

Beaconhurst School

Service name

Beaconhurst School

Service address

52 Kenilworth Road
Bridge of Allan
Stirlingshire
FK9 4RR

Type of care service

Day Care of Children

Provider name

Beaconhurst School

Service number

CS2003015579

Date of inspection

24 January 2006

Type of inspection

Announced

Period since last inspection

12 months

Care Commission Office

Springfield House
Laurelhill Business Park
Stirling
FK7 9JQ
Tel: 01786 406363

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Introduction

Beaconhurst Nursery was situated in the grounds of Beaconhurst School on the outskirts of Bridge of Allan. The service aims to provide "a safe, secure, stimulating and, above all, happy atmosphere for children to learn within."

The headteacher continued to have overall management responsibility. Day to day responsibility for the organisation of the nursery was delegated to the manager. She was assisted by four qualified early years workers. At the time of this visit, the team also had the services of a supply teacher while recruitment of a new member of staff was ongoing.

Registered with the Care Commission since April 2002, the nursery was able to offer up to 50 places in term-time for children aged from 3 years to not yet at primary school.

As well as morning and afternoon sessions, the nursery also offered extended hours and lunch as added support for families.

The service continued to be in Partnership with Stirling Council.

Basis of Report

This report was written following an announced inspection of the service on 24 January 2006. The Care Commission Officer wrote to the nursery to tell them when the visit would take place. Lay assessor, Mrs Margaret MacLeod assisted with the inspection.

The report was based upon information and evidence from the following sources:

The Pre Inspection Return and Self Evaluation completed by the manager which contained information about the service.
Written and verbal feedback from parents and carers.
Discussion during the visit with management and staff.
Observations of staff working with the children.
A range of policies, procedures and records viewed.
Examination of the accommodation used by the nursery children indoors and outdoors.

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The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for Early Education And Childcare up to the age of 16 :

Standard 1: Being welcomed and valued.

Standard 7: A caring environment.

Standard 9: Involving the community.

Standard 10: Involving other services.

Standard 12: Confidence in staff.

The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, Scottish Statutory Instrument 2002/ 114, Requirements as to Care Services, was also taken into account.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

Three requirements were noted for action in the last inspection report. These had all been satisfactorily addressed.

Comment on Self-Evaluation

The self-evaluation provided gave very relevant detail of what happens in the service in relation to each of the national care standards being inspected. The inspection team found this account to be true to day to day life in the nursery. Areas for development noted were also relevant and appropriate to current circumstances and needs.

Views of Service Users

The children were independent and confident around the nursery and following routines. They talked happily about what they were doing and what they liked. They coped very well with the extra adults visiting. They remained interested in the nursery activities and relaxed and busy throughout the day.

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Views of Carers

Of the fifteen questionnaires issued to parents and carers 12 were returned completed. Nine parents who replied said that they were very happy with the service. Three said that they were happy. The following additional comments were noted:

“Staff are approachable and, should a problem arise, I feel confident they would handle it appropriately.”

“All members of staff are highly approachable and come back to me immediately with any feedback I require.”

“Staff have very good relationships with my child andis very fond of them.”

“Nursery staff make a huge effort to ensure ...is happy and eats well.”

“New lock on the door has improved security.”

“Good equipment well maintained and replaced when needed.”

“Nursery exceptional. Staff always looking to improve service.”

“Excellent nursery provision which has developed my child in all aspects.”

The inspection team also spoke with a number of parents during the inspection. Their feedback also reflected confidence in staff and satisfaction with the quality of care and variety of learning opportunities provided.

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 1: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Being Welcomed and Valued

Strengths

There was good evidence that the nursery was taking satisfactory action to help children feel welcome and valued as individuals.

Policy and discussion with staff and parents indicated that suitable opportunity was given to new parents to visit with their children and become familiar with the staff and operations of the service prior to joining.

A handbook about the nursery was available to parents. This provided a great deal of helpful information in an easy to read style. The nursery was able to provide written information in other languages if parents required.

Attractively presented notice - boards were a good ongoing source of information for parents to access at their leisure. Policy and procedural information was displayed here along with nursery news.

Information gathered on children was found to be appropriate to allow staff to get to know them as individuals and settling in arrangements were suitably flexible to support a smooth transition.

Staff were prepared and the nursery suitably ready for the children's arrival at both the morning and afternoon session. Staff were welcoming and available to receive children and their parents and the routines of arrival were clearly well established and comfortable for all.

The environment was made interesting and stimulating with displays of work and photos and these, added to the key worker system and items and activities personalised for the children, all helped to create a sense of belonging for them.

