

# Port Elphinstone School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Port Elphinstone School  
School Road  
Port Elphinstone  
Inverurie  
AB51 3XJ

Telephone: 01467 536860

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 18 January 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeenshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000029

**Care service number:**  
CS2003015708

## About the service

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Port Elphinstone School Nursery Class is a local authority run nursery provided by Aberdeenshire Council. The service is situated in a separate unit within the grounds of Port Elphinstone Primary School and consists of one main playroom, accessible outdoor garden and welcome area.

Port Elphinstone Primary School Nursery Class is registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 20 children aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates morning and afternoon sessions, Monday to Friday during term time.

The service is managed by the head teacher. The team, which consists of a lead practitioner and early years practitioners, deliver the early learning and childcare service on a daily basis.

In summary the main aims of the service include the commitment to create a warm, happy, safe and friendly atmosphere where children feel confident to be themselves and where each individual child counts. Also, to provide an environment, designed to stimulate young minds and encourage learning and development through play.

A full statement of aims and ethos is on display within the welcome area of the nursery.

This report was written following an unannounced inspection carried out by one inspector over the course of two days. Our first visit took place on 16 January 2018. We concluded the inspection on 18 January 2018, when we provided the lead practitioner and staff with feedback.

During the inspection we spoke with many of the children, parents/carers, nursery team and head teacher.

We looked at the quality of care and support and the environment at this inspection.

## What people told us

We observed children at play and spoke to them about their experiences. We observed how staff cared for, and interacted with the children.

We found that children were happy, content and very confident in the setting. They enjoyed spending time at nursery with their friends. Staff knew the children very well and interacted with them in a very positive and respectful way. They listened to them and were responsive to their ideas. The children had fun and enthusiastically engaged in the wide range of well planned activities on offer. They spoke confidently about what they enjoyed doing at nursery.

They told us:

"I'm (child's name) and I'm playing with the beads and you can help me. My favourite colour is pink. Look what's in here, it's a screwdriver and a big screw".

"Look what I'm building, it's a tower".

"I've made a pizza and now I've made spaghetti".

"I've made macaroni and something else, its lasagna and it's all for you".

"I like playing at nursery and I like play mobile and I like playing with my friends".

"We are decorating the log, it's a chair. You can put things on. It was in our castle".

We spoke with seven parents/carers during our visit. They told us that they were extremely happy with the service and spoke very positively about staff, describing them as friendly and helpful, and enthusiastic.. They told us they were kept well-informed and felt fully involved in their child's care and were informed about their progress.

Their comments included:

"It's an excellent nursery, such a lovely little group. Staff really good and so enthusiastic. It's great that they get outdoors regardless of the weather. They all have appropriate clothing. They were filling puddles with powder paint, great fun and messy, things you wouldn't do at home. They use the school a lot and the transition is good".

"Child absolute loves nursery. Wouldn't want to miss a day. Child has benefited from coming, has developed confidence and social skills. Really lovely staff who share information regularly and update their folders. Space being used well and most definitely outside enough. Use all the play areas".

"Nursery is great, child loves it and has come on leaps and bounds. Loves going outside. They make best use of the space. Lovely staff who listen to you and take on board any concerns. They email us with their observations which is good if you haven't time to see their learning journey. Child excited to tell us what they have been doing".

"I come in to do the library. My child loves books and it's good to support her. I like the nursery and the staff are lovely. They have taken time to get to know my child and have been supportive. There are books to look at

linked to the curriculum and we get regular update about what's happening. Outdoor plenty, Monday is outdoor day. Plenty of resources outside, they go on trips and always have different outings".

"I help with the library. There are three or four parents on rota to help. I love doing it. Child is happy and loves coming to nursery. Staff are very approachable and very helpful. Lots of information from the key worker and regularly updated about child's time at nursery.

Messy Monday is their outdoor session, they were playing with the mud kitchen yesterday. They are out in all weathers. They go to the school for computers, drama and gym which introduces them to the school environment".

