

# Riccarton Early Childhood Centre Day Care of Children

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East Ayrshire Council

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## About the service

This daycare of children service is located in its own building in the town of Kilmarnock in East Ayrshire. The centre is open during term times for children not yet at primary school, who are aged from 3 years and over. The service is registered for 64 to attend at any time. Children have a variety of attendance patterns. The service is provided by East Ayrshire Council and managed by a head teacher.

Riccarton Early Childhood Centre states that it aims to:

- Provide a safe, happy, nurturing and stimulating environment in which every child and all involved in their development will feel welcome, respected, valued and confident.
- Provide a relevant, progressive and balanced curriculum indoors and outdoors with high quality, learning experiences that supports and challenges children.
- Ensure children are at the centre of their learning, consulted in decision-making and experiences take account of their individual interests and needs.
- Create an environment that encourages respectful relationships. Children will be supported to understand their feelings and become emotionally resilient and recognise that everyone has equal status and equal opportunities.
- Establish and nurture strong partnership links with parents and the wider community to work productively together to encourage innovative and forward thinking ideas to continually improve the service we provide.

We are testing our new ELC quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare. This inspection was included as part of the test. We have evaluated the service based on key questions and quality indicators linked to the framework. As this was a test, we will not be publishing the evaluations. More information about the quality framework and methodology can be found on our website [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## What people told us

Children told us they were happy attending the service. They spoke about their favourite things to do, which included playing outside, drawing and playing with their friends. They said that the people who worked there were kind and funny and that there were lots of toys.

Parents told us they were extremely happy with every aspect of the service. They felt that the management and staff were excellent, as was communication. Parents said that they loved seeing what their children had been learning in their online journals. They felt that their children were supported extremely well to progress in their learning. They felt that the centre provided a welcoming, supportive environment for children and families.

## How good is our care and learning?

### 1.1 Nurturing Care and support

Children attending the service were thriving, as a result of the high quality, nurturing care and support provided. Children were happy, settled and enjoyed lots of fun and laughter. Outstanding planned nurturing approaches supported children's health and well-being and provided children with sustained opportunities to enrich their emotional well-being and resilience. Children were highly receptive to leading their own learning through an extensive range of experiences. Their progress and successes were effectively

celebrated, which helped build self-esteem and confidence. Consistently highly effective and warm interactions supported positive relationships and resulted in children feeling safe, secure and confident in the centre.

Children enjoyed high quality snack and mealtime experiences. These were organised to allow plenty of time for children and staff to share stories, discuss their feelings and enjoy their meals in a relaxed atmosphere. Beautifully set tables with real cutlery and crockery, supported a positive social experience and children's independence. Children enjoyed the varied choices of the healthy and nutritious food provided.

Highly effective personal planning arrangements supported children's care, learning and development. Involvement with children and families in personal planning processes was embedded in childcare practice. This ensured effective information sharing to promote consistency and continuity of care. Exceptional approaches for recording and monitoring children's progress enabled staff to build effectively on children's prior learning. Highly responsive approaches to planning, meant that children's developing interests were very well reflected in the experiences staff offered them. Children with additional needs were extremely well supported. The centre worked closely with families and other services to promptly identify and agree targets and approaches that helped all children to achieve their potential.

## 1.2 Children are safe and protected

Children were protected from harm by staff who had a clear understanding of their responsibilities. Regular and appropriate child protection training meant that they were alert and responsive to potential signs of abuse and neglect.

The centre was proactive in supporting families to overcome adversities. Sharing information about additional support and services available to families helped to mitigate stress and hardship.

Children and their families were supported to understand about children's rights through innovative approaches. The service made effective use of national resources to support children's learning and understanding of personal safety. This helped to empower children.

## 1.3 Play and learning

Highly responsive approaches to planning meant that children were progressing their learning through a well-considered and targeted range of organised and freely chosen play experiences. Children confidently and independently moved around the centre's indoor and outdoor spaces. They were highly motivated to lead their own learning and engaged in their chosen experiences for sustained periods. This was helping children to challenge themselves and extend their learning.

Staff routinely carried out risk assessments in response to children leading their physical play experiences. This meant that children were supported to develop their awareness of safety, and risk, whilst benefiting from appropriately challenging physical experiences. Children enjoyed climbing and jumping from heights. Children's involvement in thinking about risk helped them to be responsible and safe in their play.

Children's learning and development was effectively supported by staff, who routinely used skilful questioning techniques to extend their thinking. Fun and imaginative experiences helped children develop skills in technology, literacy and numeracy.

## Areas for improvement

## How good is our staff team?

### 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values

Children and families benefited from an exceptional staff team. All staff were highly motivated and enthusiastic, happy to be at their work and supported and respected each other. This modelling of positive behaviours was helping children to learn about respectful relationships and effective communication. It also contributed to the warm and happy ethos within the centre.

Children experienced high quality care because staff respected their rights, were skilled, reflective, and consistently striving for excellence. Staff demonstrated enthusiasm and excitement about centre developments. They told us about how their self-esteem and confidence were nurtured as they were supported to share and develop their vision for improvement and be their best.

Regular and planned support and feedback was valued by staff. Highly effective supervision provided opportunities for staff to be clear on their responsibilities and accountable for their role and professional development. Staff performance was constructively reviewed, with highly effective and individualised support planned, and evaluated, to ensure its effectiveness.

Management and staff within the centre were widely recognised for their exceptional practice. They enthusiastically supported developments in the early learning and childcare sector, at a local and national level. This was helping disseminate good practice to improve outcomes for children in Scotland.

### 4.3 Staff deployment

Staffing levels, and highly effective deployment of staff throughout the service, supported consistently positive outcomes for children and families.

Management carefully considered how to utilise the range of experience, knowledge and skills of the staff group to ensure children had positive and safe experiences throughout the day. Highly effective arrangements were in place to support staff to build relationships with children and their families. These relationships underpinned much of the centre's work and success.

Staff were clear about their areas of responsibility within the centre and planned effectively to make these attractive and enticing for children. They communicated effectively with each other when they needed to move away from their designated areas. This helped ensure children's continuity of care and safety.

Effective support for staff health and well-being, and the feeling that they were valued and respected, supported positive staff attendance. This supported continuity of care for children.

## 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).

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