Heads of Ayr Nursery
Day Care of Children

Laigh Kyleston Farm
Dunure
Ayr
KA7 4LD

Telephone: 01292 388456

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 March 2022

Service provided by:
Heads of Ayr Nursery Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2020013568

Service no:
CS2020380758

About the service

Heads of Ayr Nursery is based on the outskirts of Ayr, in South Ayrshire. This day care of children service is registered to provide care for a maximum of 57 children at any one time. Of those no more than 25 are aged 2 years to under 3 years and no more than 32 are aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school full time. The service is delivered from a purpose-built building. The children in both room have direct access to an enclosed outdoor area.

The service is provided by Heads of Ayr Nursery Ltd.

What people told us

We spoke with 30 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. Forty-five parents responded to an online survey and three spoke with us by telephone. Parents were very happy with the service provided. Their comments included the following:

'It is a fantastic learning environment for children. The outdoor area really encourages outdoor learning.'

'They go above and beyond for the children, always keep parents informed of everything that goes on daily. Highly recommend this nursery to everyone.'

'The nursery is an amazing environment for the children. Every single child I see always looks so happy going to the nursery and my daughter tells me every day that she loves being in nursery and tells me everything she has done. The staff are all amazing, they keep you up to day on progress and they are always friendly and helpful.'

We have included the views of parents, carers and children throughout this report.

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.

Heads of Ayr Nursery had created a positive, nurturing ethos where children and families were placed at the centre of their work. Children were relaxed, happy and settled in nursery and were valued and respected by staff. They had formed positive relationships with staff and received cuddles, warmth, and affection, with some seeking this throughout the day. This created a caring, nurturing environment where children felt safe, secure, and loved.

Children had developed special friendships with one another, and we observed children being kind, caring and helping each other. Children's emotional wellbeing was supported by staff. We asked that the service continue to develop resources to support self-regulatory skills, including quiet areas inside and out to provide emotionally secure spaces.

There were sufficient numbers of staff to meet the needs of the children attending the service. Each child had a key worker who was responsible for their care and wellbeing. This provided consistent care each day. It is important for children to experience a continuous caring relationship to help them settle and feel safe and secure.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported by the use of personal plans. From the plans we viewed, these demonstrated staff had gathered information about children's health and wellbeing needs and how these would be supported. We identified areas where children's plans could be strengthened which the management team agreed to take forward. Staff knew children well and were able to share with us how they supported their individual care and support needs. A parent told us about the ways they were 'involved in planning' for their child. Another parent told us 'that the service reflects their family's personal preferences and promotes their child's independence particularly through the outdoor area.'

Staff were developing a child led approach to children's play and activities, that took account of children's interests. Further development of this will enable children to follow their own interests and support them to take ownership of their learning. We discussed how staff could further extend learning by using resources.

We found the children's lunchtime experience to be quite long. However, most children were seated comfortably and chatted with their friends throughout. Staff tried to sit with the children interacting with

them and supporting when required. We discussed ways in which mealtimes could be improved with the management team, who have agreed to take this forward.

Management and staff had established positive relationships with parents/carers. A range of communication methods were used, for example phone calls, emails and online journals. These were used to ensure parents/carers were kept informed about their child's progress and ensured essential links were maintained between home and nursery, which supports continuity of care.

We were satisfied there were appropriate arrangements in place to limit the risk of infection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

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.

We found the areas used by children to be safe and secure. A secure entry system was in place with information relating to infection prevention and control displayed for visitors.

Both playrooms were welcoming with a calm and relaxed atmosphere. They were well-lit and were of a suitable temperature for the children. The environment was very well-maintained, clean and tidy. The playrooms were suitably furnished, and the layout provided children with spaces to play on their own or as part of a larger group. Spaces reflected children's current interests and needs, with appropriate resources and materials to support learning that children could access independently. Opportunities for children to extend their own play and learning should be further developed.

Children had direct access to a large outdoor space from both the playrooms. The outdoor space had a strong farm theme. It was a safe, secure, and interesting space with varied surfaces for children to play. This natural play space with dens, logs, tree houses, tyres, planting and mud kitchen provided an interesting and stimulating area for children to explore, be creative and engage in active and risky play. We observed active children practising their skills in running, climbing, jumping and balancing. Children should continue to be supported to understand how to keep themselves and their friends safe.

Children's learning and wellbeing was promoted through opportunities to engage in play outdoors. Most children chose to spend extended periods outdoors and this was well supported by staff. Staff were enthusiastic about being outdoors and understood the importance of outdoor play to children's health, wellbeing and development.

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 kind, caring and nurturing in their interactions with the children and were respectful and affectionate. They enjoyed working in the nursery and were committed to improving outcomes for children and families. Staff recognised daily routines as opportunities to promote close attachments with children. We discussed how staff could support younger children by reducing task orientated time and replace it with quality engagement. Staff understood most children's needs and the role they played in supporting them. Parents confirmed they felt that staff knew their child well.

The inspection visit took place on the service's first birthday. The new staff and management team were in the early stages of developing the service. They had a shared vision for high quality childcare and were committed to improvement.

Staff had been well supported since joining the service which had resulted in them settling happily in the team. There was a good balance of skills and experience across the team with staff supporting each other in their role.

All staff were registered with the appropriate professional body.

Staff were knowledgeable about child protection procedures. All staff had received training relating to child protection. As a result, staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children.

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 management team, although newly formed, provided effective leadership and support. We saw initial signs of strong management and leadership. The service was very well organised and supported effectively by admin staff. We found the management team willing to engage professionally in the inspection process. 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 be encouraged to consider their leadership roles and opportunities, this will assist them to fulfil their roles and to meet children's individual needs. We discussed introducing the Early Learning and Childcare - National Induction Resource (available on the Care Inspectorate Hub) to support this. Management and staff showed awareness of current best practice guidance. Implementation of these will continue to support positive changes for children and their families.

Staff told us they felt well supported and valued by management. 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 practice.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the service registered. Details of any upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this service since registration.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.