

Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath Day Care of Children

Sgoil a Bhac
Back
Isle of Lewis
HS2 OLB

Telephone: 01851 820230

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 June 2017

Service provided by:
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

Service provider number:
SP2003002104

Care service number:
CS2007164002

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children from the age of 2 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The Day Care of Children service was provided in two playrooms, one for children from two years to three years and another one for those aged four and in their pre-school year. Children had access to a safe and secure outdoor play area, poly tunnel for planting and growing and the secure indoor nursery area. If the weather prevented outdoor play they had access to a large indoor hall and had access to the school library. The dedicated nursery area included food preparation areas and toilets.

There were 40 children registered with the service and 14 older children and 11 younger children were present. Two staff members were employed in each playroom.

The nursery provides pre-school education in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Children are funded for pre-school education by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Education Department from the age of three years but can attend from two years of age.

The service provided opportunities and programmes for learning through play appropriate to the childrens' needs and in accordance with Pre-birth to three and the Curriculum three - 18 years Scottish Government documents.

The aims of Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath were: 'to establish effective partnership with parents where we can join them in furthering their child's development and learning. To establish care routines which are flexible and responsive to children's emotional and physical needs, reflecting familiar routines at home. To create a stimulating and challenging environment providing appropriate opportunities for learning through play in each of the key aspects in children's development and learning to ensure that childcare and learning are effectively integrated to meet children's needs.'

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

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 working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. 'Getting it Right for Every Child' is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of 'Getting it Right for Every Child'. They are: Safe; Healthy; Achieving; Nurtured; Active; Respected; Responsible; and Included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

We observed that staff have very good relationships with the parents and they discussed how their children had been throughout the session; what activities they had participated in and enjoyed.

We had sent the service 15 Care Inspectorate questionnaires to be distributed to parents and 15 had been completed and returned to us. From the questionnaires we found that parents were very happy with the service and the care their children received. Some parental comments were:

'I feel my child has had a very positive experience and the sgoil araich provides a safe, stimulating environment for learning'.

'I am very happy with the service provided at this nursery. My child is happy there and well looked after. Children are engaged in a wide range of experiences, including experiences designed to transition them to Primary 1. The staff are friendly, approachable and supportive'.

'My child loves going to sgoil araich and would go at the weekend if they could! Friendly, approachable staff and we are encouraged to go to them, if need be, for any info'.

'We as a family are very pleased with the service, quality of care provided at sgoil araich. Our child loves going and it provides him with relationships outside the home environment in a learning, caring, happy place. We find the staff excellent and very approachable if we are concerned about anything'.

'My child absolutely loves going in every day and it's a joy seeing him so happy there. The staff are fabulous'.

'My child is very happy and likes her teachers. She does a wide range of activities and is outside whenever possible which is important to me'.

We spoke with most of the children present in both playrooms during the course of the inspection and the older children chatted with us about things they liked to do. We found that the younger children were happy and well cared for and staff had very good relationships with the children.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

What the service does well

We found that the nursery provided a safe, secure and stimulating environment for staff and children. The manager and staff work with parents to provide opportunities and set targets for the children to develop their full potential.

School parental questionnaires which had been collated evidenced that respondents agreed 100% 'sgoil araich was safe and secure, children were happy and 'the rooms being split by age made a difference to their children's overall experiences'. We further see from the collated findings that parents spoke positively about the very good relationships staff have with the children, and also the approachability of staff and the relationships which have been developed by staff with parents themselves.

One of the Care Inspectorate Care Standards Questionnaires states:

'Sgoil araich provided a great level of care and education for my children. They are happy to attend and upon returning are happy with the day they have had. They are learning many new things intellectually, physically and emotionally. I am pleased with their development and staff are always friendly, helpful and informative'.

The staff provide a warm, nurturing and welcoming ethos in the nursery. Staff provided resources and activities for children enabling them to progress through a range of stages to develop independence, knowledge, confidence and stimulate inquiring minds. A six week programme on emergent literacy had been in place and older children had transitional visits to the primary 1 classes they were registered for. Parents have a choice of putting their children into English or Gaelic medium classes.

We observed one child stapling some bits of paper together and when we asked what she was going to do with it she told "I have made a diary and I am writing in it. Will I tell you what I'm writing?" All the children were happily either making junk models or cutting out to develop their impressively good scissor skills.

During our inspection staff told us about a programme the Gaelic television channel BBC Alba would be filming, the school children and a BBC Alba presenter would be developing literacy with the nursery children. Children from primary seven had read and recorded the stories and parents were provided with a link to download it and go over the words of the story. Some children had learned a song which they proudly sang for us and will be singing on the programme.

Most children could write their name and had good counting skills. Older children went to the school canteen for snack and we observed the children were familiar with canteen procedures which would reassure them when transferring to school. Children had the opportunity to help out with setting the tables, serving the food and waiting their turn to pour their milk or water. We observed that children were confident asking for help if required.

Staff work with other professionals whenever required for the benefit of the children. Younger children enjoyed singing a range of songs and rhymes and also choosing their favourite one.

We evidenced a range of opportunities children had to go out and about in the community and staff used public transport and parent transport to take the children on outings. Nursery children and parents had organised a 'Muddy Puddle' sale and walk and £232 had been raised for 'Save the Children'.

The nursery have had the use of two spacious classrooms and with an increase in the number of children they employed more staff. According to age, younger and older children were split between the rooms. However, they came together for some activities, especially for outdoor play and trips and outings.

The premises are spacious, with good natural light, good equipment and with a safe and secure outdoor play area which is used daily, weather permitting.

The nursery had access to a large outdoor area and we observed the younger children especially, enjoyed playing in soapy water. The play then developed into a car wash and children enjoyed getting wet and having wonderful fun.

Staff told us they were hoping to progress the development of an area for planting and growing things and would buy resources for children to dig and rake the soil. They have plans to use the outdoor areas as advised by 'Grounds for Learning' staff.

What the service could do better

The service identified that after having had a 'Grounds for Learning' advisor to help them they will now develop a short term, medium term and long term plan for making best use of their outdoor areas. They have identified a range of natural resources that staff, with the help of parents, will put in place to make the outdoor area more interesting and educational. Children will be encouraged to develop risk management to take account of their own and the safety of their peers.

One of the areas identified as a school and nursery project was the development of technology.

We discussed that a more robust planning system was necessary to reflect the progress and development of children. We suggested, and staff agreed, to start off from the information provided by parents on registration and record and plan next steps for progress.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

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	
4 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
24 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
7 Dec 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
5 May 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
23 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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