

# Doonvale Private Nursery School Day Care of Children

Doonholm Road  
Alloway  
Ayr  
KA6 6BL

Telephone: 01292 440400

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

13 September 2018

**Service provided by:**

Doonvale Private Nursery School LLP

**Service provider number:**

SP2003003640

**Service no:**

CS2003016384

## About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services can be found on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

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

Doonvale Private Nursery School is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 57 children at any one time: 14 children 0-under 2 years, 15 children 2 - under 3 years 28 children 3 years and over. On the day of the inspection, 20 children attended (am) and 21 attended (pm) in the 3-5 age group, 10 children (am) and 7 (pm) attended in the 2-3 age group and 12 children attended morning and afternoon in the baby room.

The service is located in Alloway in South Ayrshire and is in partnership with the local authority. In addition to the three playrooms in the main building, children have daily access to large partially covered barns and an orchard in a natural setting with a variety of surfaces, covered areas and open spaces. The orchard area is known as the 'secret garden'. Included in the service aims are "We aim to ensure that all our children realise their full potential by listening to our children, by consulting and working in partnership with our parents, by employing a motivated, committed staff who feel valued, consulted and supported and by working collaboratively with relevant agencies and the wider community to support our children and families".

## What people told us

Overall children were settled and happy in the service. We observed that the children who were too young to verbally express their views showed pleasure when playing with the mix of natural and man made play materials. They looked to the staff for reassurance and support which was sensitively provided.

The older children confidently told us about the things that were important to them and that they liked the staff in the nursery. One child told us "Its fun, I like playing in the secret garden" and another said "The teachers are nice they tell us to be safe". Children talked to us about the dinosaur toys, favourite stories and playing outside. They described their activities, told us the names of their friends and involved us in their play.

Parents highly valued the service and the individualised care provided. Of the forty Care Standards questionnaires given out to parents thirty-five were returned and thirty contained detailed comments. We talked with four parents during the inspection process. Parents comments included:

- "My children have received outstanding care at the nursery".
- "A home from home with an incredibly high standard of care for each individual child".
- "Each child is treated with respect and genuine warmth and interest from all staff. The opportunity to be outdoors every day is one reason we chose this nursery".
- "Staff constantly ask us for feedback and new ideas. My husband a chef has been in to cook with the children and give feedback on menu ideas".
- "All of the girls who take care of my child are amazing and I can tell that he really connects with all of them. His attendance has certainly brought on his speech and language skills as well as his social interactions with both children and adults".
- "Since my child attended this nursery he has become a happy, fulfilled little boy".

- "Doonvale is a fun, compassionate, nurturing, enterprising and tremendous start to the world beyond the family. Our child is happy, confident and caring of other children...the food is superb, truly delicious and exciting".

## Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the service prior to this inspection. We discussed the service quality assurance process with the management during our inspection visit. We looked at the improvement plan and found that the service was working on improving children's outcomes in literacy and numeracy, improving children's opportunities to learn life skills and improve outcomes for all children in health and wellbeing. Management told us how parents and children had been involved in the quality assurance process.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

At this inspection we looked at how children's care, support, play and learning experiences across all age groups were met by the service. We also looked at how resources and the environment contributed to this. We found excellent practice in the care and support provided by management and staff that resulted in children's health, welfare, confidence, self-esteem and creativity being developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play. We also found children's outcomes within the various environments of the service were very good. Children were progressing well, staff were enthusiastic and committed to their roles and parents highly valued the care and support the service provided. Across the age groups we were impressed with staff's care and patience in supporting children to develop independence skills. Children could complete tasks with support where appropriate, in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere.

Across all age groups children and their parents/carers were warmly welcomed into the service by staff. Generally children presented as confident, happy, settled and secure within the setting. This told us that the detailed settling in and transition planning had been very successful. We found that staff worked closely with parents/carers and other professionals to meet children's individual health and learning needs. One parent commented "Staff were extremely sympathetic and helpful", another told us "We have a wonderful relationship with the nursery, they have helped our child settle after an international move" and "An exceptional childcare provider, they consistently meet our needs as a family...they operate the facility with the needs of the children at the centre". Parents shared with us how staff had developed specific skills in order to support their children and were "compassionate and nurturing".

