

Peace Loanhead Day Care of Children

Loanhead Primary School
Dick Road
Kilmarnock
KA1 3AP

Telephone: /

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 31 August 2016

Service provided by:
PEACE Childcare

Service provider number:
SP2003000712

Care service number:
CS2003020281

About the service

PEACE Loanhead registered with the Care Inspectorate on 01 April 2011. PEACE Childcare (PEACE) 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 services manager.

PEACE Loanhead is located in Loanhead Primary School, in the town of Kilmarnock in East Ayrshire. The service has exclusive use of a large classroom as well as pre-arranged access to the school gym and playground. The service can provide up to forty places per session for children of school age.

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."

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 improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

Throughout this report, any reference to "parents" also includes carers and guardians.

We sent 20 care standards questionnaires to the manager to distribute to parents using the service. We received six completed questionnaires prior to this inspection. We spoke to four parents during our inspection visits. All of the parents we spoke with and the respondents to our questionnaire "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they were happy with the quality of care provided. Parents commented that their children were safe, happy, well looked after and participated in a wide range of activities. The also commented that the service was reliable and flexible. Comments we received from parents included:

"My son is extremely shy and didn't want to participate at first in activities and was happy to watch. The staff were brilliant at keeping him involved (although not forcing him). He now participates well and loves attending."

"My child loves attending Peace Loanhead which speaks volumes. The staff are all great at what they do and so friendly and also keeping each day exciting."

"I have used the breakfast club at Loanhead for many years and I am very happy with the care given by the staff. I would certainly recommend other people to this service. The manager on duty is especially approachable."

The service had 68 children registered. Over the two days of our inspection, 25 children attended the service. We saw that the majority of the children were settled and confident in the care of the staff. Children new to the service received the care and support they needed from the staff team. The children we spoke with told us that they enjoyed attending. They described the staff as "nice", "friendly", "a good laugh" and "helpful". Some of the children thought that the snacks could be better. Comments we received from children included:

"Nothing I don't like doing."

"I choose what I want to do."

"I have friends here I don't see at school."

"We play outside a lot. I like the gym and the stem room too."

"Staff talk to you and they are kind."

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the manager of the service. The manager accurately identified areas of the service performing well. The manager also included some examples of planned improvements/further developments. These included "On-going training for staff to enable them to keep up to date with children's needs and interests" and "Continue to review and update personal plans". The manager included information about consultation with children and parents.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found that the staff team worked closely with parents in order to provide a service tailored to the individual needs of the children. Parents and children confirmed that the staff team listened to and respected their views. Parents commented that the service enabled them to work by providing a service that they had confidence in and that their children enjoyed attending.

The head teacher valued the contribution that Peace Loanhead made to the school community describing a reliable, flexible service, which clearly focussed on the needs of the children.

The staff team worked hard to provide a welcoming, relaxed, child friendly environment. We saw displays of the children's work and evidence that the staff recognised and celebrated the children's successes and achievements.

The service had established a positive relationship with the school. As a result, they had access to facilities and resources available within the school building such as the gym, the medical room and the STEM room. This enhanced the children's experiences by providing opportunities for additional activities and privacy as needed.

Children were fully involved in making choices and decisions about their play. The children particularly enjoyed imaginative play and playing outside. Staff regularly provided opportunities for both of these activities. The children commented that they liked the improvements made to the playground in particular the 'Trim Gym'.

Throughout our inspection, we observed staff skilfully allowing children the time and space they wanted to develop their play. We saw that staff only intervened when invited to do so or it became necessary.

The staff team were aware of their responsibility to keep the children in their care safe and well. They took this responsibility seriously and regularly undertook training in order to keep their professional development up to date.

Staff demonstrated a nurturing and inclusive approach to delivering care and providing activities. The service provided additional members of staff to support individual children if necessary. As a result, we found that children were comfortable in the care of the staff and keen to take part in the activities provided.

What the service could do better

We found that the breakfast and snack menu did not fully reflect current nutritional guidance for school aged children. For example, the cereals offered at the breakfast club were high in sugar. (See recommendation 1)

In order to keep the children safe the service had developed risk assessment procedures. However, the risk assessment relating to the environment was generic to all Peace services and did not reflect the specific challenges faced by the service at Loanhead. The manager should develop risk assessments for outdoor play, moving around the school building and children's access to the playroom/toilets when playing outside. (See recommendation 2)

Staff could promote children's independence and by providing more opportunities for children to take on responsibility. For example, staff could involve children in preparing and serving snack/breakfast.

Records relating to permission to administer medication should include space to record information about signs and symptoms, which may indicate that staff should administer the prescribed medication.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. In order to promote children's health and wellbeing the manager and staff, in consultation with children and parents, should review the snack/breakfast menu.

National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 3.4 Health and wellbeing.

2. In order to ensure children's safety the manager should develop risk assessments specifically relating to the provision at Loanhead primary school.

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

Complaints

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
19 Jul 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
29 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
5 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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