Newton Primary School Nursery Class
Day Care of Children
175A Russell Drive
Ayr
KA8 8JL
Telephone: 01292 262489

Inspected by: Nancy Syme
Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 January 2013
Summary

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change after this inspection following other regulatory activity. For example, if we have to take enforcement action to make the service improve, or if we investigate and agree with a complaint someone makes about the service.

We gave the service these grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Care and Support</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Environment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Management and Leadership</td>
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What the service does well
The nursery team work very closely with families to support children as they settle into nursery and progress on into school. They provide a varied and interesting programme of activities that interest the children and help to develop their learning. Families are welcomed and involved in their children’s learning.

What the service could do better
The staff team planned to extend the ways that families participate in the day to day life of the nursery.

What the service has done since the last inspection
There had been a number of staffing changes since the last inspection and consequently new staff teams had to settle into working effectively together. The head teacher was committed to on-going improvement and the current staff team had built up very good relationships with the children and their families.
Conclusion
Newton Primary School Nursery Class continues to provide very good quality care and support for the children and their families. The service and the staff are highly regarded by the people involved with the nursery. The Head Teacher is working with staff, parents and children to continue to develop a range of opportunities for them to be actively involved in the on-going assessment and improvement of the nursery service.

Who did this inspection
Nancy Syme
1 About the service we inspected

Newton Primary School Nursery Class is part of Newton Primary School which is in the town of Ayr. The nursery is open Monday to Friday during school terms. South Ayrshire Council provides the nursery service and it was registered with Social Care Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) on 1 April 2011. Seventeen children aged three years and over can attend for either morning or afternoon sessions. Almost thirty children were enrolled with at the time of the inspection. The nursery had aims and objectives which laid out what kind of nursery experience would be offered for the children and their families. These were:
'\text{We aim to plan a broad, balanced programme of learning opportunities responding to the needs and interests of our children in line with the Early level of Curriculum for Excellence}'.
'\text{We aim to make effective use of assessment information to ensure that all children make good progress in the key aspects of their development and learning.}
'\text{We aim to provide a stimulating learning environment, which includes a good balance of free and directed choice}'.
'\text{We aim to provide a safe and secure environment catering for the physical and emotional needs of our children}'.
'\text{We aim to maintain a welcoming, supportive atmosphere where parents and staff work together in partnership}'.
'\text{We aim to make effective use of available resources to achieve the best possible outcomes}'.
'\text{We aim to manage the nursery class effectively, establishing systems and procedures developed collaboratively}'.

Based on the findings of this inspection this service has been awarded the following grades:

\textbf{Quality of Care and Support - Grade 4 - Good}
\textbf{Quality of Environment - Grade 4 - Good}
\textbf{Quality of Staffing - Grade 4 - Good}
\textbf{Quality of Management and Leadership - Grade 4 - Good}

This report and grades represent our assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. You can find the most up-to-date grades for this service by visiting our website www.careinspectorate.com or by calling us on 0845 600 9527 or visiting one of our offices.
2 How we inspected this service

The level of inspection we carried out
In this service we carried out a low intensity inspection. We carry out these inspections when we are satisfied that services are working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

What we did during the inspection
In this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources such as relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documents. This included 6 Care Standards Questionnaires returned to us by families of children who used the service. We looked at:
evidence from the service’s most recent self-assessment
the action plan from the previous inspection in December 2009
the services full aims and objectives statements
the service’s partnership with parents statement
information about the children currently using the service
the service’s general policies and procedures documents
information handbook for families
community and health information for families
complaint information
the notice boards for families
information for staff on curriculum, health and safety, training, healthy eating choices
children’s snack choices
children’s use of IT and computers
children’s mind-mapping and nursery work
risk assessments and other safety records
child protection
interagency procedures and liaison
hygiene procedures
registration certificate
nursery enrolment forms and care plans
‘My Steps in Learning’ - children’s records and profiles
staff training records, qualifications and professional registrations
staff appraisal and review system
staff planning processes
Parents’ Committee information
links with other agencies, local services and health professionals
Newton Primary School and Nursery Class Standards and Quality Report Session 2011 - 2012
completed Care Inspectorate ‘Care Standards Questionnaires’
photographs
newsletters
incident/accident records
discussions with:
  the children in the nursery
  3 parents/carers
  a school pupil on work experience
  the nursery staff
  the head teacher who manages the nursery
Early Years Development Officer - South Ayrshire Council

Grading the service against quality themes and statements

We inspect and grade elements of care that we call 'quality themes'. For example, one of the quality themes we might look at is 'Quality of care and support'. Under each quality theme are 'quality statements' which describe what a service should be doing well for that theme. We grade how the service performs against the quality themes and statements.

