PEACE Dunlop Schools Out
Day Care of Children

The Village Hall
48 Main Street
Dunlop
Kilmarnock
KA3 4AG

Telephone: 01563 549 804

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 May 2022

Service provided by:
PEACE Childcare

Service provider number:
SP2003000712

Service no:
CS2003003488

About the service

PEACE Childcare is the registered provider of this day care of children service. PEACE is a charitable organisation managed by a voluntary board of directors (the board). The board has responsibility for the overall management of PEACE. This includes the provision of a sitter service, several out of school clubs operating throughout East Ayrshire and a full day holiday service based in Kilmarnock. The board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day running of the service to a suitably experienced service manager.

PEACE Dunlop Schools Out is located in The Village Hall, in the town of Dunlop in East Ayrshire. The service has a separate entrance and exclusive use of a hall while operating. It also has pre-arranged access to the main hall. The service can provide up to 50 places per session during the school term.

The service aims to:

'Support parents and guardians in balancing work, training, education and family commitments by providing a before school, after school and full day care service during school holidays and in-service days.'

What people told us

We spoke with 14 children during our inspection and observed the interactions between staff and other children. Children who spoke with us said that they liked going to the service. They told us they had lots of friends there and liked the toys they had to play with. One child commented: 'I am very happy coming to PEACE.'

Sixteen parents responded to an online survey and one spoke with us by telephone. Overall, parents were very happy with the service provided. Their comments included:

'My daughter enjoys the time she spends at PEACE.'

'The staff are very engaged with the children and facilitate outdoor activities when the weather permits. My child loved it from the first day they went aged 5 and looks forward to their PEACE days every week. We are very happy with the team and service provided.'

'PEACE is a very well organised and professionally run service. All the staff are kind, caring and respectful. They know not only my child very well, but they have very quickly remembered myself and my younger child, who does not attend as they are too young. All the staff are very supportive of the children and have become part of our village community. We meet them outside of school when they go to pick the children up or in the play park when they take the children for some fun in the fresh air and watching how well organised and caring they are makes me confident that my child is in safe hands on the days they attend PEACE. I love that the children have the opportunity to go outside, weather permitting, that they have a range of activities when inside, that they are getting a snack to prevent the hunger strikes. The atmosphere within the group must be really nice, too, as my child loves going.'

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self assessment before this inspection. We looked at, and discussed, the service's improvement plan as part of our inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

This quality theme is evaluated as good. We found important strengths resulting in positive outcomes for children, with some areas for improvement.

Children were valued and respected as individuals. They benefited from warm, caring, inclusive and nurturing care and support. Staff gave children lots of praise and encouragement to do their best, and reassurance and comfort when they needed it. Children were happy, confident, and having lots of fun in the after school care.

Personal plans should continue to be developed to set out how children would be cared for. Involvement between the child, their family and, where appropriate, other people involved in children's care and support will support children to achieve their potential. Each personal plan should continue to reflect the individual child's health, safety and welfare needs. The provider had a layout for personal plans, we suggested that PEACE Dunlop Schools Out utilise this.

All of the parents who returned our survey and spoke with us were happy with the care and support the service offered their child. A parent told us, 'All of the staff are very caring and take account of the individual needs of the children. They keep me well informed as to how my children are and how they have been that day.'

Children had lots of opportunities to make choices about their time spent in the after school care. They were fully involved in fun experiences. We saw children playing games with each other, reading books, playing on the games consoles with each other and being creative. We also saw them talking and spending time with each other and with the staff. There was a very respectful ethos across the service.

Breakfast was a happy and sociable experience for children. They were supported by staff, who sat and chatted with them. We asked the service to undertake a review of the independence options for children serving themselves breakfast, and to ensure that improvements are made if required. This will ensure that

children are developing their independence as part of their daily experience.

