

Elderbank Early Years Day Care of Children

St.Kilda Bank
Broomlands
Irvine
KA11 1LA

Telephone: 01294 218632

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 December 2018

Service provided by:
North Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003327

Service no:
CS2003016026

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.

The service is provided by North Ayrshire Council and is located within Elderbank Primary School campus in a residential area in the town of Irvine, in North Ayrshire. Elderbank Early Years is managed by the head teacher of Elderbank Primary School and the deputy head teacher and senior early years staff member assume day-to-day responsibility for the work of the service and liaises with the head teacher over management decisions.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

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 20 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. Their comments included:

"I like to play games"

"It's fun, I like playing outside best".

Prior to inspection, we sent 30 care standards questionnaires to the Head Teacher to distribute to parents using the service. We received 16 completed questionnaires prior to this inspection. Comments made included:

"Elderbank nursery is well run and has plenty of respected, well trusted staff. Both my children have been to this nursery and have benefitted from going. I would not change a thing"

"Staff at Elderbank nursery are fantastic with the children and parents. They run workshops for the kids and parents on a range of topics that will help with everyday life"

"I have had children here for three years and honestly it has been the best experience for me and my children. The staff are 'FANTASTIC' and do a brilliant job. The facilities and opportunities for me and my children have set us up with skills for life"

"As a first time mum I was understandably anxious about my daughter starting nursery. However from the minute we walked through the door we were welcomed with a big smile which put us all at ease"

"I cannot praise staff enough for taking the time to settle my daughter into nursery. Lovely, friendly and approachable making both myself and my daughter feel at ease. Fantastic outdoor play are which is used daily, the nursery itself is bright, welcoming and always has a variety of activities going on. Happy parent"

"My child's development has improved greatly since attending the early years. He is confident, outgoing and forms good relationships. I feel the staff are hard working and do an excellent job in meeting my child's learning opportunities"

"Elderbank early years are an outstanding nursery in everything they do. My child has a close bond with his teacher. All the staff are fantastic, friendly, helpful. I attend all outings and stay and plays which are always fun"

"I always find the staff very helpful and professional. Both my children have loved attending the nursery. there is always plenty of events to involve parents".

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

The early years team demonstrated excellent evidence of innovative practice taking place which is having a positive impact on outcomes for the children who use the service. The children were happy, settled and confident. They were aware of routines and experienced very good opportunities for independence. The children were regularly consulted and their views shaped the activities and the range of learning opportunities they experienced. This was clearly evidenced in the Floor Books.

We found that staff put children and their families' wellbeing at the heart of everything they did. They had successfully established a warm, nurturing and inclusive ethos within the nursery. We observed children and parents being welcomed into the nursery in a way that was sensitive to their individual needs. This contributed to them feeling safe, secure and respected.

The environment had been carefully planned to provide a range of experiences and appropriate, engaging resources for children which stimulated their creativity and curiosity. A good example of this was the outdoor area which has been re-designed in consultation with the families taking into account children's needs and ideas. Open-ended materials supported children to develop problem-solving skills. Parents we spoke with expressed their enthusiasm for the outdoor play area.

Resources were fun, stimulating and appropriate for the developmental stage of the children and encouraged different types of play, such as creative, imaginative and loose parts play. We found that the access to the outdoor learning environment enriched the opportunities for children on a daily basis. We observed children developing key skills outdoors, through testing out their own ideas, exploring and investigating natural materials. We observed the children to be confident, active and engaged throughout the inspection process, with many children leading their own learning and making choices.

We found that the early years staff team were very good at involving parents and families, this was reflected in the high levels of attendance at planned events such as PEEP, Bookbug and Stay and Play sessions. Families also told us they had attended Breakfast Bletter. Parents we spoke with during inspection told us that they valued the many opportunities they had to be involved in the life of the service. The high level of parental involvement had aided a close relationship between parents and staff and levels of confidence in the centre and the staff is very high.

What the service could do better

The management team told us they were aware of how they could improve personal plans to ensure a consistent approach. They should continue to develop these.

Samples of completed children's medication records highlighted that they should be expanded. For example, if a medication has to be given on a 'when required' basis, it is important that staff know the signs and symptoms it has been prescribed for and that these are recorded in the child's care record. Staff must also record their reasons for administering it.

During our inspection we felt that the outdoor play area had been very well developed. However our observations indoors highlighted that there were areas that could benefit from further development to ensure that the children have access to an expanded range of choice and challenge.

We suggested that the children could be more involved in developing their awareness of risk assessment. Staff told us that children had some involvement and that this was an area they were keen to further develop.

Our observations during inspection highlighted that some areas of infection control practice did not reflect current best practice. We asked the management team to ensure that paper towels used for drying hands by the children in the playroom are stored in appropriate containers.

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
20 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
8 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
9 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
1 Mar 2012	Re-grade	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 1 - Unsatisfactory
30 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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