

Space Place Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

St. Ninian's Park Place
Prestwick
KA9 1SP

Telephone: 01292 473468

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 May 2018

Service provided by:
South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003269

Care service number:
CS2014325238

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services can be found on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 5 January 2015.

Space Place Early Years Centre is registered to provide a daycare service to a maximum of 52 children from two years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is provided by South Ayrshire Council and managed by the head of centre.

Space Place Early Years Centre is located within St Ninian's Park Place in the town of Prestwick, South Ayrshire. The service is provided from a detached building which has two main playrooms, a family room/dining room, indoor sensory area, reception/office, staff room, staff toilets, nappy changing and children's toilets. There is direct access from each playroom to a large enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery makes good use of other areas within the local community.

The manager and staff team told us that they were passionate that the Space Place Early Learning Centre is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education that originated in Northern Italy. They told us "We view the image of the child to be rich and resourceful and believe that all children are competent, curious, full of knowledge and potential; interested in connecting in the world around them in our Prestwick context. Our children engage in a democratic approach to learning using the child voice to express ideas and, interests using mind maps as part of consultation; this is embedded in practice. Collaboration and interactions are rich and we believe that family connections are at the heart of our ethos. Children, Practitioners and families are involved in supporting us to continually improve the service. We strive to share all progress and achievements made by both children and the centre with parents and partners making learning visible."

A copy of the service aims and objectives are available.

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 visit 34 children were present. We spoke with some of the children who were eager to tell us about their time in the nursery.

The children told us they enjoyed attending the nursery, they liked their teachers and they enjoyed playing with their friends. We observed the children enjoy taking part in a range of good quality activities.

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

Prior to inspection, we sent 14 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents using the service. We received seven completed questionnaires prior to this inspection. The respondents to our questionnaire agreed that they were happy with the quality of care provided by the service. Comments made included;

"I am extremely happy with Space Place. My child is happy to go there every day. I am confident that in their care my child is learning, is safe, is stimulated and healthy and is encouraged to develop good relationships with other children and adults."

"We could not be more delighted with the care our children receive at Space Place. There are a myriad of activities and options for the kids, as well as an ample opportunity to dig deep into their areas of interest. They also do a great job of keeping parents informed and invite us to partake."

"Space Place have worked very hard with my child. She is now thriving and the difference is on believable."

"I feel the Space Place is by far a superior early years provider. Parental communication is excellent and from day one my son felt safe and secure."

"I was invited to look around the nursery before he started and I was pleasantly surprised at how long the staff spent with me wanting to know all about my son."

We have also shared the following comments with the manager for consideration;

"Although the service is good at promoting healthy eating, I think that the snacks provided could stretch a little further than simply a fruit and vegetable option."

"Staffing appears to have the correct staff to child ratio, yet toilet training needs to be taken into account for younger children where there needs to be extra staff to support this."

During inspection we spoke with three parents who all felt they had good opportunities to be involved in the nursery. They spoke highly of the care and support their child received and they all felt that staff were warm, kind and dedicated to providing a quality service.

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	5 - Very Good
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 had an excellent approach to 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 by staff helped to build children's confidence and self-esteem.

Staff knew children very well and were nurturing, respectful and responsive. Staff respected and took account of parents' and carers' knowledge and views regarding their children's developmental needs, interests and personalities. This was reflected in children's personal plans, which had been developed to record information about children's progress and next steps for learning and development. Children had ownership of their profiles and floor books, which were easily accessible to them, very well maintained, and included lots of examples of their favourite work, photographs, targets and progress notes.

Parents were recognised as partners in their children's learning. Transitions from home to nursery and within the nursery were managed very well. When the child is registered with the service, an allocated keyworker begins to build relationships with each child and their family. 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. Staff have established positive relationships with families to ensure children have the best possible experiences. Parents we spoke to confirmed this by sharing their experiences, placing value on the benefit of this to their family.

The service's commitment to continuous improvement was a significant strength. The highly effective head of centre strongly encouraged and supported the staff team to be innovative in their approaches to improving outcomes for children. This helped foster a staff team that was motivated, reflective and forward thinking. A robust range of monitoring systems, that included effective consultation with everyone involved in the service, ensured consistently positive outcomes for children and their families. Excellent reference was made to the most current best practice guidance, sourced locally, nationally and from the wider world, to shape service developments. Involving everyone meaningfully in developing the service resulted in a shared vision and plan for the future.'

What the service could do better

During this inspection we sampled the service medication policy and procedures. We felt that the service had considered how they would manage children's medication. However, we identified some gaps in the medication recording forms. We have asked the management to review their medication policy and procedures.

Our observations highlighted that some area of infection control were not consistent with current best practice. For example, hessian material was on the wall beside the nappy changing unit. We shared our observations at feedback and have asked the service to review their current practice to ensure that they have taken into account the infection prevention and control in childcare settings guidance.

During this inspection we found that fire exit doors from the playrooms led directly to an external public area. The manager told us that they were awaiting their local authority fitting alarms to the doors which would then identify if they were opened. To ensure that the children are cared for in a safe and secure environment we have asked the manager to complete a written risk assessment on how they will manage the risks posed by external exit doors. The manager told us she will do this.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
6 Apr 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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