"Nursery fab and child always likes coming. Staff are great, supportive and keep us up-to-date about what's going on. Parents and children can look at the learning journeys and my child likes to show me new things in her folder. Development areas are linked to the SHANARRI wheel. They told us about it at a parents evening so I know what it means and they are using it to assess children's development".

"Love nursery and child likes it too. Lovely staff, every one of them. The most caring nursery staff I have ever dealt with. The head teacher is brilliant as well. Transitions and involvement with school is very good so I have no concerns about my child going to primary one. Sharing a session lets us see what they are doing outside, activities on offer and snack. Plenty of information. Well supported at nursery".

Parents/carers who completed the care standards questionnaires 'agreed'/'strongly agreed' with all of the statements. These related to the quality of care and support, the environment, staffing and management and leadership. Their comments indicated that overall they were highly satisfied with the service.

Their comments included:

"I strongly feel that Port Elphinstone nursery is a fantastic service. I feel my child has an extremely good experience and I only have positive comments. The nursery have organised a variety of community trips and experiences which have provided fantastic learning experiences".

"Both my children have had very positive experiences. Port Elphinstone nursery is a very special unique place. The staff are fantastic. It's very much home from home".

"My son loves going there. The staff are kind and caring. The feedback is so good. I love getting observations sent to me. My child has made so many friends and loves all his teachers. This was the best decision we ever made to choose this school for my boy".

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate did not request a self assessment for this inspection year. However, we looked at the service's own improvement plan which 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	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 had created a very welcoming, nurturing and respectful ethos that put children and families' needs and rights at the centre of their work. Staff had built up good relationships with parents and communication between them was informative.

Staff applied the wellbeing indicators of (SHANARRI) from the national framework 'getting it right for every child', and incorporated the language of the wellbeing indicators into everyday activities and experiences. Each child had a personal plan which recorded their personal information, interests and needs. Learning journeys showed which indicators were being covered. Children were beginning to use the language of SHANARRI and understood for example how to keep themselves safe and how to be responsible. This was impacting positively on building respectful relationships in the nursery.

Staff were fully aware of how to safe guard children in their care. Speaking to staff highlighted that they had good knowledge in this area and they understood their responsibility for protecting the children in their care.

The nursery provided an active learning environment for the children both inside and outside. Children benefited from a broad and balanced range of stimulating experiences that supported their all-round health and wellbeing. Staff used meaningful, motivating ways to involve children in planning their own learning. Successes and achievements were celebrated well across the setting and were documented in floor books, learning journals and the 'wow' wall.

The layout of the playroom had been reviewed and changes had been made which allowed children to move freely around the different areas. A calm, purposeful learning environment had been created in which staff supported children to lead their play and to influence the choice of activities. Children were listened to and given opportunities to be included in decision-making.

Children enjoyed the recent addition of a large variety of "loose parts" which provided more opportunities to be creative, take risks, explore and have fun within the nursery environment. We also noted that outdoor play, in the nursery garden, playing field and wooded area was well established as part of the nursery provision. Children were developing skills such as problem solving and assessing and managing risk as well as building their confidence and resilience. The focus on supporting children's numeracy and literacy skills was reflected throughout the environment and in staff practice.

Overall, we found that the manager and staff team were highly motivated, committed to continuous improvement and were open to initiatives and best practice. This was resulting in positive outcomes for children and families.

## What the service could do better

We talked to the lead practitioner and staff about further developing children's personal plans and learning journeys to make it clearer what areas children were working on and what they wanted to improve. We also highlighted that children's next steps needed to be developed further. This would make it easier to track children's development and progress. This had been identified by the staff team as part of their self-evaluation and was a priority in their improvement plan.

There were no children requiring medication at the time of the inspection. We looked at the nursery medication system and staff spoken with were aware of updated policy and the need to administer medication safely. We highlighted the benefits of further developing medication plans to include step by step guidance to support staff to administer medication effectively and to deal with medical emergencies confidently.

We acknowledged that risk assessments had been undertaken by both staff and children for all areas of the nursery, including outdoors. This helped ensure they minimised any potential risks to the children. We highlighted the need to regularly review these assessments and update them when appropriate.

## 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
23 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
24 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
18 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings

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

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto: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 ਵਿੱਚ 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.