

Netherthird Early Childhood Centre

Day Care of Children

Craigens Road
Cumnock
KA18 3AN

Telephone: 01290 421980

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 18 May 2018

Service provided by:
East Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000142

Care service number:
CS2003014090

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

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Netherthird Early Childhood Centre is registered to provide a daycare service to a maximum of;

Nine children aged zero - under two years.

Ten children aged two - under three years.

Forty children aged Three years and over.

The service is provided by East Ayrshire Council and managed by the head teacher of Netherthird Primary School. The Early Childhood Centre depute manager assumes day-to-day responsibility for the work of the service and liaises with the head teacher over management decisions.

Netherthird Early Childhood Centre is located within the Netherthird Primary School campus in the town of Cumnock, East Ayrshire. At the time of this inspection Netherthird Primary School was undergoing a new build. The primary school had been relocated and were operating from a separate location. The Early Childhood service was provided from the existing detached building which has been sectioned away from the ongoing construction work for the new school campus. Management and staff were confident that the arrangements in place for the nursery during the building of the new school was working well. They felt their ethos and culture of inclusion and participation was successful in supporting children to make very good progress. There is direct access from each playroom to a large enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery also makes good use of other areas within the local community including the community garden.

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 86 children were present on day one and 93 children were present on day two. 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 20 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents using the service. We received 11 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;

"My son enjoys attending Netherthird Early Childhood Centre. He has a good relationship with his keyworker. He loves to go to Dumfries House for outdoor learning and is generally happy in nursery."

"A lovely nursery."

"The service has ensured X development has come on leaps and bounds within a short space of time. X Loves coming to nursery on a daily basis. He really enjoys all the activities that are in place for him."

"All the staff are excellent with regards to X's overall welfare."

"I feel they have supported me emotionally, I feel safe, welcomed, secure and confident in the knowledge that if I ask for any help they will advise me to the best of their ability."

"Very satisfied with this care establishment. Staff are very helpful, kind and knowledgeable. The facilities and resources inside and out are of a high standard."

"I could not rate Netherthird nursery highly enough. My daughter loves her time at nursery. The staff work hard to ensure that there are always different activities for the children to do."

During inspection we spoke with six 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	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff knew children very well and had created a rich, nurturing environment which enabled children to thrive. Staff respected and took account of parents' and carers' knowledge and views regarding their children and this was reflected in personal plans which contained high-quality, detailed information about children's learning and progress and identified next steps for development. The centre was committed to continuous improvement and had successfully introduced floor books as part of their development plan. The floor books were inclusive, well maintained and included lots of photographs and examples of the children's favourite work and activities. Personal plans and floor books were regularly shared with children and their families.

The centre responded very well to the challenges created by the closure of the primary school building for children transitioning up to primary 1. A number of steps were put in place to ensure a smooth transition for children moving on to primary. Transport had been arranged for all pre-school children and where needed parents to visit and spend time in the Greenmill Primary School campus. Arrangements had been made for teachers to visit the Netherthird Early Childhood Centre to get to know the children and their parents. Arrangements had also been made for children currently in P1 to return to the nursery for a play date with the younger children.

Relationships between staff and parents and carers were very strong and strategies had been put in place to foster a sense of community. The parental engagement group, 'Wonderful Wednesday' brought new parents and young babies into the centre to meet each other and take part in a well-planned programme of engaging and stimulating activities. The work of the group was showcased on social media and in the reception area and helped the centre to become part of the lives of new parents and the very youngest children in the community. The head of service provided effective leadership and the staff team were highly motivated and committed to achieving positive outcomes for all children. The head of centre and the staff work very closely with partner agencies and often provide a link between them and the families who they have established secure, supportive relationships with.

Staff told us of their plans using ideas from best practice and training attended to further extend outdoor play opportunities. Children's ideas and views were gathered on a regular basis. Staff used this to influence their planning. This offered children opportunity to contribute to planned experiences. We found that the nursery made effective use of space indoors and outdoors. A range of resources had been added to the outdoor play area including 'Loose Parts' resources. We saw that the children were having a good time whilst playing in the outdoor area.

Children were seen to be confident in the social rules of the nursery. We observed positive interactions between staff and children. Staff supported children to think about what might happen, making suggestions to extend their thinking. Appropriate comfort, affection and praise was given, contributing to the confident, happy children we observed.

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 during this inspection highlighted that children's experiences of outdoor play could be further developed. We found that the doors leading from the playrooms were kept closed and children were taken outside to play rather than freely choosing to access the outdoor environment.

We also observed that children waited at the exit door whilst staff had to go to another area of the playroom to check if the children had suncream applied by parents prior to attending the nursery. We have asked the

manager to consider planning the service to allow the children freedom to move between the indoor and outdoor play areas.

Observations made during this inspection found that the Little explorers 2-3 room would benefit from some work to enhance the environment. This would support the children to access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for their age and stage, which stimulate their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. The management team told us they were aware of improvements needed in the Little Explorers room and it was an area they planned to develop soon.

During this inspection, our observations highlighted that some area of infection control was not consistent with current best practice. We shared our observations at feedback and have asked that the service review their current practice to ensure that they have taken into account the infection prevention and control in childcare settings guidance (recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Netherthird Early Childhood Centre should review infection control procedures to ensure they are consistent with current best practice.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that, I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice (HSCS 4.11) and Health and Social Care Standards which state that, my environment is safe and secure (HSCS 5.17).

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
17 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		Management and leadership
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
30 Apr 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
29 Aug 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
12 Aug 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
6 Oct 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed 3 - Adequate
17 Feb 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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