very well by asking enquiring, high quality questions.

Staff responded warmly toward the children and this meant that children were comfortable with the staff caring for them. Staff was respectful of children, for example, gaining their permission before nappy changes and telling them when it would be snack time. The timing of children's transitions from room to room was well-considered and happened at the child's pace. Children were comforted and cuddled when upset helping them to feel valued, loved and secure.

Staff were developing individual planning records for the children and identifying learning goals. Plans were in place to support staff to learn about making meaningful observations of children's play to support children's ideas and interests. Information about children's activities and planning was shared with parents. Staff should ensure there is balance between child led and adult led activities.

Staff regularly chatted together informally about the children and how best to meet needs. Each child was recognised as an individual with different needs and interests. Staff knew the children and families very well and recognised that they were experts in their own experiences.

There were effective infection control systems in place including good hand hygiene practices. Children were well supported to learn independence skills and older children were encouraged to be independent in their personal hygiene routines.

Healthy lifestyles were promoted. Consideration was given to children's physical health in relation to active play and the healthy food choices that were offered. The personal wellbeing needs of children were met for example, individual dietary needs were catered for.

Medication was recorded, stored and administered appropriately, supporting children to remain healthy.

What the service could do better

Staff should develop their knowledge and understanding about attachment in relation to young children so they can better support children to settle in nursery.

The staff should consider if there are sufficient cosy areas for all children attending the nursery, that are familiar to home, where children can relax and be comforted by staff. Staff should revisit the document Pre-Birth to Three, to support this area of their work.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PreBirthToThreeBooklet_tcm4-633448.pdf

Staff should have access to appropriate seating to enable them to sit with children during meal times and with staff support, could better enjoy meal times as a social occasion.

We suggested the service should consider how all children could have free access to the outside area. Free flow indoor to outdoor play helps children to feel responsible and lead an active life. Staff should ensure that all children including the youngest ones have daily opportunity to play outdoors.

Evaluation of activities should be developed to ensure activities are relevant, stimulating and meet the needs of the children. Children should have access each day to core activities such as sand, water and messy play.

To further improve play experiences for children, we suggested staff make use of the current professional guidance document 'My World Outdoors'. This document can be found on the 'HUB' section of the Care Inspectorate website. www.hub.careinspectorate.com

The addition of more natural resources and open-ended play experiences would also enhance children's play and support children to be engaged and achieving. (<http://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/media/58451/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>)

We also suggest that more familiarization of the Health and Social Care Standards would be beneficial to ensure the team continues to be confident in the quality of care and support being given to children and families.

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
12 Jul 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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