

Alloway Early Years Centre Day Care of Children

Doonholm Road
Alloway
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Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

6 December 2018

Service provided by:

South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:

SP2003003269

Service no:

CS2008173997

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.

Alloway Early Years Centre is registered to provide a day care service to a maximum of 60 children aged 3 years and over. The service is based in the Alloway Primary school campus in South Ayrshire. The service is provided by South Ayrshire Council and managed by the head teacher of Alloway primary school. The deputy head teacher assumes day-to-day responsibility for the work of the service and liaises with the head teacher over management decisions.

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

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

During our inspection we spoke with 12 children who were eager to tell us about their time in the centre. The children told us they enjoyed attending and they enjoyed playing with their friends. We observed the children enjoy taking part in a range of very good quality activities.

Prior to inspection, we sent 18 care standards questionnaires to the Head Teacher to distribute to parents using the service. We received nine completed questionnaires prior to this inspection. Comments made included:

"Alloway nursery is a safe and nurturing environment. Healthy snacks are provided on a daily basis. My child seems to be very happy at Alloway nursery."

"My child attended a different nursery prior to starting alloway in August this year and I have noticed a marked difference in her learning, confidence and willingness to go to nursery. We couldn't be happier!."

"Most of the staff are lovely and helpful and in general I am happy. My child is very happy there and I know how hard the staff work."

"My child is thriving and he loves his teachers. Activities are fun and well planned."

"It is warm, welcoming well run service."

"I feel there is good communication and I am kept up to date via newsletters and twitter."

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

On the day of inspection, we saw excellent interactions between staff and children. Staff spoke to children with respect, at child level and they showed a keen interest in the children's views and opinions. We found that the children were happy, busy and engaged. They were able to access areas within the nursery independently, supported by enthusiastic staff. We saw children having great fun with a sleigh they had created and were using their curiosity and imagination. Staff were very supportive of children; they allowed them to lead their own play but sensitively joined in, when needed, to extend children's play. This told us that staff were skilled and knowledgeable about children's development which ensured positive outcomes for children.

We found that the nursery put children and their families' wellbeing at the heart of the work they did. They had successfully established a warm, nurturing and inclusive ethos within the nursery. Parents were recognised as partners in their children's learning and staff had established positive relationships with families to ensure children had the best possible experiences. We observed children and parents being welcomed into the nursery in a way that contributed to them feeling safe, secure and respected. We spoke with parents who confirmed they had many opportunities to share their child's learning experiences and described the benefit of this to their family life. Opportunities for shared experiences offer by the service include; read and munch and coffee and chat events.

Staff spent time carrying out quality observations on children's experiences. The information gathered was used to plan appropriate experiences to ensure depth of children's learning. All children had an individual learning journal which recorded personal achievements during their time in the service. Learning journals were stored within the playroom so children could independently access these. Children were given opportunities to recognise and share their achievements with parents by regularly sharing learning journals.

Personal plans for individual children were well documented with a focus on health, safety and welfare needs for all children. The personal plans we sampled demonstrated that staff had very good knowledge of children's individual needs. All personal plans sampled were reviewed with parents in line with legislation.

The management team have implemented very good tracking processes which were seen to be effective in ensuring that early interventions and support was in place for children as needed. We observed planned activities offered to children reflected individual learning targets.

The service offered a variety of healthy snacks and drinks and an open self-selection snack routine was implemented to ensure children's learning, fun and enjoyment was not interrupted. Through this approach to snack time children were improving their social, literacy and independent skills. The staff displayed allergen information which was easily accessible by parents.

We felt that staff were knowledgeable about the service's child protection procedures and their roles and responsibilities. Staff demonstrated a very good understanding of the policies and procedures in place to ensure care and welfare of children. All staff received regular professional learning in safeguarding and told us they were confident in dealing with child protection concerns.

What the service could do better

Appropriate medication policy, procedures and documentation were in place and reflective of best practice guidance, however we sampled two completed medication forms where information provided to the service was not reflective of the dosage information contained on the medication. We have asked the management team to ensure robust monitoring of safe storage and administration of medication is in place.

During our inspection we did not observe children freely accessing drinking water out with snack time. We saw that drinking water was available, however when a child asked for a drink a cup was not readily available. We have asked that cups are made available for children to use throughout the session and that the staff regularly prompt the children to access drinking water.

During our inspection we felt that the outdoor play area had been very well developed. However our observations highlighted that the door between the indoors and the enclosed outdoor play area was kept closed. The management team told us that they had explored options on how the children could free flow between the indoor/outdoor environment.

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	
30 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
6 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
14 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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