

Inspection report

Eday Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Eday Primary School
Eday KW17 2AA

Inspected by: Marion R. Sutherland
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)

Inspection completed on: 24 March 2009

Service Number

CS2003016051

Service name

Eday Primary School Nursery

Service addressEday Primary School
Eday KW17 2AA**Provider Number**

SP2003001951

Provider Name

Orkney Islands Council

Inspected ByMarion R. Sutherland
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Announced (short notice)

Inspection Completed

24 March 2009

Period since last inspection

24 months

Local Office Address

Eastbank, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.

Introduction

Eday Nursery forms an integral part of Eday Primary School, in premises adjoining the Community facilities on the island. The room used mainly by the nursery opens directly off the school classroom, although the nursery shared many of the school resources, as well as access to the school hall, community room and the outside play areas. Children are offered a place from the term following their third birthday until they attend primary school and they can attend for up to 5 sessions a week, depending on parental choice.

The aims and objectives of the service were to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and a positive learning environment which would help children to develop positive attitudes and become independent learners. To provide a happy, caring and supportive environment and to encourage links with parents and the wider community.

Based on the findings of this inspection the service has been awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support - 4 - Good

Quality of Environment - 4 - Good

Quality of Staffing - 4 - Good

Quality of Management and Leadership - 4 - Good

This inspection report and grades represent the Care Commission's assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. Please refer to the care services register on the Care Commission's website (www.carecommission.com) for the most up-to-date grades for this service.

Basis of Report

Before the Inspection

The Annual Return

The service submitted a completed Annual Return as requested by the Care Commission.

The Self-Assessment Form

The service submitted a self-assessment form as requested by the Care Commission

Regulation Support Assessment

The inspection plan for this service was decided 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. The inspection was based on the relevant Inspection Focus Areas and associated National Care Standards, recommendations and requirements from previous inspections and complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the inspection process

Staff at inspection

The inspection took place on 24 March 2009 from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm and was carried out by Marion Sutherland, Care Commission Officer.

Evidence

During inspection, evidence was gathered from a number of sources including:

Discussion with parent and child

A review of a range of policies, records and other documentation, including the following:

Weekly planning and evaluation sheets

Infection control policy

Child protection policy

School development plan

Standards and Quality report

My learning story observations

All about me assessment sheets

Planning folder

Discussion took place with staff including:

The acting headteacher

The early years worker

Inspection Focus Areas and links to Quality Themes and Statements for 2008/09

Details of the inspection focus and associated Quality Themes to be used in inspecting each type of care service in 2008/09 and supporting inspection guidance, can be found at:

<http://www.carecommission.com/>

Fire Safety Issues

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 since last Inspection

No requirements were identified at the last inspection.

Comments on Self Assessment

This had been completed by the previous head teacher and highlighted strengths of the service as well as some areas for improvement. Among the strengths were the individual relationships with parents and children. They were a health promoting nursery and snacks reflected healthy choices. The safety and security of the children within a stimulating school environment.

Areas for improvement included improved self evaluation using How Good is Our School and updating of food hygiene certification for the early years worker. More outdoor resources with improved storage to increase the availability and range of outdoor activities.

View of Service Users

The child attending the nursery was seen to be actively involved with the activities which were on offer. She was given a wide range of choice and the opportunity to join in with the other children when appropriate. She said she enjoyed coming to her nursery.

View of Carers

The parent of the child attending the nursery said she thought it was a positive experience for her child and there was a good range of resources. There was good provision made for the exchange of information at review time each day, when she joined in with the nursery session for the last ten minutes. She felt that the early years worker had listened and made use of some of her suggestions. She also liked the story sacks which they could take home each week. She appreciated the open door policy at the nursery and that she received a warm and welcoming greeting at the nursery and was able to access the classroom.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service Strengths

The service felt it was important to take into account the views of children and parents who were involved with the service. The views of the child were gathered at circle time and in one to one conversations between the early years worker and the child. Questionnaires were issued to parents and there were also daily conversations when they brought children to the nursery and came to collect them. Parents were encouraged to come and join in with the last 10 minutes of the nursery session so that they were able to be fully involved and aware of the nursery activities.

The parent involved confirmed that the nursery took time to gather her views and discuss what her child had been doing at nursery, as well as plans for future topics and activities. The nursery handbook recognised the importance of parents in young child's learning and staff should value the role of parents in their child's learning and work to create a genuine partnership with them. It stated that staff and parents should work together to support children's learning.

The school aims included cooperative work with children and their families to provide continuity of care support.

