

Crosshill Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Carrick Drive
Crosshill
Maybole
Ayr
KA19 7RH

Telephone: 01655 885803

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

9 January 2019

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2003016134

About the service

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection which started at 9am on Wednesday 9 January 2019. We provided verbal feedback between 4.15pm and 5.00pm. One Care Inspectorate Officer carried out the inspection.

Crosshill Early Years Centre is situated in a small village on the outskirts of Maybole and the provider is South Ayrshire Council managed by the head teacher, supported by the principal teacher and staffed by practitioners.

The current conditions of registration are as follows:

To provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children from 2 years to those not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than 10 will be 2 to 3 years only.

At all times the children cared for will be supervised according to Annexe A of the National Care Standards for early education and childcare. A minimum of 2 adults must be present at all times. Only adults in contact with children for the majority of the session should count towards the ratios.

The care service may operate Monday to Friday.

Crosshill Early Years Centre, referred to in this report as the nursery, operates from a room within Crosshill Primary School. There are toilets integral to the room, with a kitchen area for preparing snacks. Lunches are taken in the main hall. Nursery children have access to their own outdoor space as well as regular use of the school campus areas.

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It is a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it Right for Every Child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included - often referred to as 'SHANARRI.' Information relating to this can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

We used the Health and Social Care Standards-My Support. My Life to evaluate the service.

What people told us

Before the inspection, we sent four questionnaires to the nursery to distribute to parents on our behalf. We received all four completed responses before our inspection visit. We also spoke with three parents during our visit to find out what they thought about the service.

Comments included:

"My daughter is always excited and happy to go to nursery and separates happily from myself or any other family member. I am regularly kept up to date with what is happening within the nursery and my daughter's learning journey. I can always approach staff with ease to discuss any issues I may have and know this will be dealt with appropriately."

"I would like more information regarding my child's progress and development....I would also like to have daily updates so I know what they've eaten, completed and how they behaved."

"Would like to be kept properly informed on daily activities and learning."

We used both our discussions with nursery children and our observations of them at play to see how they were enjoying their time. We found that children were generally happy and settled quickly on arrival. They were familiar with nursery routines, such as registration and snack times. We saw that children made good use of the resources, such as construction and their current interest in dinosaurs.

"I'm making a nest for the dinosaurs"-a child playing outdoors.

"Did you see that footprint-it was a dinosaur"-a child enjoying outdoors.

"We go up the mountain"-a child on the nursery walk.

"There's a turtle in the water"-a child exploring the outdoors.

Self assessment

Services of this type were not asked to submit a self assessment this year. We looked at the nursery improvement plan priorities and found they were making good progress in achieving their goals.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found children were generally settled, happy and comfortable with the staff supporting them. Children, when upset, were cuddled and shown affection, helping them to feel loved. Staff were familiar with children and their needs and interests. This meant that children were nurtured and offered appropriate care. Staff were developing a 'key worker' system which meant that staff were continuing to improve their relationships with parents.

We saw that staff had good arrangements for children who needed additional professional support. They had plans in place to continue to source appropriate care.

Staff were kind, caring and experienced. We saw that they were enthusiastic to develop the nursery, particularly in the outdoors, which meant that children were able to use their imagination using open-ended resources. We were pleased to see the improvements to the outdoor area. It was clear staff and parents had worked hard to provide interesting, rich and challenging experiences for all ages. Children were given very good outdoor experiences which included using the local community to good effect. We accompanied the children on a walk in the village and saw that staff were very good at engaging them and making the experience fun and interesting. We saw that numeracy and literacy were featured, using natural resources. It was clear that children were engaged and interested in their surroundings. Children responded well in their play, excitedly following their current topic of dinosaurs. Staff were clearly encouraging children to consider risk taking. This meant that they were developing skills, independence and interests in the wider world.

Parents' responses were mixed. Parents we spoke with during the inspection were generally happy with the care their child received. They told us the children were happy and enthusiastic about their learning, that their interests were being followed and that staff knew them well. We saw that they had opportunities to visit the nursery, had regular newsletters and updated their child's personal plans, helping to set targets.

What the service could do better

The extended hours had led to some challenges for the staff team. They worked hard to meet the needs of children which included personal care, lunch cover and staffing the outdoor area. We spoke with staff and the manager about improving the deployment of staff to ensure children were sufficiently supported during busy periods. We have made a recommendation about this, below. (See Recommendation 1).

We spoke to the manager about the importance of ensuring that personal plans clearly demonstrated how staff planned to support children using their skills and knowledge of child development. We saw how there were some gaps in these records which had the capacity to limit staff responses to children and families. Although it was clear staff knew children and their needs very well, there were opportunities to improve relevant information and make clear plans of support for each child. This included the 'All about me'.

Two responses from our questionnaires told us that they were concerned over a number of topics. One aspect was the lack of a confidential space to discuss care between parents and staff. Another related to the safety of children. We discussed these with the manager who agreed to find solutions to the matters highlighted.

We spoke to the management about monitoring arrangements and found that there was good oversight of the work of the nursery. However, they recognised they could continue to work on this to ensure high quality outcomes for children and families. One particular aspect was the recording and analysis of incidents and accidents.

The way the playroom was set out was discussed with staff. We reminded them of the importance of providing resources, such as sensory experiences and homely toys, such as dolls and cots, should be available daily.

We asked the staff to ensure they regularly access the Care Inspectorate online resource, 'The HUB' to ensure they are using current good practice on childcare matters, such as 'Loose Parts Play-A Toolkit.'

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. In order to ensure that staff deployment is appropriate across the setting, we recommend the local authority assess/review staffing based on children's needs.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that ' My needs are met by the right number of people. My Support. My Life 3.15

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
14 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
1 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate
18 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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