

# Little Einstein's Kirkcaldy Day Care of Children

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Telephone: 01592-643862

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 4 December 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Kingdom Homes Ltd

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003001615

**Care service number:**  
CS2005090432

## About the service

Little Einstein's, Kirkcaldy is registered under the Public Services Reform Act (Scotland) Act 2010 to provide a daycare of children service to a maximum of 86 children up to age of 12 at any one time.

The service is provided from a converted town house in the centre of Kirkcaldy, close to local facilities, schools and college. Children are cared for within groups of similar ages and stages within one of six playrooms.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting It Right For Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included.

We are carrying out a pilot using the Short Observational Framework for Inspection (SOFI 2) tool. The tool supports inspectors to carry out focussed observations of children's experiences while at nursery. We carried out a SOFI 2 observation as part of this inspection which has informed our findings. The findings are threaded throughout the report.

## What people told us

We spent time within each playroom speaking to older children and observing younger children. We found children to be settled and confident within the nursery. The youngest children showed great confidence in approaching staff for support and to indicate what they were needing. Older children told us they enjoyed the nursery, and liked to go outdoors. They were happy with the snack of fruit, telling us they liked apples and oranges. It was clear that children were confident and relaxed in the setting, they played well with each other.

Parents in general were also happy with the service. Most responded positively to each question within the Care Standards Questionnaires in regards to the care and support, environment, staffing and management. All stated they were happy with the quality of care provided. Some who commented told us their children were happy to attend and enjoyed their time at the nursery. One said "my son is always really happy to attend. Every member of staff always greets you warmly on every visit, they have a great personal touch." Another suggested a way to help service recognise the good work of staff. They said "it would be nice to have the opportunity to leave feedback regarding staff as some have been really good and it would be nice if that was recognised".

Parents also suggested late afternoon cleaning was disruptive and they would prefer cleaning to be carried out once the nursery was closed to children. Others felt staff continuity could be better addressed, and parents could be better informed of staff changes.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We considered their own improvement plans and quality assurance processes. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

Throughout the nursery were found children to be happy, confident and settled. They were supported by staff who knew them very well and used their knowledge of them to meet their needs and interests. The staff team were warm, attentive and nurturing which resulted in a secure and respectful environment for the children. The setting's introduction of loose parts play had enhanced children's learning experiences, and was developing children's creativity, imagination and problem solving skills as they explored and used the materials within their play.

The youngest children were supported to explore their environment and to use their rapidly developing standing, walking and verbal skills. Children moved around room safely, exploring the room, pulling themselves up on thoughtfully placed resources and joining in when staff were singing. Staff spent lots of time playing at children's level and they instinctively knew what the children wanted or needed because they knew them well and recognised the children's signals.

Older children were also supported well to explore their areas. Throughout the nursery we saw children having fun and being assisted to try new things and explore the area around them. Children outside worked together to move materials to enable them to climb areas of the activity frame, staff allowing them time to problem solve and stepping in where needed. An effective key-person system successfully supported children's health, welfare learning needs as well as helped build trusting and friendly relationships between staff, children and parents.

Staff observed and assessed each child's progress and recorded their findings to identify the next steps in children's learning. They shared information with other staff and parents about children's learning and development through their Personal Learning Journal. They also used this information to develop learning plans within rooms and for individuals, contributing to improving outcomes for children.

Staff worked well together and there was a feeling of support between the depute managers and staff. Recent training and learning events had increased staff's knowledge of child protection and reporting processes which would contribute to children being kept safe outwith and within the service.

## What the service could do better

There was good team work within the service. Staff appeared committed to the development of the service. They had made improvements since the last inspection particularly in relation to meaningful planning, monitoring and provision of open-ended play resources. The service should continue to monitor these improvements to ensure they become well embedded within the service and continue to improve outcomes for children attending.

The introduction of 'loose parts' had seen opportunities for more imaginative and creative play. The service recognised that in some areas, such as outside, this could still be further developed. Staff were committed to increasing these opportunities. Learning and training courses in loose parts and outdoor play could help staff build confidence in developing these resources and how they support and enable children to use it.

We found policies and procedure documents (either in folders or on display) throughout the service, accessible to staff and parents. However, some of these documents were not the most up-to-date, which meant staff could be confused as to which was they should follow. To ensure that both staff and parents have access to the most up to date documents, information throughout the nursery should be checked and updated where necessary. To ensure that required notifications are made to relevant regulators or organisations the service manager and management team should make themselves familiar with notification guidance.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
24 Oct 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
1 Dec 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
8 May 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
13 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
5 Sep 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
2 Jul 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
16 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
17 Jul 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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