

Kids Ahoy Childcare Centre Day Care of Children

89-93 St. Michael Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PY

Telephone: 01387 279300

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

12 March 2019

Service provided by:

Elizabeth Blount trading as Kids Ahoy
Childcare Centre

Service provider number:

SP2003002519

Service no:

CS2003010772

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

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.

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

Kids Ahoy Childcare Centre is a daycare service for children. The service operates from premises in the town of Dumfries. The provider is Elizabeth Blount, trading as Kids Ahoy Childcare Centre. Kids Ahoy is in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide funded educational places for children aged three to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of eight children aged under two years, 16 children aged two to under three years and 24 children aged three years to attending primary school. The after school service operates from Loreburn Primary school and is registered for, a maximum of 28 primary school children, during term time. Responsibility for the day to day running of the service is delegated to the manager.

A copy of the services aims and objectives were available. The main aims of the service were:

Kids Ahoy ...

Kids! Our main focus!

Independence!

Developing skills for life/diversity

SHANARRI (safe, healthy, active, nurturing, achieving, responsible, respect, individual)

Altogether now! (Working in partnership with families and professionals!)

Home from home/High Quality/Happy

Outdoor learning

You! Your family matters to us!

... more than just a nursery!

What people told us

We sent out 16 care standards questionnaires and asked the service to give them to parents of children who used the service. Prior to inspection we received 10 completed questionnaires. Responses in the care standards questionnaires told us that all parents strongly agreed that they were happy with the overall quality of care their child received. Comments we received included:

'My child has been going to Kids Ahoy for a long period of time. I couldn't praise them enough. Everyone of them are amazing'.

'My child thrives at Kids Ahoy. The staff are always smiling and positive with a strong focus on each child. The children always seem happy and engaged. There are always sessions where parents can choose to become involved'.

'Kids Ahoy has been brilliant for my child and supportive of us as parents. We are very happy with our child's placement. Staff are always available for support and advice. My child loves the nursery, activities, staff and food, even the chef. I would recommend Kids Ahoy to all parents I know'.

'My child loves Kids Ahoy nursery and all the 'ladies'. I have so much respect for this nursery and would highly recommend'.

'My child used to get upset being left at nursery. The staff worked really hard with my child and now my child loves it and goes in with no problems'.

'I would recommend Kids Ahoy to anyone. They have been involved with my child since they were a baby. Their individual needs have always been met. My child loves Kids Ahoy and is always smiling when they arrive and leave'.

'I couldn't ask for a better nursery for my child. All the staff are fantastic, my child loves going'.

'My child enjoys their time at Kids Ahoy and has good relationships with the staff. I am happy with the care provided. The staff communicate well with us regarding our child's days and we feel confident about the care provided'.

'The ladies at Kids Ahoy offer services that are educational, energetic, creative and fun. My child attends afterschool and holiday club services. As a working parent it helps knowing my child is safe and flourishing within their time at Kids Ahoy'.

During inspection we spoke with a further six parents who told us they were very happy with the quality of care provided.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at the service improvement plan which identified areas for development.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Management and staff had successfully created a warm welcoming environment for children and families. We observed staff greeting parents and children on arrival to the service creating a relaxed and friendly ethos. Staff shared significant information about children with parents at pick up. We spoke with parents who told us communication from staff was great. Parents were confident that the quality of care and support provided to children was good. Opportunities were provided for parents to be actively involved in their child's session, through family learning days. We found that staff were working well to include and involve parents in their child's learning.

Staff had gathered relevant information about children and were using this to plan activities based on children's needs. Chronologies were maintained for all children, ensuring significant changes were recorded and shared. We found that staff were working well together using information gathered to support consistency in children's care. This was particularly important as staff had flexible roles which involved working within different playrooms. Staff demonstrated that they knew children well and were responsive in providing support and encouragement when required. Children sought comfort and reassurance from staff at the appropriate times. We observed happy, relaxed children who were mostly confident interacting with peers and actively exploring the resources on offer.

