

Darvel Early Childhood Centre

Day Care of Children

Campbell Street East
Darvel
KA17 0BP

Telephone: 01560 320785

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 March 2018

Service provided by:
East Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000142

Care service number:
CS2003015807

About the service

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

Darvel Early Childhood Centre is a local authority day care of children service provided by East Ayrshire Council. It is located within a purpose-built building within the Darvel Primary School campus. The service is located in the town of Darvel and is in close proximity to local amenities, including shops, and bus routes. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children aged three years to those not yet attending primary school.

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.

What people told us

During our inspection we spoke with approx 20 children who were eager to tell us about their time in the nursery. The children told us they enjoyed playing with their friends and that they liked going outdoors to play. They told us that they had really enjoyed taking part in the skiing and tubing adventures. We observed the children enjoy taking part in a range of very good quality indoor and outdoor activities.

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

Prior to inspection, we sent 20 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents using the service. We received 13 completed questionnaires prior to this inspection. All of the respondents to our questionnaire strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care provided by the service. Comments they wrote included:

"My daughter loves attending nursery and as a parent I am confident that she is in a safe and secure environment. As this is my last child who will use the nursery, after years of happy memories. I will be sad to say goodbye."

"The nursery is welcoming and friendly, the staff are approachable and nurturing and the outdoor learning experiences my child has had have been excellent."

"All the staff are friendly, helpful and caring. I think this nursery is fabulous."

"Staff at Darvel Early Childhood Centre are a credit to East Ayrshire Education Department, from the moment my son started nursery he has had amazing treatment and care."

"I am extremely happy with the care my child receives at nursery. Teachers and head teacher are very friendly and very approachable. Fantastic nursery!!."

"We are very happy with the care they are providing to our child. The staff are very kind and they have shown good quality of care and appropriate skills to look after our child. Our child is happy going to nursery every day."

"Darvel Early Childhood Centre provides a friendly and stimulating environment for my child to develop and learn. I am regularly updated/informed of any events and activities within the nursery. My child feels happy and secure at nursery and looks forward to each day attending.."

"Brilliant nursery, both my children have loved every day spent there. Fabulously caring and attentive staff. I wouldn't send my kids anywhere else."

On the first day of this inspection, we spoke with nine parents and one grandparent. They all spoke very highly about the nursery and they all told us that their children were settled and happy attending. All parents spoke very highly of the management and staff team.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. 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	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

What the service does well

Management and staff had created an inclusive and nurturing learning environment. We found they were excellent in supporting children's individual needs, taking an early intervention approach. Children were recognised as individuals. Staff were skilled in talking and listening to children. They took the lead from children's interests building on previous learning. Celebrating children's achievements and 'Star of the Day' helped to build children's confidence and self-esteem.

Parents were recognised as partners in their children's learning. Transitions from home to nursery, were managed very well. When a child is registered with the service, an allocated keyworker begins to build relationships with each child and their family. Home visits can be arranged prior to a child starting. A range of parent groups supported family learning, creating a link between home and the nursery. This has impacted on positive outcomes for children. Parents told us how they had attended 'play and stay sessions' enabling them to see how children learned in a fun way. Parents spoke highly of the 'Challenging Behaviour programme' telling us of the value they found in attending.

Staff had established positive relationships with families to ensure children have the best possible experiences. Parents we spoke with confirmed this by sharing their experiences, placing value on the benefit of this to their family.

The learning environment for all children was motivating, calm and welcoming supporting children's positive behaviour that we observed. The environment indoors had been organised to create a feeling of light and space. Good use of natural materials had been used. Resources encouraged children to explore and discover. Cosy and inviting areas promoted children's learning. Learning zones for children had been created to ensure that there was a balance between individual, small and large group activities, child directed and teacher initiated activity and outside experiences. Staff were calm, consistent and responsive to children. This contributed to an atmosphere of respect and mutual trust. Children appeared settled and confident in the nursery environment. Access to outdoors was available directly from the playroom. Children had opportunities to access an excellent range of activities within their community, for example they visited the Newmilns dry ski slope allowing them to take part in specialised activities and they used Lanfine Estate to provide the children with excellent opportunities to explore and learn about the natural environment and the world around them.

Discussions with the manager demonstrated a clear vision for continuous improvement. She had built positive relationships with the staff team and staff we spoke to confirmed they were encouraged to contribute to this vision. We saw positive changes had been made by reviewing planning formats and developing staff working groups to take lead roles in the operational improvement plan. Regular audits and monitoring of each playroom was carried out recognising what worked well and what could be improved on. 'Round the Table' tracking meetings were seen to be effective in ensuring that early interventions and support was in place for all children as needed. There were opportunities for staff to share learning and best practice contributing to team work. Lines of communication and team working were good and management and staff were well organised clear in their roles and responsibilities.

What the service could do better

During our inspection, we observed that the number of children permitted into the outdoor play area was limited to 10 children. We found that if more children wished to go outdoors, they were asked to wait until a child returned indoors. We also found that the door between the nursery and the enclosed outdoor play area was kept closed. We asked the management team to consider planning the service to allow the children freedom to move between the indoor and outdoor play areas.

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 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
24 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

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