In general, children were protected from harm by staff who had an understanding of their responsibilities. They had participated in child protection training and were alert and responsive to potential signs of abuse. Staff worked very well with families, and support was offered when people needed it most. The service had good links with the primary school and worked closely with them to meet children and their families' needs.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good, where several important strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children benefited from a bright, warm and clean environment which was equipped with appropriate before and after school care furniture and resources. Children do not have direct access to an outdoor area, however we heard from parents and children that they frequently accessed the local park and school playground. This helped children to be healthy and active and to learn in a natural environment that promoted active, healthy and happy children.

During the inspection visit, we noted that the access to the service was not secure. We asked the manager to ensure that this was remedied immediately. We have not made a requirement with regards to this in our report, as we observed on our follow up visit the next day that appropriate measures had been taken. During the pandemic the service had exclusive use of the building and had not returned to the previous approach to securing its service areas. We also discussed ventilation and asked that the service considers how this can be enhanced. This will improve infection prevention and control measures to ensure all children and staff stay healthy.

In line with the service's nurturing ethos, a cosy area had been developed in the room. We saw that children made good use of this area for rest and relaxation, and to take themselves away when they wanted some quiet time. We saw four boys being encouraged to share and discuss their interests and stories with each other and a member of staff. Children's voices were respected.

We asked the service to continue to ensure that all children had access to drinking water throughout the duration of the operating hours.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good, where several important strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Staff were warm, friendly, caring and worked well together. This helped to create a welcoming and nurturing place for children. Staff had built positive and trusting relationships with families. One parent told us that the staff were what made the service so good. They said: 'Craig [manager], and his staff are extremely helpful, and nothing is too much trouble, I genuinely feel that my child is looked after while in their care.'

Staff who spoke with us were passionate and motivated to do their best for children and their families. Staff shared a vision for quality before and after school care and play. They worked together to continually develop the service, helping children to reach their full potential. Going forward, staff should continue to refer to best practice guidance, including the Early Learning and Childcare - National Induction Resource, to further improve children's experiences in the service.

Team meetings provided focused time for discussions about children's needs. Staff should continue to use these to share information about their learning, and to develop clear plans to support children and their families. These should continue to be minuted and show support from management and that staff ideas are be being listened to.

Staff were committed to ongoing training and professional learning. This will continue to help them to reflect on their practice to make improvements to children's experiences. Staff should continue to be supported to identify the impact that their training is having on outcomes for children attending the service.

The service was suitably staffed to meet children's needs. Careful consideration of children's wellbeing needs meant that one to one care was given when needed. This helped ensure all children felt safe and valued and could be fully involved in the centre. We asked the service to review and further clarify their safeguarding, accidents/incidents and medication policies and procedures to ensure they continue to be in line with current local and national good practice guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed any areas for improvement.

The manager provided effective leadership and support. The shared vision, values and aims for the service were implemented effectively in practice, resulting in a respectful and inclusive ethos.

Staff were beginning to consider leadership opportunities. This will assist them to fulfil their roles and to meet children's individual needs. Staff were aware of current best practice guidance. Implementation of this will support positive changes for children and their families.

Staff told us they felt well supported and valued by the manager. Staff should continue to be routinely involved in self-evaluation processes. This will ensure a shared understanding of the service's strengths and areas for development. Regular monitoring of all aspects of the service will continue to support positive outcomes for children. Monitoring should continue to recognise and celebrate staff skills and knowledge and inform clear plans to support good practice. Targeted and planned support should continue to be provided, where required, to support staff to recognise their skills, experience, and areas they could develop further.

The service should continue to develop quality assurance processes and improvement planning. We discussed how further development of effective monitoring and evaluation processes will support continuous improvement

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

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 ensure children's health and wellbeing, the manager should ensure the areas of the hall used by the service are kept clean.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 2: A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 2 February 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation
We noted that infection prevention and control cleaning measures had been improved during the pandemic; the hall area was clean.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
8 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
1 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 3 - Adequate 4 - Good 4 - Good
10 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
29 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
16 Dec 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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