There were some good opportunities provided for children to be independent. Children were encouraged to get themselves ready when going outdoors to play and during snack and lunch routines. We observed children in the nursery pouring their own drinks and serving their own meals, with little help required from staff. Babies and toddlers were eager to feed themselves and staff supported this. Children in the after school club were actively involved in preparing their own snack. This included chopping fruit to make kebabs. A very good food menu had been implemented by the chef, with a good balance of nutritious and healthy meals and snacks. We observed children eating heartily.

Staff provided regular opportunities for all children to play outdoors. Children within the 3-5 room and after school club had free flow access, enabling them to choose where they wanted to play and when. Further opportunities were provided for children to explore a more natural environment, through the development of an 'outdoor classroom'. We joined a group of children on their visit and found that children had increased space to play and explore. We looked at photographs and observations of children during previous sessions. We could see that children had accessed a good range of experiences outdoors, stimulating their natural curiosity. The photographs captured children looking happy and engaged in experiences provided. Within the indoor

environment staff were using tuff tray's filled with natural materials, to encourage further exploration and discovery.

Children were given some opportunities to develop an awareness of risk, through activities such as den building, toasting mallows by the fire and their involvement in carrying out the daily play area checks. Staff should continue to build on opportunities provided and help children to understand the impact and consequences of unsafe behaviour.

Staff provided encouragement and praise to children regularly and celebrated their achievements. Achievements were displayed and shared with parents. We spoke with children in the 3-5 room who told us about their superstar reward chart. Comments they made included "I got my sticker for helping to tidy up". Children were encouraged to reflect positively on aspects of their day, through the use of a 'gratitude tree', promoting positive thinking patterns.

Staff had a good knowledge of their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection, enabling them to keep children safe. All staff regularly attended in-house training to keep up to date with current protection issues. Management were reviewing risk assessments regularly to maintain a safe and secure environment for children.

What the service could do better

Staff gathered information about children from various sources and were using this to plan support to meet children's needs, however we found plans could be developed further. Staff should clearly identify what support is required to meet children's health, welfare and safety needs and outline how these needs will be met. Children should have ownership of their own learning.

Planning processes should be reviewed. Staff should consider further development of evaluations, next steps and possible lines of development within the planning cycle to build on existing opportunities provided to further extend children's learning. In the 3-5 room management should consider deploying staff within a designated area for a period of time. This will allow staff increased time to observe children more closely, enabling them to plan and facilitate more in-depth experiences. Within the after school club staff should progress with their plans to further develop consultation methods with children.

The service should review the mealtime experience for children. During inspection staff were supporting children to serve their own meals and recording what children ate to share with parents. However we observed missed opportunities for staff to be sitting alongside children, modelling and supporting a more social and nurturing experience. The service should consider improving tableware to include real plates and utensils.

The service should review their medication policy in-line with current guidance and ensure staff practice reflects policy at all times.

The service should create cosy inviting spaces for children to access if they wish to spend time alone.

The service should continue to develop and expand resources available to build on children's play experiences, particularly within the after school club.

The service should consider risk assessing materials such as compost to maintain a safe environment for the children.

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.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

In order to keep Personal Plans up to date and accurate, staff should record any changes to a child's circumstances including health, welfare or safety needs. They should continue to improve the content following changes.

Reference: National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16.
Standard 3 Health and Wellbeing
Standard 6 Support and Development

This recommendation was made on 21 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

During inspection we sampled children's personal plans and found that staff were consistently recording changes to individual children's circumstances including health, welfare and safety needs.

Recommendation met

Recommendation 2

In order to improve infection control arrangements, the service should replace soap dispensers and assess and improve the nappy changing station.

Reference: National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16.

Standard 2-A safe environment Infection Prevention and Control. Nappy changing facilities in early years nursery and large childminding services <http://www.careinspectorate.com/>

index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=994&Itemid=100175

This recommendation was made on 21 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

During inspection we followed up on this recommendation and found that the service had replaced soap dispensers. The nappy changing station had been improved and was suitable.

Recommendation met

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
21 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
13 May 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Jul 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
11 Jul 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good
13 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
12 Jan 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
10 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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