

# Kippen Playgroup and Toddlers Day Care of Children

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Stirling  
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Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 3 February 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Kippen Playgroup & Toddlers  
Management Committee

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003001113

**Care service number:**  
CS2003005372

## About the service

Kippen Playgroup is a daycare of children service provided by a committee of parents who are volunteers.

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

The playgroup is located in the village hall in Kippen to the rural area west of Stirling.

The management committee employ two staff to plan and deliver the playgroup sessions. Parents assist staff on a rota basis during sessions.

Up to 24 children aged from two years to those not yet attending primary school may attend each session.

The playgroup is currently open on Tuesday and Friday mornings in term time.

The playgroup aims include:

- To provide a friendly and secure learning environment for the children.
- Work closely with children, parents and carers and respond to the needs of individual children and their families.
- Provide a varied, interesting curriculum following the curriculum for excellence and other relevant documents.
- Provide a breadth of experience and build knowledge of the local community and our environment.
- Provide continuity for children and parents where needed to access local partnerships and agencies.
- Build partnerships and relationships with other members of the local community.
- Welcome all people and give equal opportunity to all children free from prejudice and discrimination.

At this inspection we focussed on two aspects of Care and Support. These were responsive care and support to meet children's individual needs and challenge and risk in children's play and learning. We also looked at committee/staff partnership and improvement planning.

## What people told us

We spent time with the children as they played indoors and outdoors.

They were happy and had fun. They related well to the staff and they found friends to play with.

They were amused by having slippery noodles for snack in celebration of Chinese New Year and they willingly joined in using chopsticks to eat them.

They particularly enjoyed playing outdoors and they didn't mind the rain at all as they were used to being out in all weathers and benefitted from the different learning experiences that gave them.

They were curious. They were intrigued by the water they could pour from the water butt and transport in various sized containers. One child was entirely focussed on the sink full of water and stones and, as they carefully emptied the stones from it, they told us very seriously they were looking for a big, fat, black fish".

Four parents and carers gave us feedback through our questionnaires and we spoke with three parents in the course of the inspection.

They all said they were happy with the care and experiences their children received.

They complimented staff :

"Our (child) has settled in quickly thanks to the welcoming and friendly staff who have created an inclusive and stimulating environment.

"This is a well run group with playleaders who are interested".

They made positive comments about the outdoor area developments:

"The children love visiting the fantastic sensory garden".

They were impressed with the range of stimulating experiences children had and how attending the playgroup was helping their children:

" I love reading the weekly feedback posted on facebook. I'm constantly impressed with the innovative activities that promote learning through play".

"Playgroup has been extremely beneficial to my child. The playgroup has enabled (child) to become more confident and happy in their environment where new experiences are fun and engaging".

## Self assessment

We received a completed self assessment document from the provider before this inspection. This was detailed with relevant information for each quality theme that we inspect.

They provided information about the areas of work they consider they do well, what they have improved and work they plan to further develop.

They also told us how they gather the views of parents, children and staff to help them make improvements.

They should continue to develop use of the self assessment to show what they provide and how this benefits children.

## 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> | 4 - Good      |

## What the service does well

Staff were highly responsive to children needs and interests and they were excellent at meeting this priority.

Settling in arrangements were entirely personalised according to the time and support each child needed to be happy and confident and staff worked closely with parents to develop the right support for their child.

When any child was upset staff were quickly on hand to offer a cuddle or a few reassuring words.

Staff gathered and followed information from parents and relevant professionals about children's individual health matters and this helped them meet their needs effectively.

Staff routinely reviewed and adapted the play environment based on how they saw children were using it This helped greatly towards children engaging in positive play and learning.

Staff enabled children to follow and develop their play interests and they were resourceful in doing so. For example they specially sourced ropes and pulleys for a child who showed an interest in uses of ropes.

Children had very good opportunity for experiencing risks they could manage through play. Staff supervised children at all times and they tended to supervise younger children and children they knew needed more support more closely until the children's confidence grew.

However, generally, all children could freely move around the large indoor hall and the outdoor area, choose the activities they took part in and the equipment and play materials they used.

This meant they came across risks. Unless staff saw a situation was too dangerous, they confidently left children to work out for themselves how to explore and play without coming to harm themselves or causing harm to others.

Children learned to be responsible about their own and others' safety as a result.

For example, the noodle activity gave children potential for learning about not slipping on any they dropped on the floor, and for using chopsticks responsibly to pick noodles up and not as weapons against people next to them.

Outdoors, even the youngest children learned to pour and carry water with care knowing that otherwise they risked spilling and slipping on it.

Children had also developed respect for the risk involved as they climbed a steep ladder to the top of large outdoor equipment. They took the right amount of care with each step up and due care to prevent falling when they reached the top.

The partnership between the management committee of parents and the playgroup staff was good. They had the same goals of the service continuing as a valuable resource for families in the local community where their children could be cared for while they had fun and learned.

They were all concerned to provide well for children's safety and well being. They communicated with each other to make plans and to deal with issues as they arose such as matters to be raised with the hall committee or funding matters needing committee support and approval.

The management committee had also made progress with addressing most improvements we recommended at the last inspection. In addition, they had secured funding and used it to develop their outdoor area. Their ongoing focus was fund raising to sustain the service and raising awareness of the service to boost numbers of children attending.

They also recognised and valued the improvements the staff team were making to the care, environment and experiences for children and they planned to continue to support staff in their professional development.

## What the service could do better

Playgroup committees have overall management responsibility for the service as the legal provider. They are also employers for staff working in the playgroup.

Playgroup committees change fairly regularly. Therefore it is very important that each committee maintains reliable information and processes which it can pass on to its successor as a guide to the responsibilities and work they must continue during their period as playgroup provider.

From our discussions during this inspection we recommend that the current committee ensures the following are in place as a contribution to this:

- Defined roles and responsibilities for committee members and staff
  - A manageable programme of minuted committee meetings involving staff to enable joint formal , evidence based evaluation of the service and joint planning and decisions towards improvement.
  - Staff training plan developed from staff reviews, playroom monitoring and parents' feedback.
  - Improvement Plan showing a manageable number of development priorities, target timescales for completion and evaluation of progress with development action.
- (See recommendation 1)

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 1

1. The management committee should ensure the continuity of a professional service and positive partnership and support of their employees by successive committees.

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

## 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   |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 6 Feb 2015  | Unannounced | Care and support 5 - Very good<br>Environment 4 - Good<br>Staffing 5 - Very good<br>Management and leadership 4 - Good         |
| 11 Feb 2013 | Unannounced | Care and support 5 - Very good<br>Environment 5 - Very good<br>Staffing 5 - Very good<br>Management and leadership 4 - Good    |
| 3 Jun 2010  | Unannounced | Care and support 5 - Very good<br>Environment Not assessed<br>Staffing 5 - Very good<br>Management and leadership Not assessed |

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