

Kingcase Early Years Centre

Day Care of Children

Nursery Avenue
Prestwick
KA9 2DG

Telephone: 01292 473451

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

21 May 2019

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2003017400

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.

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.

Kingcase Early Years Centre is a daycare of children service located within Kingcase Primary School, in a residential area in the town of Ayr, South Ayrshire. The service is provided by South Ayrshire Council.

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. Staff provide early learning and childcare for up to 50 children aged three years and over. The service operates a morning session, afternoon session and full day placements for a number of children. On day one of the inspection, approximately 47 children were in attendance during both sessions. On day two of the inspection, 48 children attended the morning session.

A copy of the service's aims and objectives were available. They included the following statements:

Our Aspirational Vision is:

- To provide excellence and push the boundaries of achievement
- To have high hopes and expectations for all
- To ensure focus on individual improvement – every gain a victory!
- To work together, learn from each other and share ideas
- To set achievable and realistic goals
- To embed quality in teaching and learning and value the importance of continual self-evaluation and reflection.

Our aim at Kingcase is to ensure that all pupils fulfil their potential as:

Successful Learners Confident Individuals

Responsible Citizens Effective Contributors

by engaging fully in school life and embedding our vision and values in our practice.

What people told us

We sent out 16 care standards questionnaires and asked the service to give them to parents of children who used the service. Prior to inspection, we received 15 completed questionnaires. Responses in the care standards questionnaires told us that all parents strongly agreed that they were happy with the overall quality of care their child received. Comments they made included:

'Kingcase Early Years Centre delivers an excellent service. Positive therapeutic relationships are both made with individual children and parents'.

'As parents we feel that this early years centre is a caring and nurturing environment. The ideas and activities that are offered to the children are interesting and plenty. The children are also very involved with discussing which topics they would like to learn about, what snack they would like to eat that week and also sharing each others successes'.

'Kingcase early years is a fantastic nursery with fabulous teachers. I feel my child has come on leaps and bounds within themselves and their education while attending'.

'My child loves attending the nursery at Kingcase Early Years Centre. My child has developed very positive relationships with all staff, who know my child very well. My child is made to feel valued with a positive praise ethos and how the service celebrate success in and outwith the centre. The outdoor area is excellent and provides excellent opportunities for a range of play experiences. My child is outside every day. As a family, we are warmly welcomed into the nursery. Our child has loved the play on pedals, peep sessions, learning makaton and visiting Ardfin and Rozelle, enabling my child to develop skills for life'.

'The staff at Kingcase Early Years Centre have gone above and beyond to help my child settle and feel welcome at nursery. My child loves the outdoor space at the nursery, and is involved in energetic play most days, which is brilliant. My child is looking forward to 'play on pedals' in their preschool year. There are plenty of opportunities as a parent to go into the nursery and be involved, e.g. the recent Easter concert, stay and play or to help on trips like the outdoor sessions at Belleisle'.

'My child has only been attending Kingcase Early Years Centre for a short time, however in that time I have been impressed by the service offered. The centre has truly welcomed us with warmth and enthusiasm. All members of staff engage with my child and already I can see that my child is very settled in the fun, engaging and stimulating environment which is provided. I am very thankful for the time and effort which goes into providing such a nurturing place for children to grow and learn'.

'The nursery team and management are a highly competent and caring professional team'.

'We have been so impressed with the high quality of care and education at Kingcase. The Early Years Centre staff are so dedicated to their jobs and this is evident to all. My child has come on so much since starting'.

'Kingcase is a lovely play for my child to learn, grow and play. The staff know my child very well and my child speaks very highly of them. The regular reports are detailed and informative. The organised trips are well planned and fun. The outside space is relatively limited but I understand occasional use is made of the playground in the school. A great centre'.

'The nursery has a very friendly and welcoming 'feeling' and an excellent start to my child's experiences of the education system'.

'Emma and her staff are absolutely wonderful. A perfect service overall'.

