

Peek-a-Boo Nursery Kirkcaldy Day Care of Children

1 King Street
Kirkcaldy
KY2 5JR

Telephone: 01592 642300

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 4 August 2016

Service provided by:
Lynne Kivistik Limited

Service provider number:
SP2005007650

Care service number:
CS2009233012

About the service

Peek-a-Boo Nursery Kirkcaldy was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of 38 children at any one time between 7:30am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

The conditions of registration that apply to this service are:

Number(s) and Age(s) of person(s) to whom service may be provided:

1. The care service may be provided to a maximum of:
13 children aged 8 weeks - under 2 years in the Butterfly/Ladybird room
11 children aged 2 years and over in the Caterpillar room
14 children aged 3 years and over in the Busy Bee room.

Any other conditions unique to the service:

2. The age range of the children will be from 8 weeks to those not yet attending primary school.
3. The care service may operate between the times of 7:30am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday.
4. The manager/designated person in charge will be supernumerary for a period of 20 hours per week.
5. During the operating times the service will have the exclusive use of the nursery building and outside play areas.

The nursery is located in a two storey building within a residential area of Kirkcaldy close to the Victoria hospital. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the back of the nursery and the location of the nursery gives children easy access to the local library, parks and woodland areas.

What people told us

We observed children's experiences of care and play throughout our inspection. Children played confidently with staff and the other children in their groups as well as with different aged children when playing outdoors. Children were happy, settled and secure.

Children we spoke to told us, "I like playing outside best. Can you see how high I am building a tower with these blocks, a bit wobbly though!"

"I am going to school in August, I found a snail last night in the garden, it was a tiny wee snail, I put it back in the garden to grow."

We talked to five parents or carers using the service whose children attended different groups. They said that overall they were happy with the service their children received. We received completed questionnaires from seven parents or carers and they were also overall happy with the quality of care and support their children received.

Comments from them included:

"My child enjoys nursery and I notice a big difference in my child's independence and speech since starting nursery."

"My child is always happy to go to the nursery and has built up a great relationship with staff and children. To me this indicates the nursery is doing a great job caring for my child."

Two comments from parents highlighted a need for greater focus on children's learning.

All observations and comments from parents and carers were used to inform our inspection.

Self assessment

Services undertake a self-assessment before inspection. The self-assessment details strengths, areas for improvement and grades the service has awarded itself based on its performance.

We received a fully completed self-assessment document from the service. We were satisfied with the way this was completed and with the relevance of information included. We advised the manager and provider that instead of listing policies, procedures and staff training in the self-assessment there should be greater focus on how well the service provides care to children as a result of good and improving practice and how they know this.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were settled, happy and confident in the care of the nursery staff. The service provided a very nurturing environment which resulted in very good relationships with the children and their families.

Interaction between children and staff was warm, sensitive and caring. Younger children and babies knew the staff caring for them very well, settled quickly when parents left and enjoyed the play and games their key workers had planned. Children's routines were as consistent as possible with home and good relationships with parents enabled this to continue throughout their attendance at the nursery. Staff communicated well with the younger children, they supported their developing language skills and encouraged an early fascination and love for books, story, music and rhyme. Babies and younger children enjoyed regular daily access to outdoor play and were well supervised by staff. They spent time building, mixing and moving sand and stones from one area to another as well as climbing on the climbing equipment.

Plans had been implemented to develop more heuristic play. A booklet had been developed to help inform decisions and a sensory area was planned within the room. We agreed that further inclusion of more interesting natural materials would support different kinds of play. We advised the manager and provider on how best to support children when staff took their breaks so that they felt more reassured.

Children aged between two to five were outdoors throughout most of the inspection. They used resources and areas well to have fun and learn. Children were very confident, relaxed and able. Children participated with interest in planned activities including an arranged visit from 'Zoolab'. The activities sustained concentration and participation very well.

We discussed building on current learning opportunities as a focus for further improvement and advised that continued development of records should help staff capture children's progress more effectively. We discussed the use of language and story telling, environmental print, IT, the availability of different types of books, magazines, maps and of the opportunity for fun yet more challenging problem solving activities and activities that develop fine motor skills further.

Children's records were maintained well, their health needs were well documented and known to staff and appropriate systems were used for the safe administration of medication. We discussed child protection with the management team and some staff; they were confident about responding to any concerns appropriately.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Indoors and outdoors children used the areas available to them with confidence and familiarity. Staff supervised children well, involved them in discussions of risk and kept areas clean and well maintained. Toys and resources were used very well by children in the group and observations demonstrated how staff sustained children's attention for longer. Staff talked to us about their response to children's interests and developing capabilities by moving, adding or changing resources.