In the baby and toddler age group children had access to a good range of natural and man-made play materials, there was a cosy space with a canopy and soft cushions, and the room was decorated in calming pastel colours. We saw that children enjoyed a relaxed morning snack either sitting in high chairs where they could see each other, or at the small child height tables. Staff sensitively supported the children and engaged with them, singing rhymes and chatting. Although children in this age group could not freely access an outdoor area from their

playroom, staff ensured twice daily access to outdoor play experiences through daily responsive planning and appropriate staff deployment. The environment provided a quiet area for children to rest and sleep according to children's needs and parent's wishes and each child had their own bed and blanket or could sleep in a pram. To support children's health and safety sleeping children were monitored throughout. We found that staff were committed to meeting individual children's needs and worked closely with parents.

Children in the pre three age group could freely access the small outdoor play area that was well resourced with a balance of natural and man-made play materials. Staff also used the secure barn area to provide children with outdoor play. Staff were skilled in identifying children's play patterns and planning reflected the needs and interests of the children. Learning intentions were displayed on the wall including "We are becoming independent - can you help us with how to put on our jacket and shoes". Staff members had taken responsibility for developing home link activities including 'Rhyme of the week' and 'Sammy the Owl'. Each child could take Sammy home with a story book and parents completed a feedback sheet.

Parents evaluations included;

"Very beneficial. It was good to have one to one with [child] with help from the nursery.

"It was nice to feel involved with what [child] is doing in nursery"

"Stick a toothbrush in so child can brush Sammy's teeth before bed".

Floor books based on topics identified by the children demonstrated that activities were responsive and reflected children ideas. For example in the three to five age group children wanted to make a café. Staff had recorded children's ideas about what the play 'café' would be named. The children voted for "The Apple Tree Café". We could see that children had explored healthy food options and had learned about who works in a café and what their roles entailed.

Another floorbook detailed what children would like to find out about dinosaurs. Their comments included "About raptors, how do they go so fast?", "What do they eat?" and "What was their colour like?". We could see that children had explored this topic in depth and could talk knowledgeably about their favourite dinosaurs.

The children in this age group had daily supervised access in the morning and afternoon to the 'secret garden' which entailed a short escorted walk to the area. They could freely choose to take part and staff were deployed effectively. During our inspection all of the children in this age group chose to play in the secret garden. They risk assessed the site and warned their friends about "jaggy nettles". Children were fully engaged in active play, exploring the natural environment, balancing on tractor tyres, making ladders, looking at and talking about insects, collecting, counting and sorting apples that had fallen from the apple trees and 'cooking' in the mud kitchen, making dens in the shaded areas and participating in small group storytelling. Staff skilfully observed and supported children's learning through well-managed involvement in children's play, using open-ended questioning to encourage children to solve problems, question, share resources and be aware of and manage risks in every-day activities. Children told us that the staff "read us stories" and "keep us safe" and that "teachers" were "nice...and happy".

Parents were involved in the life of the nursery. For example a parent who was a chef visited and cooked with the children and helped develop menu planning. Another parent provided 'story spoons' and supported story telling. Parents told us there was "Excellent communication" We saw that staff celebrated children's achievements including developing new physical skills, sharing toys, creating models and pictures and children were proud of their work. This told us that children felt accepted and valued.

## What the service could do better

The environment presented some challenges for the service including the location of the staff room which could only be accessed through the 2-3 years playroom and outdoor play could not be freely accessed from the baby room or the 3-5 years playroom. On the whole these challenges continued to be effectively managed so that children's routines and play opportunities were not restricted or disrupted. We have asked that management and staff continue to monitor this.

We discussed further developing the children's personal plans to include how the service will support children. This will link effectively with the planning format which reflects children's care needs, learning needs and interests.

## 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
10 Aug 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
27 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
16 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
14 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good
29 Sep 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good

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