

# Gordon Park Pre-School Day Care of Children

Cricket Pavillion  
Gordon Park  
Ellon  
AB41 9GN

Telephone: 01358 722234

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

4 October 2018

**Service provided by:**

Gordon Park Pre-School

**Service provider number:**

SP2003000498

**Service no:**

CS2003002632

## About the service

Gordon Park Pre-School was registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2011. The service is provided by a voluntary committee of parents. It provides a day care of children service to a maximum of 14 children at any one time aged from 2 years up to those not yet attending primary school. Of the total number of children no more than 12 may be under 2 and a half years of age.

The service operates from the Gordon Park Cricket Pavilion located in the rural town of Ellon, Aberdeenshire. The accommodation has a good-sized playroom and garden area for the children. The service benefits from being located in an open sports ground with easy access to a well equipped park.

Aims of the service include being committed to "provide a care and education setting that implements Getting it Right for Every Child (GIFREC) to ensure children are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and included."

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

For this inspection we received 14 completed care standard questionnaires and we spoke to two parents/carers. Responses indicated that parents were very happy with the service, commenting very positively about the care and support their child was given. They told us the staff were friendly and welcoming and went beyond their role to provide appropriate activities for their children. They felt the service had built up very positive links with the community and made very good use of the local amenities.

"The setting is fantastic. Every member of staff goes above and beyond their role to provide appropriate learning experiences for the children. They make excellent use of the community, particularly with the weekly trips to the woods. The project with the care home is something really special."

"The quality of care is excellent."

"My children are delighted to go each session. I feel the staff know my children really well and treat them as individuals."

"The service is absolutely amazing. The staff treat the children like their own. Staff are really good at nurturing their imagination. I love the photos and daily feedback."

"I love playgroup and I feel staff have really listened to me and taken on board what my child needs. This really helped my child to settle and feel happy to go."

There were nine children present during the morning session and seven in the afternoon session. Most children were very settled and confident with staff. They enjoyed playing outdoors and were happy and engaged with the activities on offer.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance processes. These 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:

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

## What the service does well

Staff were friendly and welcoming and promoted an inclusive ethos. They were sensitive to their needs of the whole family and used a variety of strategies to reassure and help parents. This included support during times of difficulty and providing paper copies of all documents to parents when requested. The playgroup had introduced home visits where staff could meet the children prior to them starting at the service. This helped the children settle quickly and form positive attachments with familiar staff.

Experienced and caring staff supported children to grow in confidence and become more independent. For example children were encouraged to independently put on their outdoor shoes and clothes. Snack provided opportunities for young children to practice their self-help skills and older children were able to help prepare and serve fruit and vegetables. This helped make children more aware of healthy food choices, promoting their overall health and well-being. Staff supported children with their personal care in a very warm and reassuring manner, ensuring children's privacy and dignity was respected at all times. This contributed to happy children who enjoyed being at playgroup.

Children were able to take part in a range of freely chosen and planned activities centred on their interests and preferences. A selection of real life resources enabled children to learn through familiar play, develop their ideas and explore their emotions. Staff read a selection of stories and children took part in singing songs and rhymes; promoting early literacy and communication skills. Children's profiles recorded their achievements and identified next steps to support progression. These were shared regularly with parents to help support family learning.

Opportunities for free flow outdoor and indoor play were available throughout the session. Children enjoyed exploring a range of open-ended and natural materials as well as equipment to promote their physical development. This helped develop their confidence, self-esteem and creativity as well as keep them fit and healthy.

The playgroup made very good use of the local environment and regularly took the children to the nearby woods. This will help the children to grow into responsible, confident individuals. They had developed really strong links with the local community and regularly visited the nearby residential home for the elderly. The residents and children loved playing skittles together, encouraging the children to be respectful and caring of others.

The provider, manager and administration team worked very well together and provided good support to the staff. They were supported by the principal teacher and development worker and as a result, robust quality assurance systems were in place to support improvement and development.

Staff were very skilled and worked well as a team which contributed to a positive ethos. They were very committed and enthusiastic to ensure their knowledge and skills remained up to date and current. Regular support and supervision helped support this and ensured staff were effective in their role. Recent training opportunities included developing an understanding of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study). This led to improved outcomes for children and families.

All staff were very involved in the self-evaluation process. The guidance How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare and Building the Ambition were used to evaluate the service. Findings were used to develop an improvement. This included further developing the outdoor play experiences and an increased knowledge of safeguarding children.

Parents were very involved in the service through the active and supportive committee. A private social media page helped ensure they were informed and consulted on any improvements. Management and staff had also introduced family learning sessions to help parents become more involved in their child's education.

## What the service could do better

The outdoor area had recently been extended to include more opportunities for play in the natural world. We discussed developing this area with more opportunities for planting and investigative open ended play. This will further develop children's thinking, investigation and problem solving and understating of the world around them.

All staff were involved in self-evaluation to support improvement to the service. We suggested focussing mainly on the guidance Building the Ambition and the Health and Social Care Standards to meet the needs of the children attending the service at present.

## 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
9 Sep 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
5 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
15 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
29 Sep 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
9 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
18 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
10 Feb 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

## 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 ਵਿਚ 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.