

Cherry Tree Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Harthall
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Type of inspection:
Announced

Completed on:
5 March 2025

Service provided by:
South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003269

Service no:
CS2003014328

About the service

Cherry Tree Early Years Centre is registered to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 150 children at any one time. Of those 150, no more than 10 are aged under two, no more than 40 are aged two to under three and, no more than 100 are aged three to those not yet attending primary school. Eighty-four children attended the service each day of the inspection.

The service operates from a custom-built facility in Ayr area of south Ayrshire. It is close to local transport links, green spaces, shops and schools.

Children have access to four main play spaces, a large indoor shared space, and extensive outdoors space that is accessed directly from each play space.

About the inspection

This pilot inspection was a shared visit between the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland HM Inspectors to test the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors'. The pilot took place between 3 and 5 March 2025. The pilot was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector and one HM Inspector.

To prepare for the inspection, the Care Inspectorate reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

This inspection was part of a shared pilot. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

Education Scotland will provide a high-level summary of the meetings and discussions held between the HM Inspector, senior leaders, stakeholders and practitioners in the setting. This will not include evaluations and will not be published.

During the inspection, the Care Inspectorate:

- spoke with people using the service, and their friends and family members
- received 43 completed questionnaires / survey responses
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy and having fun.
- Strong relationships had been established between staff, children and families.
- Child protection and safeguarding procedures were robust.
- Staff knew children well and cared for them in line with information recorded within their personal plans.
- Staff were highly skilled in supporting children and families to reach their full potential.

Children are supported to achieve

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support.

Children experienced warm, consistent and responsive care that fostered their wellbeing. They were safe and sensitively cared for by staff who supported them to express their needs. This supported them to feel safe and to have fun.

Children's privacy and dignity was respected. They asked for help naturally from an adult and were supported to be independent. For example, children were confident to get ready independently for outdoors, putting on wellington boots and splash suits. Some children needed help to get ready and they were supported sensitively by the staff to do this.

Staff were welcoming when children started the session. Children were pleased to see staff and excited to be at nursery. Family relationships were strong. Staff spent time welcoming children and families into the play spaces, getting to know them well. Feedback from families about relationships was very positive. Some comments we received included:

"They care about every child that comes to the centre, and they have the children's best interests at heart, they are very approachable and helpful."

"Staff are lovely and welcoming, daughter seems happy going every day."

"Great relationship. They know us and my child very well. Always telling me how he's been. Take interests in him and our lives away from nursery too."

This helped children and families feel safe and supported strong attachments and relationships.

Overall, children experienced supportive and positive mealtimes. Staff catered for allergies and dietary requirements well, and foods were nutritious. Staff sat with children as they ate, supporting them to self-select their foods and chat about their day. Rolling lunch in the two to three years age group was respecting of children's right to play, allowing children to come to a natural pause in their play when attending for

lunch. We discussed the importance of the pace and balance of the whole day for older children, particularly at lunchtimes. Better considered transitions would support children's choices and right to play. Management agreed and shared they are planning to review the lunchtime routines to support this.

Children's wellbeing was supported through effective personal planning. All children, regardless of their personal characteristics, were recognised as individuals who were listened to, valued and respected. Personal plans reflected what staff knew about individual children. Personal plans promoted children's rights and valued the individuality of each child and their family. They were tailored to each child's individual strengths, needs and interests. Plans were regularly updated in partnership with families. One person said, "Care plans are updated on a one-to-one basis with staff regularly, my child has a key worker however all staff know are happy to help." This meant staff could sensitively respond to changes in children's lives.

Where children had additional needs, support plans were in place. Staff and management worked proactively with children, families and other professionals to identify support needed, and agree clear strategies to ensure that children's wellbeing was supported, and children reached their full potential.

Families had regular opportunities to discuss their child's care and development, both informally and formally. This was further supported by effective communication through journals, displays, questionnaire and other information sharing. This supported families to have a voice and feel fully involved in their children's care and life of the setting.

Staff and management recognised potential barriers that could make it difficult for families to be involved in the setting or support their children's development. They understood that each child's development is shaped by their family, friends, community and experiences. Families were welcomed into the setting to many different events, and to participate in programmes and engagement sessions. One person told us, "They regularly have stay and play which is great, and there is a woman who works closely with the nursery and runs classes which we attend, and these are great." This impacted positively on the quality of children's care and support, both at home and in the setting.

Quality indicator: Safeguarding and child protection.

Management and staff demonstrated a very good understanding of legislation and national and local guidance to support the health and safety of children. They had taken part in training and learning around safeguarding and child protection. They were confident in their procedures for reporting concerns and supporting children. They were reflective and took time as a group to keep abreast of guidance and legislation. For example, they had recently taken part in "The Promise" training.

The management met termly with other settings to discuss their roles and share new information at a child protection group. They demonstrated strong leadership in ensuring arrangements for safeguarding and child protection remained integral to the work of the setting.

There were clear and up-to date policies in place to support safeguarding and child protection. Child protection procedures were shared with all visitors to ensure everyone was aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe.

Staff had established strong relationships with other professionals, including health and social work. Any needs and concerns about children and their families were dealt with timeously, sensitively and effectively. Staff kept families updated and shared information with them where appropriate. This highlighted the service's commitment to highly effective collaborative working. This meant timely interventions supported

children and families.

There was a strong and developing ethos where staff respected children individuality, promoted their rights and equality. Children were encouraged to share their views. This supported highly effective relationships that enabled children to feel safe and secure.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

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