

Southcraig Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

38 Belmont Avenue
Ayr
KA7 2ND

Telephone: 01292 612146

Type of inspection:

Announced (short notice)

Completed on:

28 March 2019

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2004081234

About the service

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

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

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

Southcraig Early Years Centre is a specialist service for children with additional needs and is provided by South Ayrshire Council. The nursery is part of the primary and secondary school cluster and is also located with them on the same campus. All parts of the campus are managed by the head teacher. The nursery is located within the primary school section of the building. Places are available for up to 24 children aged one year and over.

The service vision, values and aims include:

'We work together to provide an inclusive learning environment where everyone is valued and achievements are celebrated. We are committed to ensuring success, equity and wellbeing for all'.

'Our values reflect what we believe creates a positive and nurturing ethos within the school; Happiness, Respect, Independence, Inclusion, Communication'.

'We aim to build a partnership with parents, the wider community and others associated with the school by; actively involving parents/carers in their children's education and raising awareness of the work of the school in the local community'.

'We aim to provide a supportive, caring environment by; providing support to learners and their families and applying nurture principles across the school'.

A full copy of the vision, values and aims can be obtained from the service.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

Prior to inspection, we sent three care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents using the service. We received one completed questionnaire prior to this inspection. The respondent to our questionnaire strongly agreed that they were very happy with the quality of care provided by the service.

We also contacted parents by telephone; feedback included the following;

"This was the best thing we did moving our son to the service, we see him changing in a positive way everyday".

"Staff are really good, we have regular contact with them to discuss our child's personal plan and next steps".

"My son has a daily diary and they always call if there are any concerns".

"The service our son receives is better than we every expected, we are so happy with the care he receives".

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 paperwork. 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:

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

What the service does well

During the inspection, we considered the quality of care, support and staffing.

From the evidence gathered we evaluated these two themes as excellent. Management and staff at Southcraig Early Years Centre had created a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive ethos where children and families were at the heart of everything. The service provided children with highly individualised support which enabled them to achieve their potential. We observed that staff and children had established strong relationships which supported children to be happy, relaxed and content. All staff had a nurturing and caring approach and tailored the day to suit individual needs and interests of children. We observed children who had fun and clearly enjoyed their nursery experience.

We found that the staff team fully embraced the values and ethos of the service which resulted in an excellent approach to supporting children's individual needs. To do this effectively, staff had designed and implemented a simple but fundamental resource for relief staff and visitors which contained detailed information on each child within the centre. This 'child passport format' ensured that vital information surrounding the child's, health, welfare and safety needs was always available and updated when needed. We found this supported children to be respected and valued, ensuring their individual needs were cared for and considered.

We sampled children's personal plans and found that individual learning and development was tracked accurately and the information gathered was used by staff to inform planning processes and targeted intervention. Staff worked especially well as a team, sharing their skills and knowledge with each other to ensure children benefitted from the right support at the right time.

Throughout the inspection, we saw a range of communication methods used which were tailored to children's individual needs. Staff were very skilled in using these different methods to ensure that children understood what was happening and had appropriate time to respond and make choices. We observed staff creatively using a variety of resources and tools while story telling. Staff involved the children developing their independence while using lots of positive praise and encouragement throughout the session.

Inclusion through building partnerships with parents and the wider community was an important strength within the service. Management and staff worked creatively to engage parents and carers to support them to understand and strive to achieve positive outcomes for children. They did this through the effective use of daily diaries and big Mack switches which recorded elements of their child's time at the centre, as well as having open and professional dialogue with parents. A number of opportunities to be included in the life of the centre were offered to help parents share and develop skills and become part of their child's learning and development. These opportunities included Parents Early Education Partnership Sessions (PEEPS), on Inter - disciplinary learning, as well as occasions to go swimming with their child in the schools swimming pool.

We also found the service along with the school had developed excellent relationships with their neighbouring mainstream school Holmston Primary. We sampled photographs of children together from both services which captured children actively engaged in a wide range of fun and diverse activities. Primary Seven pupils from Holmston worked with children from Southcraig early learning centre and the School to experience inclusive Sherborne Developmental Movement Therapy. Staff explained this offers all participants the inclusive opportunity to develop body and spatial awareness skills.

The staff team were passionate, confident and motivated to learn new skills. We found staff were able to adopt and assess new approaches to their practice and develop better ways of working. This included participating in the recent 'ELKLAN' Lets Talk course designed for parents/carers and professionals that work with children who need support in their general development. Staff spoke positively about the learning from this course and told us how this supported them in working with parents/carers and children.

What the service could do better

The service should continue to embed planned initiatives that provide positive outcomes for children building on their already excellent work with children.

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.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

In order to ensure children's wellbeing staff should support children to follow effective hand washing routines. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2.4 A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 12 December 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 20 February 2017. They wrote and told us:

Children will be supported to participate in handwashing routines as outlined in Care standard 2.4.

During our inspection on 28 March 2019, we observed children being supported in handwashing routines.

Therefore this recommendation is met.

Recommendation 2

Staff should improve their knowledge and understanding of effective infection prevention in order to promote children's health and wellbeing.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2.4 Safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 12 December 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 20 February 2017. They wrote and told us: Additional training in Infection Control to be arranged for staff.

During our inspection on 28 March 2019, staff advised of training surrounding infection control and we observed this in our observations.

Therefore this recommendation is met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
17 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
11 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 5 - Very good
8 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
5 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
24 Jan 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
27 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
15 Dec 2008	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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