Details of what we found are in Section 3: The inspection

Inspection Focus Areas (IFAs)

In any year we may decide on specific aspects of care to focus on during our inspections. These are extra checks we make on top of all the normal ones we make during inspection. We do this to gather information about the quality of these aspects of care on a national basis. Where we have examined an inspection focus area we will clearly identify it under the relevant quality statement.

Fire safety issues

We do not regulate fire safety. Local fire and rescue services are responsible for checking services. However, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, we will alert the relevant fire and rescue services so they may consider what action to take. You can find out more about care services’ responsibilities for fire safety at www.firelawscotland.org
The annual return

Every year all care services must complete an ‘annual return’ form to make sure the information we hold is up to date. We also use annual returns to decide how we will inspect the service.

Annual Return Received: Yes - Electronic

Comments on Self Assessment

Every year all care services must complete a ‘self assessment’ form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

The head teacher had completed the service’s online self assessment and had submitted it to us within the timescales given. This gave us a very good range of information about the service and appropriate and well planned improvements relevant to the needs of the children using the service. All this information helped us to decide which areas of the service we wanted to concentrate on during the inspection.

Taking the views of people using the care service into account

Over the course of the morning and afternoon sessions we saw the children attending the nursery enjoying their play and learning. They joined in enthusiastically with activities and enjoyed a fun session outdoors collecting and counting Autumn leaves. The children were settled and happy in the nursery. Some of the children talked to us about their play.

Taking carers’ views into account

Carers include parents, guardians, relatives, friends, professionals and advocates. We received a very high proportion of returned Care Standards Questionnaires. Seventeen nursery families completed these and this information was used to help grade the statements we examined for this inspection. All of these families ‘strongly agreed’ that they were happy overall with the quality of care their children received. No concerns were noted and these families were happy with all aspects the care, environment, staffing and management provided by the service. Three parent/carers
spoke to us during the visit and three families provided written comments in their questionnaires. We have used these comments in the body of this report.
3 The inspection

We looked at how the service performs against the following quality themes and statements. Here are the details of what we found.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support
Grade awarded for this theme: 4 - Good

Statement 1
We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - 'Very Good' was achieved. We awarded a Grade of 4 - 'Good' for the areas we looked at for this inspection.

Families were able to find out about the nursery’s work, give their views about this and discuss their children’s care and support in various ways. These included informal daily discussions, attending parents’ evenings and providing and reviewing their child’s important care and learning information. A recent parents’ evening was well attended and staff were able to focus on each child’s progress and learning with their family. Some parents had volunteered for a recently formed parents’ action group. Staff made sure that every family knew what was happening in the nursery and that their opinions were valued and listened to. We saw how staff welcomed parents and carers into the nursery and discussed what had been happening with their children.

The nursery children were helped to be involved in planning what they wanted to learn and to decide on their activities. They used ‘mind mapping’ to spark off discussions and ideas, and the ‘Thinking Tree’ to record their words and thoughts. They were about to start work on a floor book which will record their learning work using photographs, drawings and stories.

All the families who completed questionnaires for us told us they agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy overall with the quality of their child’s care. They all received clear information about the nursery and had made a visit before their child started. One parent wrote:

'Very happy with the nursery and staff. My child seems happy at the nursery and
enjoys coming’.

Families told us during the visit:
‘Staff tell me lots of things about my child’.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘Develop the involvement of parents in the Improvement Plan for the Nursery’
‘Set up a Parent action group’.

The staff team had taken forward their aim for a parents’ group and were strongly committed to extending the ways that families could be involved in the life and work of the nursery (see recommendation 1 for this Quality Statement).

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good
Number of requirements: 0
Number of recommendations: 1

Recommendations
1. Staff should continue with their work in developing and evidencing families’ participation in the improvement programme for the nursery. National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 13: Improving the service.

Statement 3
We ensure that service users’ health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - ‘Very Good’ was awarded. We found that the service had maintained Grade 5 in this inspection.

The staff team were very alert to the needs of every child in the nursery. They gathered a wide range of information which they used to plan properly for each child’s care, health and learning needs. Every family had met with the nursery teacher to discuss their child’s preferences or any additional support needs that might be required to ensure the best possible outcomes. Very effective links had been built up with a number of local services which contributed to planning and reviewing specific input where this was needed. For example staff worked closely with speech and language therapists, social workers, housing services and health visitors. Staff were well versed in child protection and other measures for children’s safety and security. They understood and used all of the necessary reporting and recording procedures for
assessing and improving the children’s nursery experiences. Staff had clear plans for continuing to improve the children’s health and wellbeing (see the Evidence of Areas for Improvement noted for this Quality Statement).

