Doonfoot Early Years Centre
Day Care of Children

29A Abott's Way
Ayr
KA7 4HJ

Telephone: 01292 612702

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
15 January 2019

Service provided by:
South Ayrshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003269

Service no:
CS2003017394

About the service

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

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

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.

Doonfoot Early Years Centre is a daycare service for children provided by South Ayrshire Council in the town of Ayr. The service is located within Doonfoot Primary School and is managed by the head teacher. Staff provide early learning and childcare for up to 30 children from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates a morning session, afternoon session and full day placements for a number of children. Approximately 20 children were in attendance during each session on the day of the inspection.

A copy of the service's aims and objectives were available. The main aims of the school and early years centre were to:

Provide an inclusive, nurturing, happy learning environment which maximises the potential of all pupils.

Provide a unique, stimulating environment which provides all learners with lifelong skills to meet the challenges of the future.

What people told us

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

'We are delighted with Doonfoot Early Years centre. The staff are wonderful'.

'The staff team provide an excellent environment for learning and care. There have been quite a few staff changes this year. I hope all the amazing effort to changes that were made for the nursery continue and the great positivity that has went with it'.

'The outdoor area is very small and of poor quality. The indoor area is also very cramped'.

During the inspection we spoke with five parents who were very complimentary about the service. Comments made included 'Doonfoot is an excellent centre'. Parents felt that communication was strong and information received from the staff kept them well informed about their child's learning. Parents we spoke with told us the main strength of the service was 'the care and support provided to the children'.

Self assessment

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

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

Management and staff worked well together, creating a warm, welcoming environment for children and families. Parents we spoke with told us they felt welcome within the centre and commented positively on the relationships they had established with staff. Staff provided numerous opportunities to involve parents in their child's learning. These included parenting groups, regular progress updates via email and 'coffee and chat sessions' where parents were invited to share their views on the service. We found that outcomes for children were being positively affected by staff and parents working well together.

Staff gathered relevant information about children's individual needs and were using this to plan appropriate support and learning for the majority of children. Personal care plans were in place for all children sampled and arrangements to review these were regular. Parents told us that they were extremely happy with the quality of care and support provided to children. We found that staff were working closely with other agencies to ensure children with identified support needs benefitted from the right support at the right time. Where additional needs were identified, appropriate plans were in place to meet children's needs.

Free play planning was effective and predominately responsive to children's needs, developmental stages and interests. Children were involved in planning their learning through regular discussions. Evidence of children's involvement was captured through the use of floorbooks. We saw some good examples where depth and breadth in children's experiences was evident. We spoke with management and made some suggestions about further developments that could be made to ensure continuous progression for all children.

During inspection, we observed staff interacting with children present. Staff were kind and caring in their approach and knew children well. We observed confident children who were happy and relaxed, approaching

staff for help and support when required. Children told us they enjoyed coming to the centre. We found that children were well settled and very familiar with their nursery environment and routines.

Snack and lunch time routines for children were positive. Food provided was healthy and complied with children's dietary needs. At snack, children enjoyed an unhurried social time where they engaged well in conversations with staff and peers, building on their language development and social skills. Some opportunities for children to be independent were promoted at mealtimes; however, suggestions were made to improve this further.

During free play, children were independent in accessing all areas and experiences on offer. Children could freely move between the indoor and outdoor environment, enabling them to choose where they wanted to play and when. Changes had been made to improve the environment from the previous inspection, supporting more open-ended and natural play experiences. Areas revamped were attractive and well set up to encourage different types of play, such as imaginative, creative and physical.

During inspection, we observed several children leading their own learning. Outdoors, children were using bricks and coloured markers to build 'Elsa's castle'. Indoors, children were engaged in using puppets to retell stories they had heard previously. Other children we observed were meaningfully engaged in block play. We spoke with management about how staff could have further supported children's play experiences through effective questioning, building on children's higher order thinking skills. Although we observed a few missed opportunities, we found, overall, that children were actively engaged in quality play and learning for the duration of the inspection.

Through discussions with staff and parents, we found that staff were making good use of other areas in the local community to broaden children's experiences. This included visits to the local Burns museum, nursing home and beach.

We found that staff had a clear understanding of their responsibilities in relation to child protection, allowing them to keep children safe.

What the service could do better

Arrangements for the management of medication did not fully reflect best practice. We have asked management to further review their policy in line with current guidance and monitor procedures to ensure practice is fully reflective of the service policy (see recommendation 1).

We sampled children's personal plans and online journals and found the quality of these to be inconsistent. One plan sampled included information that was not reflective of the child's current needs; some documentation had limited information about children's progress and development and evidence of children's involvement was minimal. The service should routinely monitor personal care plans and journals to ensure a consistency in the quality of information. The service should consider how the children could be more involved in documenting their own learning.

During our inspection, we looked at records of accidents and incidents that had been recorded and shared with parents. We have asked the service to expand information collated on records to include more detail.

Management should monitor and review risks assessments on a regular basis to ensure the necessary control measures are put in place to safeguard and protect children. This will include individual risk assessments and protocols for identified children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Procedures relating to administration of medication should be updated referring to current guidance. Management should monitor procedures to ensure practice is reflective of the service policy.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child,
'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective'.
(HSCS 1.24)

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 head teacher with staff should ensure that the children have access to a good range of sensory and creative materials such as water, dough and other resources made of natural materials such as stones and fir cones. They should also review and take a more flexible approach to the management of outdoor play to afford children greater choices and better access to outdoor play.

National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 5: Quality of experience and Standard 11: Access to resources.

This recommendation was made on 31 March 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 21 April 2016. They wrote and told us: In consultation with children, parents/carers, other stakeholders and as recommended in this report a variety of other natural resources will be put in place for the children to access. A parent group are working on and have responsibility for development of the outdoor area along with nursery staff. Staff have looked at access to the outdoor area and are employing a less stringent approach. Children will be allowed greater free flow with the playroom and ensure they are equipped for varying weather conditions.

During inspection, we looked at the environment and opportunities provided to support children's sensory play and creativity. We found that improvements had been made to the indoor and outdoor environment, with the use of natural materials increased. We observed how children were accessing the outdoor environment and found that children had free flow access, enabling them to choose where to play and when. Children had access to some open ended materials outdoors to encourage more imaginative play.

Recommendation met.

Recommendation 2

The head teacher should review the management of medication paperwork and review consents in accordance with the Care Inspectorate guidance 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' (2014)www.careinspectorate.com .

This recommendation was made on 31 March 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The service submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 21 April 2016. They wrote and told us: As per stated document, paperwork will be reviewed on a three monthly basis forming good practice. Consent for treatment will be noted in a time limited format depending on the condition for treatment. Records will be kept detailing parental consent for administration and in the case of 'when required' basis staff will require to know of previous administration and duly inform parents of any administration. Medical records will be kept in accordance with the stated document including all required information.

During inspection we looked at the arrangements in place for the management of medication and found that improvements had been made, however they were not fully reflective of best practice guidance.

Recommendation not met A further recommendation was made.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
12 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
4 Sep 2008	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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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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