

# Struthers Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

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**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

10 December 2018

**Service provided by:**

South Ayrshire Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003003269

**Service no:**

CS2014325237

## About the service

Struthers Early Years Centre is part of the campus of Struthers Primary School. The service is registered to provide care and education for a maximum of 30 children from 3 years to this not attending primary school.

The nursery has its own entrance and separate outdoor space for play, although it uses the whole school grounds for extended play.

Among the aims of the service are:

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment where your child will feel happy and secure and ready to thrive.
- Encourage the emotional, social, physical and intellectual development of your child.
- Encourage positive attitudes to self and others while developing confidence and self esteem.
- Create a wide variety of opportunities for play in different environments.

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

The service was registered by the Care Inspectorate on 22 August 2014. We assessed the service using the care standards for health and social care, My Support, My Life. We have referenced them in each quality theme in this report.

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 wrote this report following an unannounced inspection on 3 December 2018 which began at 8.30am and finished at 4:15pm after we gave some informal feedback to the management and staff. We provided additional feedback by telephone on Monday 10 December 2018

## What people told us

Prior to carrying out the inspection, we sent 10 parental questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents on our behalf. At the time of the inspection, 7 had been returned which we used to assess the service performance.

Comments included:

"All staff members have been so welcoming to my child entering the nursery. They go above and beyond to hold information sessions for parents, opportunities to visit the nursery before starting and providing a very informative welcome pack and handbook."

"I am absolutely delighted with the standard of care this service offers. My daughter moved from another nursery and settled extremely quickly due to the wonderful staff and stimulating and engaging environment."

"My child found her first couple of weeks tricky with a lot of tears and all staff were so patient and nurturing which really helped her settle in. I am extremely happy with the excellent service Struthers EYC is providing for my daughter."

"My daughter has enjoyed the variety of activities and experiences provided. Staff are always available to talk to and provide a nurturing environment for children."

We also spoke with four parents during the inspection. Feedback from them was very positive. They told us that their child was happy, experienced good quality interactions from staff and that the communication was good.

Comments included:

"If my child's happy, I'm happy and she loves it here."

"They go out to play every day, something my wee one really needs and he's always telling me what he's been doing."

"The staff are fantastic, they really get to know you and your child and are so friendly and really interested in you."

## Self assessment

Services of this type were not asked to submit their self assessment this year. We looked at the service improvement plan to see the priorities for the school year.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

## What the service does well

We used the Health and Social Care Standards - My Support, My Life to assess the outcomes for children.

1.15 My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.

1.30 As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling.

1.32 As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment.

1.35 I can enjoy unhurried snack and meal times in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible.

5.22 I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.

We found the children present to be happy, settled, confident and engaged in their play. The very good environment provided by the experienced, capable and hard working staff was nurturing and inclusive. They had access to a wide variety of well organised activities and made good use of the available resources which helped to develop skills, imagination, physical development and learning. Children's preferences and interests were listened to and respected and taken into account by staff who understood the importance of high quality provision. Floor books were used successfully to both demonstrate children's ideas and to inform parents of the work of the service.

Health and wellbeing was promoted through snack, with staff supporting children where needed and helping them to enjoy a sociable experience. Staff were well trained in child protection, having annual refresher training and good leadership from the designated child protection officer. We sampled children's personal plans and found them to contain a good range of information which helped staff meet their individual needs. Staff knew the importance of updating these records in partnership with parents and children. Staff used positive language to engage with children, manage unwanted behaviour and support children.

We saw the lunch time service and found that staff had carefully considered the experience to provide a positive time for children. Children who stayed all day were offered a quiet time with relaxation in a separate room.

Children had very good outdoor learning experiences. Staff had worked hard to provide a choice of rich, open-ended and challenging play options. Children were engaged, excited and interested in the experiences on offer. We saw that they were having fun and that staff understood the risk : benefit approach, meaning children were developing resilience and capacity to understand risk. Staff were on hand to promote independence and used very good questioning to extend play.

## What the service could do better

Observations of the routines of the service showed some improvements to the pace and timing of the day could have benefits for children. Children engaged in the Daily Mile. We asked staff to consider how this affects the pace of the day and to include a more meaningful aspect to it by including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) planning. The tidying up routine should be reconsidered. Staff were open to consider these aspects of provision.

We spoke with staff about how they could further improve the snack arrangements through use of plates and real cutlery and with better opportunities for preparing, such as cutting fruit.

Although staff are gathering good quality information about children, we asked that they consider extending this by including 'More about me' to help them understand children's preferences.

Staff need to assess the potential risk of the temperature of the radiator in the entrance foyer.

## 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
2 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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