

Kingsmeadows Nursery (Peebles) Ltd

Day Care of Children

Cavalry Park
Peebles
EH45 9BU

Telephone: 01721 720175

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 24 November 2016

Service provided by:
Kingsmeadows Nursery (Peebles) Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2003002009

Care service number:
CS2003009329

About the service

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Kingsmeadows Nursery (Peebles) Ltd on 23 November 2016 with one following announced visit on 24 November 2016. At this inspection we spoke with 18 children, 15 parents, observed practice and checked documentation relevant to the inspection.

Kingsmeadows Nursery (Peebles) Ltd has been registered since 2002. It provides nursery provision, out of school care, breakfast club and holiday care to a maximum of 89 children at any one time, between the ages of 0 and 14 years, of whom a maximum of 33 may be under 3 years and of whom no more than 24 may be under 2 years. The operating hours are between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays. The service operates from a purpose-built nursery building on the outskirts of Peebles, close to shops, parks and local amenities. The setting benefits from large enclosed garden areas around for each age range and adjacent woodland areas to the rear and side of the property.

The setting is in partnership with Scottish Borders Council to provide funded Early Learning and Childcare places for children aged 2 to 5 years.

The Out of School/Holiday Club, 'K2', operates from a portacabin next to the nursery building. A new purpose-built club is currently being built adjacent to the nursery building.

The nursery mission statement includes:

'Each child is encouraged to be imaginative, independent and achieve their potential in all areas of development. Children are valued and respected as individuals, feel nurtured and have fun while actively learning'.

This statement reflected our findings on the days we visited the service.

We carried out a 'themed' inspection. This targeted approach means that we looked at identified aspects focusing on children's experiences under the two quality themes we looked at. For health and wellbeing we looked at how well children were supported in the service and child protection and for management and leadership we looked at self-evaluation and how management monitor practices within the nursery.

From April 2016, we will carry out a quality audit, to gather information relating to 'How Good Is Our School Aged Childcare'. The audit will focus on the quality of children and young people's play experiences and how their rights to play and have fun are promoted and protected. The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework - SHANARRI, Playwork Principles and Article 31 will underpin a list of outcome-focused questions developed for inspectors to work from when inspecting. The information gathered will form the basis of an end of year report 2017, along with information on service demand for school aged childcare throughout Scotland. Further information can be found on The Hub at www.careinspectorate.com

What people told us

One hundred and ninety-five children are on the register at Kingsmeadows. These children attend at different times and on different days of the week. We spoke with 15 parents whose children attend the nursery. All were happy with the way the nursery was run and said that their children were happy to attend the service. They told us they found management and staff to be approachable and supportive. We received 41 of the 50 questionnaires we gave to the service to give to parents. Parents told us they strongly agreed or agreed with the statements 'I am confident that the staff will protect my child from harm, abuse, bullying and neglect' and "staff regularly assess my child's learning and development and use this to plan their next steps".

Representative comments included:

"We have been delighted with the care and support our child has received at Kingsmeadows. They have been encouraged and supported through some tricky transition and developmental stages (e.g. toilet training, expressing their opinion and being dropped off)."

"Kingsmeadows provides a warm welcoming atmosphere and we find all staff at all levels to be approachable and accommodating."

"Overall we are very happy indeed with the care our child receives."

"Our child has made huge progress since attending and is encouraged to participate in a range of activities."

"The outside spaces are perhaps a little tired but we understand that the staff have ideas for re-developing these and are keen to support this in whatever ways we can."

"Staff go above and beyond to help and care for the children, developing strong bonds to encourage the youngest of children to grow up happy, confident and respectful."

"Despite the run down building, the staff do a very good job of making the out of school club cheerful."

"Could not be happier with the service."

"We like the emphasis that the nursery places on outdoor play and that the children get to play in the woods."

"I think sometimes there is over reliance on notice boards."

"My children have been very happy at this nursery. Great atmosphere."

"My son attends the after school club at Kingsmeadows and enjoys it very much."

"The staff are friendly and helpful and my child really enjoyed their time at nursery and is looking forward to starting after school Club."

"My child has been at Kingsmeadows since they were 6 months old. They are now there pre and after school care. They enjoy being there and has had lots of opportunities to try different activities and foods!"

"The staff are friendly and approachable and they are an 'extended part of my family'."