The children were helped to learn about healthy choices. They had healthy snacks, cleaned their teeth every day and enjoyed playing indoors and outdoors. The children knew they must wash their before eating and showed us how this was done. We saw the children enthusiastically joining in a rhyme and dance session and using computer number games. They were encouraged to be kind to each other and manage their time in the nursery. Families confirmed in our questionnaires that they had worked with staff to draw up an individual education and support plan for their child. This was regularly assessed and used to plan for next steps. All families agreed or strongly agreed that their child enjoyed fresh air, energetic physical play and a good diet. Families told us during the visit:
‘I understand all about how staff collect and use information I give them about my child’.
‘The teacher explained all about the progress profile’.
‘Mum is very happy with the service - a great benefit’.

**Areas for improvement**

The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘To update our aims in relation to Curriculum for Excellence’.
‘To produce a Health and Well-Being programme at Early level which will progress through the School’.
‘Revisit procedures for children with allergies/special diets’.
‘Produce a snack policy’.
‘Update the Health and Well-Being policy’.

**Grade awarded for this statement:**  5 - Very Good

**Number of requirements:**  0

**Number of recommendations:**  0
Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Grade awarded for this theme: 4 - Good

Statement 1
We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the service.

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - ‘Very Good’ was achieved. We awarded a Grade of 4 - ‘Good’ for the areas we looked at for this inspection.
Please see Quality Statement 1.1 for comments on how children and families were involved in assessing and improving the quality of the service.

We saw how the children enjoyed the spaces they had indoors and outdoors. They chose games and activities and helped plan their learning and what equipment they would need. They were using empty cartons and boxes to build their own spaces. Staff used music to prompt the children when it was time to tidy up and they showed us how well they could do this. Families who returned our Care Standards Questionnaires strongly agreed or agreed that the environment was safe, secure and pleasant. All but one family strongly agreed or agreed the children had sufficient space and resources and one family disagreed that their child’s opinions were sought about outings. Families told us during the visit:
’Very happy with the service - my child likes the nursery’.
’Staff took time to settle my child in’.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
’Review of self-evaluation procedures’.

The children enjoyed drawing, painting and making pictures. Staff should make more use of this work in displays especially where they can use areas at children’s eye level.

Staff should continue with their planned improvements for increasing participation by children and their families (see recommendation 1 for Quality Statement 1.1).
Statement 2
We make sure that the environment is safe and service users are protected.

Service strengths
The service achieved a grading of 5 - 'Very Good' in all of the areas we looked at for this Quality Statement.

We found that the nursery accommodation and all the equipment the children were using were very clean and in good condition. All safety requirements were in place. The entrance/exit to the nursery was seen as safe and secure during our visit. Children’s attendance was recorded and visitors were asked to sign in and out of the building. Staff risk assessed the playrooms, outdoors areas and activities on a planned and daily basis as appropriate. The local authority was responsible for maintenance, safety equipment and procedures. The children’s furniture, equipment and materials were attractive, good quality and suitable for their age and stage. Everything was arranged for the children to have easy access and make their own choices. Staff followed good practice in hygiene, food handling, and keeping the children’s resources clean. The children washed their hands properly after toilet visits. Information about the school’s and nursery’s responsibilities in child protection was readily available and shared with families. Staff followed up on children’s unexpected absence from nursery.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘Continue to review use of space and remove furniture and resources which are no longer in good condition’.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good
Number of requirements: 0
Number of recommendations: 0
Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Grade awarded for this theme: 4 - Good

Statement 1
We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing in the service.

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - ‘Very Good’ was achieved. We awarded a Grade of 4 - ‘Good’ for the areas we looked at for this inspection.
Please see Quality Statements 1.1 and 2.1 for comments on how children and families were involved in assessing and improving the quality of the service.

The families who returned our Care Standards Questionnaires and spoke with us were very clear about their high regard for the staff. They all strongly agreed and agreed that the staff were skilled and experienced, that there were always enough staff and that their children were treated fairly and properly protected. Comments we received about the staff included:
‘Staff changes have not had an impact on the nursery’.
‘I think the nursery staff work really good with the kids and are lovely people’.
‘The nursery is really good and the staff are really good with the kids’.
‘The teacher is very good - no impact from staff changes’.

We also heard very positive comments about the support given by staff to the pupil on work experience: ‘Staff took time to introduce me and explain what is going on’.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ were noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘Further development of users’ and carers’ participation’.
‘Professional Review and Development of staff’.

On-going improvement in evaluating staff’s professional development needs was highlighted as planned in the school’s Standards and Quality Report 2011-2012.

Staff should continue with their planned improvements for increasing participation by children and their families (see recommendation 1 for Quality Statement 1.1).
Statement 3
We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

Service strengths
The service achieved a grading of 5 - 'Very Good' in all of the areas we looked at for this Quality Statement.

