

Hurlford Early Childhood Centre Day Care of Children

Union Street
Hurlford
Kilmarnock
KA1 5BT

Telephone: 01563 525098

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 February 2020

Service provided by:
East Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000142

Service no:
CS2003016953

About the service

Hurlford Early Childhood Centre is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children from three years old to those not yet attending primary school. The service is provided by East Ayrshire Council.

The service is provided from its own space, which comprises two linking playrooms, within Hurlford Primary School. Children have access to a secure outdoor play area and use of the school gym. There is a secure door entry system separate to that of the school.

The service aims included:

- to create a welcoming, safe and secure environment
- recognise and celebrate achievements and success
- provide a broad, challenging and stimulating curriculum, developing the four capacities
- provide high quality learning and teaching, promoting lifelong learning
- promote partnership with parents and the wider community
- encourage mutual respect.

An inspector for the Care Inspectorate carried out an unannounced inspection of Hurlford Early Childhood Centre on. We observed 34 children attending morning and afternoon sessions on the day of our inspection and gave feedback to the senior early learning and childcare practitioner on the day of the inspection. We gave telephone feedback to the manager (head teacher) on 7 March 2017.

We looked at identified aspects focusing on children's experiences under two quality themes. For care and support, we looked at how well children were supported in the service and child protection. We also looked at how children were supported to be independent in a safe and hygienic environment.

This targeted approach is in line with Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC). GIRFEC is the national approach promoted by the Scottish Government for everyone to work together to support outcomes for children. The wellbeing indicators that are essential for children to flourish are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included (SHANARRI).

What people told us

Parents and children were very happy with the quality of the service they received. Children told us that they liked their nursery and had lots of fun with their friends there. They said that the adults who looked after them were kind and funny, and they thought that the toys were good. Parents comments within the care standards questionnaires they completed for us included the following:

'Hurlford Nursery is a great place for my child, She is learning a lot and enjoying everything.

The staff go above and beyond to create an environment for the children to learn and explore new thing, encouraging them at every point. The staff are also very approachable and helpful. I could not be happier with how this nursery is run, with great staff.

The staff at Hurlford ECC go above and beyond. I can't praise them enough for the help and support they give, to not only the children attending but the family too. My children absolutely love attending the ECC.

The healthy snacks and lunches encouraged her to eat a better diet at home. My child has become a confident individual and is keen to learn and take part in group activities.'

We spoke with four parents or carers during the inspection. All were very happy with every aspect of the service. They commented in particular about how well staff knew their children, and how effectively they shared information about their children's experiences and learning.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We considered the service's improvement plan and quality assurance processes.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff consistently provided children with nurturing and responsive care. Very positive relationships and effective information sharing meant that staff knew children very well and were well placed to meet their needs. As a result, children received effective and individual care and support. Information to inform personal plans was gathered at the start of each care arrangement, and reviewed regularly with parents. This supported a consistent approach to meeting children's needs between parents and the centre.

Children were happy, confident and very familiar with nursery routines. They enjoyed looking through their folders and proudly showed us examples of their work. The centre had developed characters to help children understand the well-being indicators within the national initiative, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). These are: Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included. Children enjoyed referring to these characters when planning for their learning.

As a result of the expansion in early learning and childcare, most children were now attending the service for longer days. Staff had taken good account of this when planning how to meet children's nutritional needs. They had also considered how to ensure that children had positive snack and lunch experiences. We saw that this planning had resulted in very good outcomes for children. Children enjoyed plentiful opportunities to develop their self-help skills and independence during snack and lunch periods. We also saw that food appeared tasty and nutritious, and children told us that they enjoyed it. Children's experiences were relaxed and sociable. They benefitted from sitting in groups with their friends and key staff, chatting and enjoying their food. Children learned about healthy eating through play based experiences. They enjoyed telling us about these and showing us what they had been learning in their health and well-being floor book. Children's general health and well-being was effectively supported through these well planned arrangements. .

A balance of organised and freely chosen play experiences supported children to make choices about their learning and to explore their environment. Play experiences offered were routinely linked to children's

interests. An example of this was that children had recently been learning about how their bodies worked, with staff skilfully responding to this developing interest, and extending children's learning through effective interventions. There were very good approaches to involving parents in their children's learning through a range of approaches. This included 'Marvellous Mondays' which had focussed on areas such as Play at Home, Healthy Eating and Behaviour Support Strategies. Children benefitted from very good opportunities to enjoy books at the centre and through book lending and book bug sessions. All children had daily access to outdoor and energetic play.

Staff worked very well together to provide positive experiences for children. They respected each other's opinions and valued the range of skills and experience within the team. Newer staff felt they had been made very welcome and included from the start of their employment. The effectiveness of the staff team strongly contributed to the welcoming, positive and supportive ethos of the centre.

Staff felt fully supported by management, and welcomed the professional and personal development opportunities available. These included 'championship' roles, where staff led on aspects of the service. Staff were highly motivated to develop these roles to the best of their ability. Staff attended a range of internal and external training necessary for their Scottish Social Services Council registration. This included statutory training such as child protection, first aid and Getting it Right for Every child - a national approach to ensure children get the right support at the right time. In addition, staff were supported to access training to meet the individual needs of the centre and children. Examples of this were 'English as a second language' and training to support children's health and well-being. Staff told us the training and development arrangements supported them to be reflective practitioners, continuously striving for improvement.

What the service could do better

Whilst staff knew children's interests, developmental stages and plans for their next steps in learning well, this was not always recorded effectively in personal plans. We discussed the importance of ensuring a consistent approach to these, to clearly show how the service will meet children's needs. Management and staff told us about planned changes to the format and monitoring of personal plans. We agree that these will support improvement.

We made a recommendation in our previous inspection report about medication. Some work had been done to address this, and at the time of our inspection the senior early learning and childcare practitioner had a clear plan on for further development work. We suggested some improvements to the storage arrangements, which the senior early learning and childcare practitioner agreed to make.

We discussed how the Scottish Social Services Council's 'Step into Leadership' initiative and the Scottish Government's 'National Induction Framework' could further enhance the good practice identified during this inspection.

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

Hurlford Early Childhood Centre should update administration, recording and storage of medication policy and procedures in accordance with the Care Inspectorate best practice guidance document: Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 17 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service had made a range of improvements to medication arrangements. Parents now confirmed in writing that children had received the first dose of any medication and signs and symptoms which would indicate when 'as required' medication should be administered, were now recorded. Whilst the recommendation is met we agreed with the centre's plans to further improve systems, and suggested further improvements to storage and monitoring arrangements.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
6 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
27 Sep 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
11 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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