

Inspection report

Mounties Community Nursery Day Care of Children

East Kilbride

Inspected by: Irene Melville
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 5 June 2007

Service Number

CS2003006690

Service name

Mounties Community Nursery

Service address

East Kilbride

Provider Number

SP2003001523

Provider Name

Mounties Community Nursery

Inspected ByIrene Melville
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

5 June 2007

Period since last inspection

12 months

Local Office AddressPrinces Gate
60 Castle Street
Hamilton
ML3 6BU

Introduction

Mounties Community Nursery has been registered with the Care Commission since 1 April 2002 to provide a service to twenty four children, aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates from 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday to Friday term time only from Mount Cameron Primary School, in East Kilbride.

The nursery relocated to the new building in April 2007. They have secure entry to the community nursery with a kitchen area and their own toilets and washhand basins. The outdoor play area is shared with the school nursery.

The service state they aim to offer play and education opportunities that are both fun and challenging. They aim to promote the dignity, privacy, choice, safety, potential and diversity of all users and staff of the nursery. The full Statement of Aims and Objectives is available to service users.

Basis of Report

This report was written following an unannounced inspection, by one Care Commission Officer, which took place on Tuesday 5 June 2007 between the hours of 9.00am and 12.45am.

Before the inspection:

- The service submitted information on their Annual Return and Self Evaluation before the inspection, as requested by the Care Commission.

Seven out of eight service user questionnaires were returned before this report was written.

This service was inspected after a Regulation Support Assessment (RSA) was carried out to determine the intensity of inspection necessary. The RSA is an assessment undertaken by the Care Commission Officer (CCO) which considers: complaints activity, changes in the provision of the service, nature of notifications made to the Care Commission by the service (such as absence of a manager) and action taken upon requirements. The CCO will also have considered how the service responded to situations and issues as part of the RSA.

This assessment resulted in this service receiving a low RSA score and so a low intensity inspection was required as a result. The inspection was then based upon the relevant inspection focus areas and associated National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, and follow up on any recommendations and requirements from previous inspections, complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the visit the Care Commission Officer spoke with:

The manager, administrator and two members of staff.

Five parents

Children were spoken with in an informal manner

The Care Commission Officer did not look at the full range of policies, procedures and records as these had been checked at previous inspections and any concerns addressed.

The following were inspected:

· Certificate of registration

· Child protection policy

· Accidents

Incidents

- Cleaning schedules
- Risk assessments for inside and outside the premises
- Infection control
- Attendance register
- Public liability insurance.

Observations were carried out on the environment, equipment and how staff interacted with the children.

The Care Commission Officer took all of the above into account and reported on whether the service was meeting the Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2002, Scottish Statutory Instrument 114 and elements of the following National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:

Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing

Standard 5: Quality of Experience

Standard 12: Confidence in Staff

and the relevant focus areas:

Active Play

Infection Control

Child Protection

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Further advice on your responsibilities is available at www.infoscotland.com/firelaw

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

There were no requirements identified in the previous inspection report.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

A fully completed self-evaluation was submitted by the service. It provided relevant information and highlighted the strengths of each of the standards associated with the inspection focus areas. Some areas were identified for future development.

View of Service Users

The children were observed to be settled in their new nursery and were familiar with the daily routine. Positive interaction was displayed as they shared resources. Some of the children spoke of the activities in the outdoor play area and others were delighted to show me their project with butterflies.

View of Carers

Five parents spoken with were very happy with the service. They found staff approachable and commented on how well they related to the children. A handbook provided appropriate information about the service.

Seven service user questionnaires were returned to the Care Commission. They provided parents the opportunity to comment on how the service provided privacy, dignity, choice, safety and diversity, and realising potential.

Six of the parents were very happy and one was happy with the service provided. Two parents felt it could be difficult to speak to staff in privacy, due to lack of space in the reception area. The manager confirmed this, but will inform parents a private area can be provided at their request. Three parents commented on how well staff met the individual needs of children and all were happy that staff treated the children respectfully and fairly. Parents confirmed they were provided with copies of the services policies including child protection.

