

Tarbolton Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Montgomerie Street
Tarbolton
Mauchline
KA5 5PY

Telephone: 01292 612152

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

25 March 2019

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2003016140

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

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

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included, also known as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

Tarbolton Early Years Centre is provided by South Ayrshire Council and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 58 children aged 2 years to those not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than 15 children will be 2 to 3 years only.

The service has a secure entry which leads to a cloakroom then secondary secure doors into designated playrooms. The service has two linked playrooms for 2 to 3 years and 3 to 5 years.

Both playrooms have direct access to the outdoor space. The service operates a freeflow system between the two playrooms.

One Care Inspectorate inspector carried out an unannounced inspection of the service Monday 25 March 2019. We also gave feedback to the manager on this date.

What people told us

We observed and talked to some children during our visit. We found children to be settled and happy within the service and familiar with the daily routine. Children were confident in moving freely between the indoor and outdoor play spaces and between the two playrooms. They had formed good relationships with the staff and other children.

Children told us that they enjoyed playing outside, that they had a mud kitchen, "hobbit holes" and they liked playing with their friends. Children 'read' their favourite stories to us and described what was happening in the pictures. They told us about their favourite food for lunch and snack and that they would brush their teeth. Overall we found that children were engaged in a wide variety of activities and presented as enthusiastic learners.

During the inspection we talked with five parents/relatives of children using the service.

They told us they were happy with the service provided.

Of the twenty care standards questionnaires we sent to the service to give to parents/carers we received sixteen completed. Parents comments included;

"Staff are all friendly and caring".

"Activities are always different".

"My child loves coming to the nursery at Tarbolton, He has excellent relationships with all the staff and they show genuine care. I know they always consider his needs and challenge him appropriately".

"All staff are very friendly and answer any questions or concerns I may have. There is good communication."

"See Saw (online communication) is brilliant, we can look at it when it's convenient".

"My child is really coming on with confidence and language".

"They are doing a great job, I have no issues, but if I did I am confident staff would address them."

"The 'Woo Hoo' Wednesday is great when we can stay in the playroom and see what they get up to".

Self assessment

We did not request an up to date self assessment prior to this inspection. We discussed with the manager, the service improvement plan and how it linked to developments within the centre. These included expanding the use of 'loose parts' play materials and developing communication and language.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

During this inspection we looked at how well children's play and learning was supported in the setting and how effectively the environment contributed to their health and wellbeing.

We found the children to be settled, happy and engaged in a wide range of suitable activities. They were confident in their environment and we saw that they felt valued and secure with the staff. Staff were welcoming and friendly and demonstrated a range of skills in supporting and promoting children's play and learning. The keyworker system had been replaced and staff spent time with all of the children throughout the day or week. Staff, parents and the head teacher told us this was working well. We saw that children benefitted from the different skills, approaches and personalities of staff members and they sought out individual staff if they needed reassurance.

The head teacher and staff team were enthusiastic about developing the service to meet the needs of children and families. We saw that in partnership with parents, staff had set clear learning goals for children. We found that children experienced warmth, kindness and compassion in how they were supported and cared for, including physical comfort when appropriate. Staff worked closely with teaching staff and other professionals to support children and reviewed children's personal plans with parents when necessary.

We saw that children could direct their own play and activities. They freely accessed a wide range of experiences and resources including a good balance of man made and natural resources to stimulate their curiosity and develop skills in understanding, thinking and investigation. In the floorbooks and planning methods we saw that children were involved in planning and evaluating their learning from topics based on their current interests, including 'dinosaurs', 'volcanos' and 'bones in our body'.

Children and their parents/carers took part in regular shared learning events including 'Tech Tuesday' and 'Woo Hoo Wednesday' and parents were very happy with the online communication system 'See Saw'. This two way communication system which was password protected enabled parents/carers to review their children's day, learning outcomes, topics and events and reply to the staff member.

Throughout the day children had fun while taking part in imaginative play and storytelling both indoors and in the outdoors play area. Staff and children showed us the outdoor classroom area which was a short walk in the school grounds and was being developed using all natural and 'loose parts play' materials. The children were learning about 'risk and resilience' and talked about the 'Hobbit Holes' for climbing in, being safe and keeping their balance while crossing over the small stream. The freeflow outdoor play area accessed from the playrooms was well organised to provide children with a variety of activities and the 'tinkering table' with tools was popular as well as the mud kitchen, water station and climbing apparatus. This meant that children could play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment.

The premises were clean and secure and the playrooms were spacious with good natural light. The indoor play areas provided rich learning environments for children to play and learn and the freeflow access for children in both age groups allowed them to access activities they were interested in and use the resources in keeping with their age and stage of development. This was monitored by staff to ensure safety and provide challenge for more able children.

Children enjoyed an unhurried snack in a relaxed atmosphere and were supported in developing independence skills. Children who stayed for lunch walked with staff to the lunch hall and enjoyed suitable meals and portion sizes for their age. They were also encouraged to develop independence skills. Throughout the service we found that there were good health and hygiene methods in place. Children were encouraged to learn about healthy lifestyles through hand washing, active play, dental hygiene and healthy eating.

The service had good links with the primary school to support children starting school and had further developed shared learning experiences from earlier in the year. This supported the early stages of the Curriculum for Excellence and smooth transition between the service and primary one.

What the service could do better

We did not make any requirements or recommendations at this inspection, however we discussed with the manager the following areas for improvement and further development.

To improve infection control practice we advised that the provider of the service should complete work on providing an adult height hand washing facility in the nappy changing area, and provide extended tap facilities in the playroom to enable young children to easily wash their hands.

Personal plans contained important information about the children's needs and interests. While staff were clear about how they would support individual children, and planning identified how they would do this, methods were not clearly recorded in the personal plans. We discussed developing personal plans to include how the service would support children's identified needs and targets and allow parent to sign their agreement.

We discussed further developing quiet areas and comfortable furnishing especially for children who would benefit from quiet spaces and those who may attend full days. The head teacher told us resources had recently been acquired ready to be set up.

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

1. The provider should ensure that good practice infection control measures are in place to reduce the spread of infection. To achieve this they should follow the Care Inspectorate nappy changing guidance and Health Protecting Network Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings guidance. Areas identified for improvement included:

- waste disposal
- storage of cleaning materials
- adult hand washing procedures
- nappy changing facilities
- children's access to hand washing facilities

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16

Standard 2; A safe environment

Standard 3; Health and Wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 10 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Nappy changing facilities and infection control practice followed best practice guidance. However the provider had not yet completed work on installing an adult height handwashing facility in the nappy changing area and this was discussed with the manager during the inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
10 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
29 Oct 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
5 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
30 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
23 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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