Sgoil-araich na Coille Nuaidh
Day Care of Children

William McIlvanney Campus
Sutherland Drive
Kilmarnock
KA3 7DF

Telephone: 01563 558 505

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
27 May 2022

Service provided by:
East Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000142

Service no:
CS2003015810

About the service

Sgoil-araich na Coille Nuaidh is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a day care of children service to a maximum of 21 children at any one time, aged two years to those not attending primary school, of whom no more than five children are aged two to under three years. The service is within the William McIlvanney Campus in the town of Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire.

The accommodation includes a playroom for children aged over two years to not attending primary school, with toilets and personal care facilities, and an outdoor play area which is shared with James Hamilton Early Childhood Centre, directly accessible from the playroom.

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Tuesday, 24 May 2022. Following that, we used virtual technology to review documentation. Feedback was provided to the management and the team on Friday, 27 May 2022.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19, with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2 - Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 - Quality of care and support.

What people told us

During this inspection process, we issued a digital survey to the manager and asked that this was shared with all parents of children attending the service. We received views from six parents of children attending the service. All parents told us that they were happy with the quality of care their children received. Parents highlighted communication with families as a particular strength and told us they were kept up to date about their child's care whilst at the service. Comments made in response to our questions included: "They love my daughter as if they are my own"; "The staff are the best"; "I highly recommended it to everyone"; "The staff are brilliant"; "I love my kids teachers, they are wonderful with them and I feel secure and happy knowing my kids are with them"; and "They provide helpful sheets with phonetics as we do not speak Gaelic. There are also numerous links to resources on the online application that are updated regularly".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of this inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

The staff were warm and welcoming, and the children were relaxed within the environment. Staff have a good knowledge of each child's needs and interests.

Children were having fun and were making some progress in their learning and development. Staff provided targeted support and challenge where appropriate through small groups and one-to-one time. Parents confirmed that staff shared children's achievements and observations of their play and learning using the service's online portal.

Mealtimes were observed to be a good opportunity for children and staff to engage in warm conversation. Staff sat with children and role modelled positive social interactions to support children at mealtimes. We observed children were provided with some opportunities to promote independence; for example, tidying up at the end of lunchtime. However, opportunities to promote children's independence should be extended to ensure children can participate in self-serving.

The staff team was well established and demonstrated a commitment to supporting families during the Covid-19 pandemic. They provided valuable continuity of care for children and families through successful home play and learning initiatives, in addition to supporting their wellbeing. Children benefitted from warm and caring relationships with all the staff team. One parent told us, "The staff are the reason I chose this service for my child".

Staff were safely recruited and had registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Staff were aware of their responsibility to maintain their registration with the (SSSC). The service is staffed by two qualified practitioners and one qualified support assistant. Staff members were working towards, or had recently achieved, qualifications in further learning, demonstrating a commitment to improving their professional development.

There were good child protection and safeguarding procedures in place, and all staff were familiar with their role and responsibility to protect children from harm.

Staff valued parents' contributions within the service and they worked closely with parents sharing essential information through the service's online portal, newsletters, and the school blog.

Home learning was in place to support families to develop their skills in the Gaelic language and the use of phonetic Gaelic word sheets enabled shared play and learning at home. One parent told us, "We get regular 'homework' to help the whole family in learning Gaelic."

What the service could do better

Personal plans were available for all children, information was reviewed by parents to ensure any changes in children's health, safety, and welfare were supported. However, we found gaps in some personal plan information; for example, a child's target was to 'consider other children's feelings, and no clear strategies were in place on how to support the child to achieve this.

Records of accidents and incidents were recorded appropriately and shared with parents. However, we found that an audit system was not in place to consider reoccurring patterns in the environment or for individual children. We have asked that the audit is implemented to ensure a safe environment for children.

Staff were enthusiastic and keen to develop their skills. They had undertaken a range of training opportunities, including outdoor maths and communication champions training. Staff told us they were encouraged to reflect on training attended; however, the management team should further consider how they monitor the impact of training attended by staff to ensure this improves the quality of the service.

It was unclear how staff used local and national practice guidance, including The Scottish Government's document 'Realising the Ambition: Being me' to support children's play and learning experiences. Adult directed group times and children's timetabled access to the shared outdoor play area limited outdoor access and opportunities for children to choose their play freely and follow their own interests. We have asked that the management team and staff review the pace of the day to ensure routines are child led and that access to outdoors is always available.

We did not observe appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff during Covid-19. The environment was cluttered, which had the potential to prevent effective cleaning routines. We observed that paper towels were not stored in a dispenser and that porous materials were not stored appropriately in sealed containers within children's toilets, which increases the risk of spreading infection. In addition, we found that paint was flaking off a wooden surface in the changing room, making it porous. We have recommended infection prevention and control practice is reviewed and an audit is implemented to ensure a hygienic environment for staff and children. (See recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The manager should take action to reduce the risk of infection spreading and ensure children experience a safe environment. In order to achieve this, action taken should include, but is not limited to:

a) Ensure all areas of the service are free from unnecessary clutter to ensure cleaning arrangements can be effective.

b) Ensure all hand towels are placed in dispensers.

c) Children's toilets are free from unnecessary storage items.

d) All surfaces are in good repair and are free from flaking paint, including the nappy changing area.

e) Carry out an audit of infection prevention and control practices throughout the service.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17).

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

The service should update the administration of medicine policy and procedure in line with current guidance.

National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation
The service had updated the administration of medication policy and we provided some guidance on an appropriate recording format.

Recommendation 2

To support children's health and wellbeing the service should ensure young children practice good hand washing techniques. They should ensure best practice guidance is followed in relation to the storage of disposable towels and use of non antibacterial liquid handwash.

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

This recommendation was made on 29 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Hand washing guidance was adhered to and children were supported in practicing good health and hygiene techniques.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
5 Dec 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good
10 Dec 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
16 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
17 Sep 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good

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