

Monkton Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Station Road
Monkton
Prestwick
KA9 2RH

Telephone: 01292 473456

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

13 September 2019

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2003043779

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.gov.scot.

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Monkton Early Years Centre is registered to provide a daycare service to a maximum of 30 children aged from three years and over of whom 20 may be accommodated in the nursery class and ten in the support room.

The early years centre is located within Monkton Primary School campus in the village of Monkton, South Ayrshire. The early years centre has its own entrance and cloakroom area. The service is delivered in a large well laid out playroom and an adjoining support/quiet room with their own toilets and nappy changing. There is direct access to a large enclosed outdoor play area.

South Ayrshire Council is the provider of the service. The primary school head teacher has overall responsibility for the management of the nursery. The nursery teacher and early years staff team plan and provide the day-to-day management and care for the children.

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.

A full statement of service's aims and objectives is available from the service.

What people told us

We sent ten care standard questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents/carers of children who used the service, three of which were returned before the inspection. The parents/carers who returned their questionnaires all agreed they were happy with the care and support their child received. Comments made included;

"The nursery has worked very hard to ensure my child feels included at snack and meal times. I am confident that care and attention is paramount."

During our inspection visit 12 children were present. We spoke with some of the children who were eager to tell us about their time in the service. The children told us they enjoyed attending the early years centre, they liked their teachers and they enjoyed playing with their friends. We observed the children enjoying taking part in a range of good quality activities. Their comments included:

"Its fun, I like playing and making things."

"X is my friend, we like playing with water and splashing."

"We are collecting potatoes, we grew the potatoes, they are big and I'm going to eat them."

Throughout this report, any reference to 'parents' also includes carers and guardians.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of this inspection. We discussed the improvement plan for the service which demonstrated clear priorities for improving outcomes for children.

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

Together staff and management had created a welcoming environment for children and families. Relationships between staff, parents and children were positive, with staff providing regular support, encouragement and praise to children. 'Proud Cloud' and 'Star of the week' ensured that children's achievements were recognised and celebrated. Family involvement sessions were in place including stay and play sessions and home links included 'George the Giraffe' and numeracy bags.

Throughout our inspection we saw that children were very happy and engaged. They interacted and responded well to the staff caring for them. We found staff to be warm, welcoming and nurturing which contributed to children feeling safe and secure. Staff took time to talk to children about their likes, dislikes and wider community interests during the unhurried snack and lunch routines. We found the children played confidently choosing from a very good range of toys and materials which supported them to develop their skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including imaginative play and storytelling.

We found children had opportunity to be involved in their own learning. Floorbooks recorded children's experiences. We saw that staff challenged children and provided opportunities for children to become more independent and involved them in planning activities and learning. Children responded well to this.

The playroom and the quiet room were well laid out. We found that staff observations had led to recent changes within the playrooms, for example the staff had moved the home corner into the quiet room, staff told us that this was a popular move with the children who were using the area more. Both playrooms had a very good range of resources including loose parts and natural resources which were easily accessible to the children encouraging their creativity and curiosity.

The service made very good use of the outdoor play space to create a motivating environment for children to

investigate, explore, and play together. Children, staff and parents had worked together to develop the outdoor play space. Children benefited from direct access from the playroom to the outdoor play area. Staff told us that they ensured the children had daily access to outdoor play experiences. Staff had recently introduced real tools into the outdoor play area. This enabled staff to encourage children to identify risks and consider how to keep themselves safe.

We observed the outdoor area to be well used and the children enjoyed playing outdoors. Puddle suits were available if needed to ensure that children were dressed for wet weather. On the day of inspection children were seen to harvest potatoes that they had grown, providing them with opportunity to learn about where their food came from and to learn about the world around them.

What the service could do better

Personal plans were in place for all children we sampled during this inspection. Staff demonstrated how they used personal plans to track children's progression in learning and to identify children's next steps and targets. We made some suggestions on how the personal plans could be further developed. To support accurate tracking of children we have asked that dates are included on the children's records.

We have asked the service to ensure that fresh drinking water is available at all times both indoors and outdoors. This should include staff regularly prompting younger children.

During the inspection we looked at how well the service kept children safe through effective infection control measures. We highlighted storage of aprons and toilet training seats to the service and asked them to store them in line with best practice for infection control. We also discussed nappy changing facilities. There were current children within the service who required nappy change on a daily basis. The staff were using a baby sized changing mat on the floor of the changing room. We asked the management to provide an appropriate nappy changing station which would support staff and children to follow best practice. The management team told us they would do this.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
16 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
13 Jan 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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