

Wellington School Ayr (Ltd)

Service name

Wellington School Ayr (Ltd)

Service address

Drumley House
1 Westfield Road

Ayr KA7 2XN

Type of care service

Day Care of Children

Provider name

Wellington School

Service number

CS2003014016

Date of inspection

14 Jun 2006

Type of inspection

Unannounced

Care Commission Office

Irvine

Period since last inspection

9 months

Introduction

Wellington School Nursery is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children aged 3 years and over. The nursery is located within the Wellington School building which is situated in the town of Ayr. The service was registered with the Care Commission on 1 April 2002. The nursery is in partnership with South Ayrshire Council to deliver ante pre and pre school education.

Listed below are Wellington School Nursery's aims. These were displayed in the nursery and included in the nursery handbook. These were to:

"provide a coherent pre school experience for children in their pre school and ante pre school years which will enable them to progress to Primary 1 with confidence and ease."

"seek the individual potential of each pupil working carefully with parents."

"provide a stimulating and secure environment to this end."

Since the last inspection a new Head of school had been appointed. The text contained in the body of the report will refer to "the management team" with regard to the head and the nursery head.

Basis of Report

Before the visit:

The electronic annual return and questionnaires for the Care Commission's focused themes for inspection of day care for children 2006 – 07 were submitted. In accordance with Care Commission inspection guidance for 2006–07 this service had an unannounced low level inspection. As a result not all sub standards of each of the care standards were inspected and there was more specific sampling of issues related to the focused themes

The inspection was conducted by two Care Commission Officers.

During the visit which took place on 14 June 2006 the Care Commission Officers spoke with:

Staff members

The management team

The catering Staff

Children in attendance

2 parents

The Care Commission Officers looked at documents and a range of records including the following:

Handbook for parents

Permissions for outings and tooth brushing

Accident records

Medication records

Fire records

The Care Commission Officers took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

Standard 4: Engaging with children.

Standard 7: A caring environment.

Standard 10: Involving other services.

Standard 12: Confidence in staff.

Particular attention was paid to the Care Commission's focussed themes for 2006 –2007 from the above standards: healthy eating and tooth brushing, child protection, care of under threes, safer recruitment/ the Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice for Social Services Workers and for Employers of Social Services Workers.

The inspection also took account of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2002. Scottish Statutory Instruments 113 and 114.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Reports

Not applicable.

Comment on Self-Evaluation

The electronic self evaluation form was due for submission on the 15th June 2006. The nursery head submitted the form electronically on the due date.

View of Service Users

Children were happy and relaxed in the nursery setting and comfortable with familiar routines. At lunchtime the children went to the school dining hall where they happily ate their lunch before returning to the playground to enjoy some physical play. The children confidently chatted with each other, the nursery staff and the Care Commission Officer. One conversation with a group of children included the following comments;

'We had curry today.'

'I ate all of it.'

'I had bananas and apples for snack'

View of Carers

2 parents were spoken with and 13 returned questionnaires. Overall there was a very high level of satisfaction with service provided. Statements made by the parents included the following;

"A superb array of stimulating materials is in evidence. My child especially enjoys the various role-play areas and is further stimulated by the frequent changing of these. Parents recently enjoyed a most interesting talk by the nursery head about exploring creativity and various activities designed to promote this within the nursery"

"I really do feel that the nursery staff know my child well and treat her fairly and sensitively"

"My child finds it difficult being away from home but the staff have really helped her come out of her shell, and made her feel very secure."

Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 3: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Health and Wellbeing

Strengths

Elements of this standard associated with the focused themes were inspected.

The service had a child protection policy in place and had an identified child protection co-ordinator. Staff were aware of child protection procedures and had attended appropriate training. An absent child procedure was in place which parents were informed about. The management team advised that a number of the nursery policies, including child protection, had been reviewed and up dated since the last inspection.

There was very good evidence of opportunities for the children to learn about healthy lifestyles. The children were involved in the National Toothbrushing Programme and had been visited by the Dental Health Advisor. Good hygiene procedures were in place and practiced throughout the nursery. Children had access to regular outdoor play and had timetabled sessions in the gym.

During the inspection the children were observed enjoying a nutritious lunch. The management team advised that nursery staff and the catering manager had used the new nutritional guidance document 'Food Choices for Children Aged 1 – 5 in Early Education and Childcare Settings' to refine menus. Parents had the opportunity to view the new document and to take part in a healthy eating workshop. The children were offered a choice at snack time which always included fresh fruit and a choice of milk or water to drink. The children could also access water at any time throughout the session from the water cooler located in the nursery.

Areas for Development

The nursery should provide more information to parents on Child Protection in the form of leaflets. (See recommendation 1)

National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Engaging with children

Strengths

Elements of this standard associated with the focused themes were inspected with a general overview of this standard.

The nursery had a copy of the document, 'Birth to Three'. Staff were aware of the document and advised that they would use it for reference when planning for the younger ante pre school children

and children with particular needs.

During the summer term pre-school children have the opportunity to attend the nursery for an extended session twice a week. This is in preparation for the transition into primary 1. On the afternoon of the inspection the children were observed enthusiastically taking part in a variety of activities in a calm and relaxed atmosphere. It was evident that staff knew the children well and had taken their individual needs into account when planning for the extended day.

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 7: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – A Caring Environment

Strengths

This standard did not include any of the focused themes therefore a general overview was undertaken.

The aims and values of the nursery were communicated to parents and staff worked with the children to make these meaningful for them. The children were well behaved, cooperative and encouraged to respect their 'Golden Rules'. The staff took account of the children's likes and dislikes when planning activities and actively supported the children to choose new resources.

The nursery notice board, newsletters and handbook provided parents with information about life in the nursery. A range of nursery policies including the complaints procedure were readily available to parents. The management team consulted parents about nursery issues and provided them with the opportunity to take part in themed workshops.

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 10: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Involving other Services

Strengths

This standard did not include any of the focused themes therefore a general overview was undertaken.

Liaison with support agencies and other childcare services was good and focussed on promoting the welfare and development of all the children. The nursery had established good links with their

educational partner, South Ayrshire Council.

The nursery was a member of the Scottish Council for Independent Schools and was listed with the Childcare and Recreation Information Service.

Areas for Development

None identified at this inspection.

National Care Standard Number 12: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Confidence in Staff

Strengths

Elements of this standard associated with the focused themes were inspected.

Staffing ratios complied with the input standards on adult: child ratios and staff qualifications in Annex A of the National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16. The staff team were all appropriately qualified and had accessed relevant training.

Staff had copies of the Scottish Social Services Council codes of practice and were aware of the requirement to register with this body within the specified timescale.

Areas for Development

An audit of the service's safer recruitment policies and procedures was carried out by the Care Commission resulting in requirements highlighted in this report. (See requirement 1)

Enforcement

No enforcement action had been taken since the last inspection.

Other Information

None

Requirements

1. The provider should ensure that all staff and volunteers are Physically and Mentally Fit for the purpose of the work they are to perform.

This is to comply with: SSI 2002/114 Regulation 9 2(a) Fitness of employees.

Timescale for completion: Within 24 hours of publication of this report.

Recommendations

1. The nursery should provide parents with more information on Child Protection in the form of leaflets. National Care Standards for Early education and childcare for children up to age 16, Standard 3: Health and wellbeing

Caroline Sutherland

Care Commission Officer