

## Bridge of Earn Nursery Day Care of Children

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Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 4 October 2016

**Service provided by:**  
Bridge of Earn Playgroup and Preschool

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002148

**Care service number:**  
CS2003010092

## About the service

Bridge of Earn Nursery offers daycare for up to 24 children from the age of two and a half to those not yet attending school. The nursery operates every day between 9.00. and 12.00. The service is run from a community building close to the edge of the village. The nursery occupies a large playroom which is shared with other groups who use it at different times of the day. They have the use of a large, well equipped garden and the occasional use of a large hall space.

The aims of the nursery are:

- to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment
- to be a place where children are nurtured and supported
- to offer quality learning experiences for all
- to be vibrant and successful.

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2004.

## What people told us

We received nine completed questionnaires from parents in advance of our inspection. During the inspection we spoke to a further five parents.

All of these parents were overwhelmingly positive about the quality of the service. They told us,

"Children bloom and thrive here."

"The staff are not only professional and caring, they are innovative leaders in their field."

"Excellent setting. Cannot recommend it enough."

"I am extremely happy with every aspect of the nursery, especially the staff."

"My child has made great progress in the time that she has spent here."

"Dedicated and helpful staff, building confidence in our children. High quality learning, teaching and pastoral care."

"I feel the staff really tailor the sessions for our children."

"Staff are brilliant. They really stand out."

"Really compassionate. The staff have a great connection with the children."

"The communication is great. Very good consultation."

On the day of the inspection there were 10 children using the service with two staff.

The children were happy and were very confident when telling us about what they liked to do. They said,

"When we go outside we can play with the tree house. There were pine cones too."

"I like stories. The best one is the Gruffalo with the noises."

"When the snack music is on you have to find your name tag. The best snack is breadsticks and dip."

"I don't like cheese. I'm just having wraps and fruit."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a full completed self-assessment in advance of the inspection.

The service had given very well thought out examples of what it did well and described how these resulted in very good outcomes for the children. They clearly identified areas for improvement and the reasons why they had been identified. There was a very high level of involvement from stakeholders and their ideas and suggestions were used to inform the self evaluation of the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

## What the service does well

Bridge of Earn nursery was an excellent service. It was led by a skilled and knowledgeable manager. The staff team were well trained, reflective and fully committed to the service and the families who used them. We saw that individual members of staff were happy to take on the responsibility for developing areas of the curriculum and the playroom. The manager encouraged them to follow their interests and strengths.

The manager and the staff team regularly consulted with all stakeholders and used the information gained to identify clear, manageable improvement targets for the service. Self assessment, evaluation and children were at the heart of everything they did. They used an excellent range of methods to communicate with parents and keep them involved in development of the service. This was confirmed by all of the parents we spoke to and those who returned our questionnaires.

Throughout the inspection we noted the respectful interactions between the staff and the children. Children were consistently praised for their efforts and their learning. They were continually asked for their ideas and suggestions of what they wanted to do. They were invited to take part in group activities but if they preferred not to then this was fully accepted by the staff and they could continue with their own choice.

The older children were given the responsibility for being buddies to the new, younger children. This was supportive to the younger children and was a popular activity for the older children. They took their responsibility seriously and were clearly proud of themselves. They were asked to reflect on what being a good buddy meant. They told us,

"I had to teach my buddy not to bump into anyone."

"I had to help my buddy when they needed someone to help them"

The focus on children's learning and development was very clear. The staff knew the children well. They were knowledgeable about the different curriculum stages to be followed for each age group. The children saw themselves as learners and the staff referred to this constantly. The children were confident and able to talk about what they had learned.

The staff and children contributed to learning journals. Staff completed observations of learning with an evaluation and next steps. Children were encouraged to identify next steps for themselves. These were tracked and revisited by staff.

Planning of activities and topics was responsive to the needs and interests of the children.

## What the service could do better

During the inspection we looked at the improvement plan for the service. We agreed that the areas for development identified would further improve the quality of experience for the children. They had begun to extend the digital learning opportunities, particularly for the pre-school children. We would encourage them to continue with this.

The children had some very good experiences for outdoor play. This was an area for development identified in the service improvement plan. During the inspection we discussed how the children might be able to have more opportunities to choose for themselves when they wanted to go outdoors. We appreciated the practical difficulties for the staff and the children due to the restrictions of the building. We encouraged them to continue to look into possible solutions to this.

The service had a commitment to self evaluation. They had already made a very positive start to using Building the Ambition - National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare. (The Scottish Government). They were beginning to use 'How good is our early learning and childcare?' (Education Scotland). We would encourage the manager and staff to continue to quality assure their own work and to continue to improve the experiences and outcomes for the children attending.

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

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
15 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
23 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Feb 2010		Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
30 May 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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