"My child in particular benefits from the opportunity to participate in after school activities because the setting are prepared to drop them off and pick them up. This is a great benefit to them socially and is something they couldn't do without their support."

"Fantastic service. Very friendly and helpful staff."

"The facilities and outdoor space at the nursery are fantastic."

"More than happy to leave my child in their capable hands. Their willingness to be flexible where possible make an enormous difference to working families."

"I have been pleasantly surprised by how well my child has settled at nursery and how confident they have made me feel."

"I feel although the children get an opportunity to play in the garden, trips out with the setting are not common, this maybe to do with the age/staffing but even walks in the woods behind the nursery are no longer common."

"It would be good to know more about their learning and development more regularly. Would like to know more about the activities they do each day."

"Staff are excellent. So caring, kind and nothing is too much trouble."

"I think Kingsmeadows is fantastic. I could not do without it."

"The girls who look after my children are wonderful, kind and caring."

"The staff really engage with my child and I know that once I have gone they enjoy the time they have with all the staff both in the sunshine and rainbow room."

"The staff are wonderful and my child's development and progress is constantly improving."

"I believe the staff at Kingsmeadows want to be at work and enjoy children and the challenges they bring."

We shared all the comments confidentially with management at the time of the inspection.

We spoke with 18 children over the two days we visited the service. Children told us about what they liked doing when they came to nursery and after school care. This included "playing with their friends", "playing outside and in the woods", "baking" and "going on walks".

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the service during the inspection process. They identified what they thought they did well and gave examples of improvements in self-evaluation, monitoring systems and improvement planning. The self assessment clearly identified some key areas that they believed can be improved and showed how the service intended to do this.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

All the staff and management knew the children very well. They listened to children and valued what they had to say. They supported individual needs and preferences in order to promote the best outcomes for them. In order to track a child's progress, celebrate their achievements and identify next steps for learning and development the keyworker staff made focused observations. These were shared with parents in the on-line learning journals and parents told us they liked this system. Children who may have additional support needs were very well supported by staff who had forged links with a range of health professionals, for example speech therapist, health visitors and occupational health.

Children were learning to be more confident individuals as independence was promoted throughout their time in service. They were learning about healthy lifestyles, making friendships and how best to keep themselves safe.

Through training, staff discussions and national and local guidance staff were aware of their role and responsibility in keeping children safe and protecting them from harm. By talking to and involving children in risk management staff were encouraging children to learn about keeping themselves safe. A useful tool as they grow up.

Staff were aware of the importance of self-evaluation and met regularly, formally and informally, to discuss things that were going well and identify and discuss areas for improvement. Staff views were taken into consideration and these were reflected on for improvement planning. It was evident that the manager was very good at engaging with all staff, parents and children and that all staff were becoming reflective practitioners.

Management and staff were committed to the ongoing development of the service and local and national guidance was used to identify priorities for improvement. We suggested they share on going developments with parents by letting them see the up-to-date improvement plan. Staff were becoming more reflective and proactive in researching and expanding their knowledge in childcare. In order to involve parents the staff took account of their views through a range of consultation processes and questionnaires. Responses were collated, shared with parents and acted on where possible.

Management and staff were familiar with the benefits of having monitoring systems in place. This included the manager and room supervisors observing what was happening on a day-to-day basis and observing staff practice.

What the service could do better

The provider and manager recognised that the toilets in the Rainbow Room needed some work in order to promote children's dignity and respect. (See recommendation 1)

Children were sometimes involved in the preparation of snack. To further promote their independence children should be given more opportunities to do this more regularly. (See recommendation 2)

Some of the staff team in the out of school club are relatively new to working in out of school care. The team needs to ensure they have good communication and work together to meet the best outcomes for all the children who attend.

We suggested that staff in the Out Of School club wishing to obtain a qualification should consider an SVQ in Playwork.

The nursery should continue to develop strategies to involve children in evaluating their nursery experience.

We were interested to hear that the service was keen to further develop the outdoor space. Parents told us they would like to be involved in this process. Management should continue to involve parents and children in all developments.

When monitoring the service the manager should remember to keep an audit trail of the actions undertaken to rectify their findings.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The provider should ensure that the toilet area in the Rainbow Room ensures the dignity, privacy and respect of children.
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 7 - a caring environment
2. The provider should ensure children are given more opportunities to be involved in the preparation of snacks.
National Care Standards for Early Education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - health and well-being

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	
5 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
2 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Sep 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
16 Feb 2010	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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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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