Areas for development:

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 7: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Caring Environment

Strengths

Written information about the aims of the service was provided for parents in the nursery handbook. The aims were also displayed in the nursery and they were promoted by staff in their day to day work.

Staff provided a safe environment for children to feel secure in. They were consistent in being very good role models to the children of caring and respect towards their surroundings and towards others.

The staff and children had worked together to develop community rules which encouraged these positive approaches. The children understood the boundaries in place and they were helpful towards each other and around the nursery.

Children were encouraged to be independent and they were given responsibilities including tidying up and getting changed for going out to play. Children needing help were supported as necessary by staff.

Staff chatted to children naturally, giving them choice and the opportunity to share their views. Staff showed they valued children's contributions by giving them the time they needed to express themselves and respond and by giving them praise.

There was a clear policy for staff to follow as a guide to promoting positive behaviour in children and to handling difficulties should they arise. This included working with parents to find an appropriate approach.

Staff were also very open to working with parents in relation to their child's care and progress and with respect to encouraging their involvement in the development of the nursery. They communicated regularly with parents on a day to day basis to keep abreast of their wishes and their child's needs. Parents' evenings also gave good opportunities to discuss their child's learning and development in more detail.

Parents were able to speak to staff privately if necessary and, if they wished to express concerns about the service, a complaints procedure was available giving them appropriate options to follow.

Areas for development:

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 9: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Involving the Community

Strengths

The nursery was making good use of local amenities and the surrounding environment to give children an appropriate range of fun, learning experiences and a sense of the wider community.

Parents, local community figures and professionals and external organisations were also invited in to the service to give added dimension to the children's programme of learning.

The nursery was included in school charity fundraising projects. This helped raise the children's awareness of aspects of the wider world. They also used facilities around the campus which helped familiarise them with the wider school community.

The nursery Handbook was available on request for those wishing to find out about the service and newsletters and information around the nursery kept users in touch with local events and services.

Areas for development:

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 10: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Involving other Services

Strengths

The service had established and maintained suitable links with colleagues, relevant professionals, services and agencies both within Stirling Council and in external organisations for the purposes of its work with individual children and for the development of the nursery.

The headteacher was very committed to including nursery staff and children in the wider school community.

There were very good links with the Junior school to aid the children's transition there from nursery. Staff wished to develop the programme for this further.

Areas for development:

Sharing Expertise: As a development of their current liaison work, the service is encouraged to continue to widen contact with early years colleagues in other settings with a view to increasing opportunity for sharing knowledge and skills. This could include colleagues visiting Beaconhurst as well as through visits to other services.

National Care Standard Number 12: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Confidence in Staff

Strengths

The service was found to be complying with input standards in relation to staff qualifications and adult:child ratios. All staff were qualified.

Appropriate procedures were followed to recruit and select staff.

Induction processes for new staff were thorough and supportive and there was a helpful staff handbook. New staff described feeling included and part of the team.

All staff said that they felt their views were heard and their contributions and skills recognised. They felt valued.

Staff described feeling well supported on an informal basis both by immediate colleagues and by the manager and headteacher. A formal system of professional development and review was also in place. Training needs were identified and staff were given good opportunity to access personal learning and development events.

Training records indicated that staff were attending events relevant to their roles, practice trends and the prevailing needs of the service.

Areas for development:

Written Evidence of Induction programme – As evidence of their current practice in relation to the Induction of staff, it is recommended that the service documents its policy in relation to this and the process and programme followed.

National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service

Strengths

The manager and staff were very aware of their responsibilities in relation to record keeping relating to their work. Good systems were in place to support them in this.

Areas for development:

Records of Accidents and Medicines administered - As an added safeguard, the service is advised to develop their existing systems by asking parents to sign all accidents reports noted for their child to confirm they have been informed. Similarly, details of all medicines administered should be noted and signed by staff. Parents could also be asked to sign this as confirmation that they have been informed. (See recommendation 1)

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Enforcement

Other Information

Requirements

A requirement is a statement setting out an enforceable action required of a service provider in order that the service comply with current legislation, usually within a specific timescale.

Recommendations

A recommendation is a statement setting out proposed actions to be taken by the service provider aimed at improving the quality of service (based on good practice and professional judgement) but which would not be subject to enforcement action if not actioned.

1. Records of Accidents and Medicines administered - As an added safeguard, the service is advised to develop their existing systems by asking parents to sign all accidents reports noted for their child to confirm they have been informed. Similarly, details of all medicines administered should be noted and signed by staff. Parents could also be asked to sign this as confirmation that they have been informed.

Standard 14. Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16

This report was written by Fiona Stewart, Care Commission Officer,
09/02/2006