Regulations / Principles

Regulation :

Strengths

Areas for Development

National Care Standards

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

Strengths

This report does not include comments on elements 4 or 6 of standard 3, as these did not apply to the nursery at this visit.

Parents were provided with information via newsletters, an informative notice board and verbal communication. A copy of the nursery handbook containing core policies and procedures was supplied to all parents. Staff were clear of their responsibility in protecting children from harm and had a good understanding of child protection issues. Policies on child protection and emergency procedures contained contact information for making referrals to appropriate agencies. Individual copies were issued to parents. All staff are updated on child protection annually.

A health promoting approach provided children with opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles, relationships and hygiene. Good standards of hygiene were observed and policies and procedures were available to support good practice. These included risk assessments for the premises and outings and there were cleaning schedules for toys and equipment. Staff were aware of exclusion periods for children with infectious illness.

The service was a health promoting nursery and staff made use of the Nutritional Guidance for Early Years . Healthy eating was encouraged in the nursery and staff took account of children's individual dietary requirements and allergies. The service participated in the national tooth brushing initiative, which provided regular opportunities for children to brush their teeth. As previously recommended they had a copy of the National Standards for Toothbrushing Programme document.

Children had access to good resources for active and energetic play. The outdoor play area was organised to provide the children with opportunities to participate in a range of physical activities. Parents were encouraged to supply appropriate clothing and footwear for all types of weather and the service had plans to raise funds to purchase outdoor clothing for children. The service had a clear policy on how to deal with emergencies and children absent from the service.

Areas for Development

Although parents were advised to apply sun screen to children before they attend nursery, there was no opportunity to leave spare sun screen for their child in the nursery.(see Recommendation 1.)

National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience

Strengths

This report includes comments on all elements of standard 5.

Staff were responsive to individual children's needs and interacted well with them during play activities. The nursery had a good range of resources which were organised and accessible to the children. The children were happy to show the sunflowers they had planted and were excited when one of the butterflies which had been supplied by a parent, had decided it was time to fly during the visit.

Staff had developed planning systems which demonstrated delivery of the 5 key aspects of the national curriculum. They recorded observations and noted children's progress and next steps in learning. Children were consulted in planning the activities and a note of the discussions was recorded. Crazy golf had been organised at the request of one child.

Active play was provided during outdoor play and the nursery was timetabled for the use of the gym hall. Children were observed to enjoy action games, during the inspection and they had recently visited a local sports centre for the use of the trampoline and bouncy castle. Sports day had been planned and parents had been invited. The children had established positive relationships with staff and their peers. They were observed to be happy and confident and to be familiar with the nursery routines.

Staff were sensitive to the needs of families and individual circumstances and were aware of the procedures for supporting children with additional support needs.

Areas for Development

Staff should continue with plans to further develop outdoor play. (see Recommendation 2)
Staff have not attended training on active play (see Recommendation 3)

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

Strengths

This report includes comments on all elements of Standard 12.

Staff were aware of the Scottish Social Services Council, its Code of Practice and the need for them to register as a member of the childcare workforce.

From records examined and observations carried out during the inspection, the nursery operated within the input standards on adult:child ratios set out in the National Care Standards.

The Manager had begun to implement a staff appraisal system and as previously recommended contracts of employment had been issued to staff.

Policies and procedures were regularly reviewed and their content updated, including Infection Control and Child Protection. Staff had access to a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee Child Protection Guidelines
Staff regularly attend training and a record of the annual staff training plan was noted.

Areas for Development

The evaluation of the effectiveness of learning was carried out in an informal manner, the service were in the process of developing procedures to formalise this.

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Other Information

There was a problem with the drain in the children's toilets, staff have reported it as part of the maintenance programme. (see Recommendation 4.)

Requirements

None

Recommendations

1. The procedure for sun screen should be reviewed. National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 3.3: Health and Wellbeing
2. Outdoor play should be timetabled in the programme of activities. National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 5.1: Quality of Experience.
3. Staff should try to source training on active play. National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 5.1: Quality of Experience.
4. Staff should continue to closely monitor the problem with the drain in the children's toilet. Should the problem persist appropriate action should be taken. National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 2.1: A Safe Environment.

Irene Melville

Care Commission Officer