

# Airyhall Nursery Day Care of Children

Airyhall Primary School  
Countesswells Road  
Aberdeen  
AB15 8AD

Telephone: 01224 498050

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 20 March 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeen City Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000349

**Care service number:**  
CS2003014410

## About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

This service has been registered since April 2002.

Airyhall Nursery is provided by Aberdeen City Council. The service is registered to provide early education and childcare to a maximum of 40 children aged 3 years to not attending primary school.

During our inspection 77 children attended the separate morning and afternoon sessions.

The service operates within dedicated ground floor premises within Airyhall Primary School in Aberdeen and is easily accessible to parents/carers being near to main roads and bus routes. The premises consist of:

- two adjoining playrooms for children
- a large entrance hall/cloakroom
- a large outdoor area
- toilet and changing facilities for children.

The children also access the school library, music room and gymnasium.

A large outdoor play area is available to offer children opportunities for fresh air and active play and learning. The children also have access to the school library, music room and gymnasium on a timetabled basis.

Airyhall Nursery aims "to promote health and wellbeing and enable all children to develop skills as lifelong learners; Ensure children enjoy learning experiences which provide challenge in all aspects of learning.

## What people told us

During our inspection we found that children were happy, settled and confident in the nursery setting. We chatted with children throughout the inspection and they told us about what they enjoyed about nursery. Two children showed us around and told us about the different areas and what they were used for.

We received 10 completed Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) from parents/carers which indicated a high level of satisfaction with the service provided to their children. Parents we chatted with were very happy with the service and the information they received about their children's care. Parents told us:

"The staff at Airyhall Nursery are superb and always going that extra mile for the children, even getting to know and remember names of siblings not at nursery!"

"Extremely happy leaving my child there and looking forward to when my younger child attends in the future."

"My husband and I are really happy with the progress since my child got into nursery. Staff are really helpful. We really appreciate their support."

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed the service improvement plan and quality assurance processes. These demonstrated the priorities for development and how the quality of the service provision was being monitored.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

Parents/carers were very happy with the level of service received. They told us that they found staff approachable and enjoyed accessing the "Parents' Portal" to look to see what their children had been doing.

Children were very happy, settled, confident and secure in the setting. Children chatted confidently to us about their learning and what they liked to do. Children demonstrated a good awareness of the nursery golden rules and an understanding of why these were needed. We observed children who were kind and respectful to each other and happy to share and take turns.

There was a high level of engagement in play and learning throughout our inspection. The free flow system was well-established and allowed children to choose when they wanted to play outdoors. Children were empowered to be independent through the self-selection snack system, tooth brushing and hand washing routines and changing their coats and shoes for outdoors.

Overall, the playrooms and outdoor area were well-resourced to offer children choice to support their play and learning. Resources were easily accessible and organised and labelled to facilitate self-selection. The outdoor area had been improved with the addition of a tap to allow children easier access to water. During our inspection children enjoyed a wide range of experiences incorporating water in different ways, for example, in the mud kitchen, "painting" and cleaning the playhouse and experimenting with water sprays. The loose parts play area was well-resourced to offer children very good opportunities for real world learning.

Personal plans were in place for all children and we could see that these were reviewed regularly. The plans we sampled outlined how staff should meet each child's individual care needs and routines. During the inspection we observed staff updating some of these documents to ensure that they always contained up-to-date information. From our observations and discussion we found that staff knew children well and could talk confidently about their care and development needs.

The management team strived to ensure that good arrangements were in place for those children requiring additional support for learning. Staff were keen to work alongside other agencies to ensure children received the support they needed. However, from discussion and from viewing children's files, we concluded that external agencies were not providing the level of support some children needed.

Throughout the inspection staff interaction with children was positive. Staff were warm, caring and respectful. We observed a good balance of different skills within the staff team. Staff were enabling and inclusive, used questioning skills well to extend children's learning and to encourage them to problem solve.

## What the service could do better

Interactive Learning Diaries (ILDs) were used to record observations of children's learning and development. We could see from these that staff were becoming more confident in recording observations but some work still needed to be done to ensure that these captured and evaluated progress in learning effectively and highlighted how individual next steps were taken forward. The management team had identified this as an area for improvement and were working to support staff to become more skilled at this.

During our inspection we observed some issues in relation to the procedures for the safe administration of medication to children. The consent form completed by parents/carers did not include:

- Confirmation that the medication had previously been administered to their child and no adverse reactions were observed following the administration.
- Details of signs and symptoms to be observed for "as required" medications.

Therefore, this consent form needed to be revised to ensure that this information was captured and recorded prior to the administration of medication in the service (**see Recommendation 1**).

Although we felt that there were good resources to support children in their play and learning, we felt that the playroom was a bit busy and cluttered in places and sparse in other areas. There was a considerable amount of synthetic and commercial toys, which were not needed to enhance children's learning. It would be beneficial to implement a programme to replace some of the synthetic resources with more natural resources which would enhance children's access to open-ended play and stimulate their natural curiosity more (**see Recommendation 2**).

At the times the playrooms became rather untidy as children were not encouraged to return items as they moved on to different areas, although we noted that children did help to tidy the playrooms towards the end of the session. Children should be encouraged to take more responsibility for caring for and clearing the resources they use. This would ensure that all children could access well-presented resources and areas throughout the session.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 2

1. The service provider should ensure that the procedures for the safe storage and administration of medication are reviewed and revised in accordance with best practice guidance. The service provider should then ensure staff follow these revised procedures at all times.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

2. The service provider should support staff to look at the balance of resources available to support children in their play and learning across the setting.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5: Quality of Experience.

## 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
1 Apr 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
23 Apr 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
23 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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