The staff team were well supported by the local authority's range of policies, procedures and professional development programmes. They had regular additional professional support from South Ayrshire Council’s Early Years Development Team. All staff working with the children demonstrated that they used their qualifications and experience to meet the children’s care and learning needs. The staff had faced challenges brought about by a number of changes to the nursery team however this was not seen as a problem by families. Staff had regular meetings to discuss their work together and with other colleagues. They worked closely with other professionals who had input to the children’s care and nursery experiences. They could request and participate in specialist training where this was needed. All staff were registered with their professional regulatory bodies such as the Scottish Social Services Council and the General Teaching Council. Nursery staff’s work was monitored, evaluated and assessed to identify any training needs. The work done by the staff with the children confirmed that they followed best practice and national guidelines such as The Curriculum for Excellence and Child at The Centre. The local authority ensured that adults working with the children were suitable and safe to do this and was in the process of transferring staff to 'The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme)'.

Areas for improvement
The following 'Evidence of Areas for Improvement' was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
'Further develop, through discussion with staff and identification of resources, to make best use of all staff in the nursery including volunteers'.

Grade awarded for this statement: 5 - Very Good
Number of requirements: 0
Number of recommendations: 0
Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership

Grade awarded for this theme: 4 - Good

Statement 1
We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the management and leadership of the service.

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - ‘Very Good’ was achieved. We awarded a Grade of 4 - ‘Good’ for the areas we looked at for this inspection.
Please see Quality Statements 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 for comments on how children and families were involved in assessing and improving the quality of the service.

Families received good information about the day to day management of the nursery and what to expect in their child’s nursery life. Staff made sure that all families were kept up to date with everything happening in the nursery and how their children’s learning was being supported and tracked. We saw the staff discussing children’s progress with parents and passing on important information. The nursery was fully included in the wider work of the primary school and families received information about how the whole school and nursery planned to make improvements. Nursery children were well supported during their transition into primary one.

All of the families who returned our Care Standards Questionnaires strongly agreed and agreed that they had been involved in developing the service. Families told us during the visit:
‘I attended parents’ evening and my child tells me all about the nursery’.
‘My child talks about nursery - it is friendly and great’.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘Working with Community Education to further develop our partnerships with all staff and service users’

Staff should continue with their planned improvements for increasing participation by children and their families (see recommendation 1 for Quality Statement 1.1).
Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 0

Statement 4
We use quality assurance systems and processes which involve service users, carers, staff and stakeholders to assess the quality of service we provide

Service strengths
We looked at this Quality Statement during the service’s last inspection and a grading of 5 - ‘Very Good’ was achieved. We awarded a Grade of 4 - ‘Good’ for the areas we looked at for this inspection.

The staff team used both formal and informal means to evaluate and improve the work of the nursery. Senior staff were responsible for the formal monitoring of the staff’s work with The Curriculum for Excellence and Child at The Centre. A monitoring calendar was used to track this. Nursery staff used self-evaluation processes to improve their own work. Staff were assisted in this by the Early Years Development Team. The head teacher was committed to an active programme of improvement for the whole school and we saw several examples of this during our visit. For example the nursery children were taking part in a new experimental early maths programme using their nursery interactive whiteboard and had continued to increase their involvement in learning decisions.

We saw how effectively the nursery staff engaged with other agencies which support children’s additional care and learning needs. This work was carefully tracked and evaluated and we could clearly see staff’s strong focus on pastoral care. Families were becoming more involved in the life of the nursery. The school and nursery improvement plan was shared with parents and other interested people.

Areas for improvement
The following ‘Evidence of Areas for Improvement’ was noted in the self assessment for this Quality Statement:
‘Report to service users our major strengths and our next steps’.

Formal monitoring with the new staff team was still in early stages. The school’s Standards and Quality Report for 2011-2012 identified nursery planning and tracking activities as a point for improvement (see recommendation 1 for this Quality Statement).

Grade awarded for this statement: 4 - Good

Number of requirements: 0

Number of recommendations: 1
Recommendations

1. The monitoring systems for the nursery should continue to be developed: National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 13: Improving the service.
4 Other information

Complaints
No complaints have been upheld, or partially upheld, since the last inspection.

Enforcements
We have taken no enforcement action against this care service since the last inspection.

Additional Information

Action Plan
Failure to submit an appropriate action plan within the required timescale, including any agreed extension, where requirements and recommendations have been made, will result in SCSWIS re-grading the Quality Statement within the Management and Leadership Theme as unsatisfactory (1). This will result in the Quality Theme for Management and Leadership being re-graded as Unsatisfactory (1).
5 Summary of grades

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<th>Quality of Care and Support - 4 - Good</th>
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6 Inspection and grading history

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Gradings</th>
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<td>15 Dec 2009</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>Care and support 5 - Very Good</td>
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<td>Environment 5 - Very Good</td>
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<td>Staffing 4 - Good</td>
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<td>Management and Leadership 5 - Very Good</td>
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All inspections and grades before 1 April 2011 are those reported by the former regulator of care services, the Care Commission.
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