Resources such as toys, paints, crafts materials, construction toys and equipment used by children were easily and freely accessed by them to support imaginative play and learning. We discussed the introduction of resources and activities that further enhance children's use and recognition of language, their problem solving and numeracy skills and fine motor skills.

One child described outdoor play in the nursery: "the best place to have fun is outside." Children from all groups spent time outside, the older ages spending most of their day outdoors when we inspected. The pace of play and learning in this area was determined more by the children, their use of materials outdoors and the freedom to plan and construct more complex play including negotiation with peers about the purpose and use of the natural resources, enabled greater learning opportunities to take place. As part of planned improvements the manager and provider were developing greater play opportunities outdoors, such as in the woods, which would form part of the weekly routine for children. More resources to support learning outdoors provided by parents were due to be delivered soon. As an area for improvement that has already been implemented well with continued plans for more improvements we anticipate children's play and learning will continue to develop outdoors.

Toilets, nappy changing areas and procedures for nappy changing were managed well. Children's sleep was monitored well at the time of inspection. We advised the manager and provider to consider the positioning of cots in the baby room in line with current best practice guidance on safe sleep as provided by the Scottish Cot Death Trust. See recommendation 1.

Cleaning schedules and rotas were used to remind staff of cleaning routines. It was recognised that rugs in the toddler room required more frequent washing due to the use of floor space by children of this age.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. It is recommended that the manager uses current best practice guidance on safe sleeping for babies and young children to review, inform and assess decisions about the positioning of cots within the sleep area of the nursery.

National care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16

Standard 2: A safe environment.

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Staff were appropriately trained, qualified and registered for their roles within the service. Conditions on their registration with the Scottish Social Services Council were worked towards and timescales were recognised. Staff interacted well with children and parents who told us they communicated well with them and were supportive. Staff attended training on a regular basis and worked with the manager to improve planning and performance, this was observed in the improved records kept of children's activities in the toddler and baby rooms.

New staff had been employed since the last inspection and a new member of staff had recently started within the three to five age group. Staff recruitment procedures were used well to ensure checks were undertaken before staff were employed by the service. Very good induction procedures including reflective statements had been completed by new staff and there was good evidence that staff had read and followed policies and procedures in place.

On-going staff monitoring and appraisal had been used to support staff professional development. We read some of the monitoring records that had been kept and found that the manager had followed through within agreed timescales to assess progress that had been made. It was clear for staff what was expected of them and why.

We advised that the service continues to develop staff skills and abilities through the regular use of monitoring systems and reflective practice. This will help to inform appraisals clearly and fairly and enable leadership and expertise to be recognised and promoted further within the staff team. Plans for leaders in outdoor play were very positive and we suggested that similar areas of expertise could be developed by staff in all areas of children's care and learning.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Families using the service, staff and other stakeholder feedback, advice and guidance was used to inform improvement plans used by the service. Plans identified areas for development and service strengths effectively. Improvement in focussed areas for development such as the outdoor play area and in service records was evidenced throughout the inspection.

The evaluation of the service included parents by asking for feedback about the quality of care and support their children received. The questionnaires were sent out to parents twice a year. Parents were asked to contribute to the review of policies relevant to their children's care, for example, child protection and they were asked to contribute to their children's care plans through the children's personal learning journals, review meetings and daily diaries.

Feedback was collated and shared with parents as was the service improvement plan which was displayed on the parent notice board within the nursery. Parents we spoke to told us that communication with staff was very good and that staff listened to and responded to their views very well.

Staff working in the nursery contributed to the assessment and improvement of the service. They attended regular staff meetings to discuss the service they provided, to highlight any issues and to share any learning they had experienced. Further development and use of professional dialogue between practitioners within the nursery, with practitioners in the organisation's other nurseries and with professionals outwith the nursery, could help to further enhance staff awareness of practice elsewhere and their own critical reflection.

We advised that the continued development of the service approach to self-assessment would further support the nursery to sustain standards and to identify and plan for further focussed areas of improvement. We discussed developing further quality assurance systems with greater focus on outcomes for children so that the identification of service strengths and areas for improvement clearly reflects the impact of care and learning experiences children receive. This could then be linked more clearly to their plan for improvement, training and to identify areas of responsibility. Staff and management should consider how they will measure the progress that has been made and what realistic timescales can be set. The manager and provider were keen to take this work forward.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The provider should ensure that outdoor equipment accessed by children are kept clean and included within the service risk assessments.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16

Standard 2: A safe environment

This recommendation was made on 4 September 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The outdoor play area had been developed since the last inspection. Toys and equipment accessed by children was kept clean and well maintained and daily checklists were used to support staff with cleaning routines.

Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
24 Jul 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
13 Aug 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	2 - Weak
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
16 Aug 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
23 Apr 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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