'I feel very fortunate that my child attends such a good nursery. They have great examples of positive work such as the 'play on pedals' scheme which has been a huge success. They also attend Auchenday day centre to mix with elderly residents. We also benefit hugely from the children's visits. Outdoors is well promoted with regular trips to Belleisle Park which is very educational. All this is down to staff's fantastic enthusiasm and commitment of care for the children. Kingcase nursery is a such a lovely example of positive learning and should be commended'.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. We looked at the improvement plan for the service which identified clear priorities for development.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

During this inspection, we considered the quality of care and support and the environment and found high quality performance across a wide range of activities. From the evidence gathered, we evaluated both themes as excellent.

Management and staff recognised the key importance of working in partnership with parents. Through an inclusive and welcoming environment, parents and children were fully respected and included within the centre. Opportunities provided for parents to be involved in the centre included come and play sessions, biscuit and blether sessions, developmental milestones workshops and numerous home link activities. Relationships established with parents were found to be excellent. This ensured quality information was being shared timely to enable staff to meet children's changing needs. Where children had identified needs, effective arrangements were in place to ensure that children benefitted from the right support at the right time. Feedback from parents confirmed that children were making very good progress. We found outcomes for children were positive.

A strong emphasis on building positive and nurturing relationships were at the forefront of staff's interactions with children. Staff were warm, kind and compassionate in their approach, providing comfort, reassurance and support at the appropriate times. Praise and encouragement were widely promoted. Strategies were in place to recognise and celebrate children's achievements. This included wider achievements from home. The children eagerly told us about the rewards they received. We found systems were impacting positively on children's self-esteem and confidence.

Staff worked hard to embed a communication friendly environment, where all children could communicate their needs, wishes and choices. This was further supported by a 'Makaton' champion. The Makaton language

programme was being implemented effectively, to support early language development and communication within the centre. During inspection, children were keen to show us their use of sign and told us how they used this when singing and talking to their 'old friends'. The children regularly visited a local nursing home and dementia unit, promoting a greater understanding and respect between generations. Parents commented very highly on the impact of visits on both children and parents themselves. We found respectful relationships were fully nurtured within the service.

Children were visibly happy and confident for the duration of our visit, interacting meaningfully with staff and peers. Friendships were encouraged, promoting children's happiness and wellbeing. All children we spoke with, commented positively on their experience.

Opportunities for children to be independent were maximised. Routines were child led, allowing children to engage in experiences provided for increased periods of time, free from any interruptions or formal constraints. This resulted in children actively leading their own learning indoors and out.

Planning in place was successfully supporting staff to provide and facilitate high quality experiences for children. Areas were very well set up and resourced to encourage imaginative play and curiosity. We observed children testing out their own ideas as they played creatively within the mud kitchen and when using real tools outdoors. A balance of adult directed and freely chosen activities were supporting children to develop key skills.

The promotion of healthy lifestyles was fostered within the centre through a wide range of activities. This included daily free flow access to outdoor play. Learning through the outdoors was further supported through blocks of sessions at local woodland areas, giving children additional opportunities to explore a natural setting.

Other activities provided included the 'play on pedals initiative'. Children who participated in this scheme were successfully learning to cycle a two-wheeled bike. Teaching was personalised to ensure all children reached their full potential.

Snack and mealtimes were sociable and unhurried for children. Children were involved in menu planning and purchasing of the snack, developing a better awareness of healthy and nutritious foods.

We found effective systems were in place to keep children safe. Staff had completed relevant child protection training and were keeping up to date with current protection issues. Risk assessments had been carried out, identifying potential hazards, enabling staff to put in place appropriate control measures.

What the service could do better

The service had personal plans in place for all children sampled. Plans included significant changes in children's circumstances and captured progression in children's literacy and numeracy development. The service should further develop plans to include a clear outline of children's health, welfare and safety needs and detail how these needs will be met. Parents should sign and date all plans to confirm reviews have taken place.

The service told us, they were further developing planning systems in place. We agreed that this would be a positive step to maintain an excellent level of service provision.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
31 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
16 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
8 Jun 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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