

# Towie School Nursery Day Care of Children

Towie Primary School  
Glenkindie  
Alford  
AB33 8RN

Telephone: 019756 41247

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 21 February 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeenshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000029

**Care service number:**  
CS2003016337

## About the service

Towie School Nursery has been registered since 2002. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 19 children not yet attending primary school. The nursery is operated by Aberdeenshire Council. The head teacher of the school is the designated manager and is supported by a nursery nurse.

The nursery operates from a large room within the school and children have access to a large fully enclosed outdoor area.

The aims of the service are for every child to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included by:

- Promoting an ethos of wellbeing, respect, equality and inclusion.
- Developing a culture of achievement and ambition.
- Working in partnership with parents, other agencies and the community to meet the needs of all children.
- Demonstrating a reflective and a collective commitment to improve the service we offer our learners, families and community.
- Providing high quality leadership for learners and staff.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

## What people told us

During the inspection we found children were happy, independent and confident. They had clearly formed very good relationships with the staff and the other children. Children readily approached staff who were responsive, nurturing and caring.

We sent out 10 Care Standard Questionnaires (CSQs) and six parents completed and returned the questionnaires to us. When asked about the overall quality of care their child received at the service:

- five parents indicated they were very satisfied; and
- one parent indicated they were satisfied.

Overall, the parent questionnaires and discussions with parents indicated parents were extremely pleased with the service provided. Parents spoken with found the staff very helpful and approachable. They felt confident to approach them to discuss any concerns. Some parents gave very good examples of how staff had supported either their child or them. Parents told us their children had formed very positive relationships with the staff. One parent told us they would give the nursery "11 out of 10". Another parents said "staff are great, so good with the children".

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the provider. The provider identified what it thought the service did well and gave examples of continued improvements, these linked to areas for improvement identified at the last inspection.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

## What the service does well

Staff were nurturing, caring and inclusive in their interactions with children. They engaged positively with children and were responsive to children's requests and individual needs. As a result we found children were confident and happy whilst at the nursery. Staff knew the children very well and were therefore able to meet each child's care and support needs.

Flexible settling in arrangements were in place to support each child to feel confident. The service had sought feedback from parents on the settling in arrangements and this had been very positive. Information was gathered from parents to enable staff to meet children's needs. For children requiring additional support detailed information was put in place to support staff to meet children's needs. Where appropriate staff had attended specialist training and worked with other agencies to help them meet the needs of each child.

Procedures were in place to safeguard children. All staff attended regular child protection training. Staff spoken with had a very good understanding of child protection issues and were confident with the procedure to follow in the event of any concerns. A child protection policy was in place to provide guidance for staff. The child protection policy should be updated to refer to the current national guidance. A copy of the guidance can be found at:

- <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf>

There were very good opportunities for parents to become involved in the nursery. Staff communicated well with parents at the beginning and end of each session. Events were arranged throughout the year which provided opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's learning. Parents' views were actively sought and used to develop the service. Staff valued children's views and used their views to involve children in determining the direction they wanted to take their learning. We suggested the service should evidence more clearly the ways they had involved children in determining the direction they wanted to take their learning.

Children were supported to be healthy. Snacks provided were healthy and we saw staff talking with children to develop their understanding of healthy foods. Children's independence and self-help skills were promoted as children were involved in preparing for snack as well as serving their own snack. Snack was seen as a learning experience, with staff taking time to talk with children and promote table manners.

Supporting children to be active was a key strength of the nursery. Children had access to outdoor play for a

good amount of time every day when the weather allowed. There was a wide range of interesting learning experiences to support them to achieve their potential. Children were encouraged to explore the natural environment. We saw them digging in the mud and picking leaves to make a "stew" in the mud kitchen.

The playroom was welcoming and attractively present. It was well laid out with a range of interesting activities and experiences. Staff interacted very well with children, using appropriate language and questions to support children to extend their learning. We found activities were differentiated according to children's stage of development. Throughout the inspection we found children were engaged, motivated and challenged in their play. This supported children to achieve their potential. We suggested there were some opportunities for literacy and numeracy to be further embedded throughout the play room, for example in the construction area.

## What the service could do better

A large sink unit protruded out into the playroom, limiting the useful play space available. This reduced the amount of useful space so restricted the experiences staff could provide to children. It also presented a risk as children could hide behind the unit, with staff unable to easily supervise children. This was a particular issue as on occasion one member of staff could be supervising nearly all the children due to the location of the toilets. The current staff knew the children very well so were able to supervise them effectively. However, any new or relief staff would not have this knowledge. **(See requirement 1.)**

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 1

1. In order to ensure children are able to be effectively supervised and that the range of learning experiences are not limited the provider must review the location of the sink unit.

**This is in order to comply with:**

**The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) Regulation 4(1)(a).**

**Timescale:** Within 6 weeks of receipt of this report.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
28 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
14 Dec 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
25 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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