The school had a parent council on which nursery parents would be represented. Many aspects of the nursery provision would be brought before the parent council throughout the year, including the development plan.

Areas for Development

In the school Standards and Quality Report the school had identified the need to improve links with parents through the parent council and the participation strategy.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: We ensure that service user's health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service Strengths

The school had a statement of aims and objectives for the nursery which reflected the emotional, personal and social needs of the children.

A copy of the nutritional guidance was available and menus for snacks reflected healthy

choices. Staff sat down with children at snack time to encourage children. Water was available to drink throughout the session and the nursery took part in the national tooth brushing scheme.

The nursery premises were clean and well maintained and staff had attended food hygiene training.

The nursery was involved with the wider school whenever possible to give opportunities for social interaction, as well as specialist teacher input from art, music and PE teachers who visited the school. There were also one to one sessions with other children to allow for role play and the nursery joined in with the school breaktime, to allow for more active play.

Throughout these periods there was support available from the early years worker.

The nursery had policies and procedures which supported children's safety within the school premises and out in the playareas. Children had daily opportunities to take part in energetic physical play both outside and in the school hall.

The school had a child protection policy and all staff had undergone child protection training.

This training was updated within the school on a regular basis. The Children's Charter was displayed for children and parents on the school notice board.

Areas for Development

The school had identified the need to up-date training in food handling and involve children in shopping for the snack food.

The Standards and Quality Report for the school identified the need for continued promotion of health and well being for all in school, including staff.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the service.

Service Strengths

See also 1.1.

Children were consulted through circle time and questionnaires on activities and topics they would like to take part in. The introduction of the High Scope system was designed to include children more in the decision making and planning of the nursery activities and environment. Children were asked about a variety of issues such as snack time, activities, areas within the nursery and how they felt about nursery. The parents and children were given the evaluation forms to take home over the weekend and complete together.

The child worked together with the early years worker on a scrap book, which illustrated activities and interests of the child at nursery. The child was able to chose photos and work which they wanted included and stories were scribed for her by the early years worker.

A comments box was not felt to be helpful with only one parent but more emphasis was put on discussion and ensuring there was time for parents to share their views.

The parent confirmed that she always felt welcome in the nursery and shared ideas and information with the early years worker on a regular basis.

Areas for Development

Children need to be given independence and responsibility within the nursery environment, which involves them in the tidying up process at the end of activities, as well as the chosing.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 5: The accommodation and resources are suitable for the needs of the service users.

Service Strengths

The nursery was able to share all the space available to the school when this was appropriate. During the nursery session there was a quiet area at one end of the L shaped classroom which was used for circle time and story time. There was a climbing frame which was also used for role play, and was a cave at the time of the inspection visit, and a computer area. There was also a messy play area in the main classroom with water and

sand, as well as a painting area.

The outside area had a tarmac section which was used for bikes, a grassed area for the garden and an area with a climbing frame and swings. There was a green house which was used by the nursery for planting seeds such as peppers, salad and herbs.

There was a large variety of toys and activities available for the nursery including construction toys, jigsaws, computer, craft work, role play items and books. A cave had been created in response to the child's interests and wishes, which allowed for role play with torches. There was also role play with the medical box and the bandaging of people and pets.

Areas for Development

The nursery was involved in the labelling and storing of resources in a manner that allowed for children to access and return items independently. This process needed to be further developed using pictures as well as words for the nursery children. Within the school environment display also needs to be available and items accessible at nursery height. (See Recommendation 1.)

Children need to learn independence and be allowed to experiment although the one to one staff child ratio can make this difficult at times. Activities should be allowed to take place at the child's pace so that they develop their interests and roles and not be rushed to try and meet the daily plan.

Risk assessments should be updated regularly to include activities within the school building as well as use of play areas and greenhouse.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

1

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of staffing in the service.

Service Strengths

See also 1.1 and 2.1.

There were service user questionnaires and minutes of consultation meetings.

The parents council will be involved in the recruitment of new staff, including the head teacher.

The parent confirmed that she was aware of the training being undertaken by the early years worker.

Areas for Development

The parent council will be involved in future decisions regarding the development of staff as part of the school development plan.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.

Service Strengths

The nursery worker was involved in undertaking the BA in Child and Youth Studies. She was registered with the Scottish Social Services Council and was aware of the Codes of Conduct. She was also involved in CPD by way of in-service courses and her Child and Youth Studies, which was being undertaken by distance learning.

In interview with the early years worker she felt she was benefiting from the visits of the early years development worker, who was assisting her to introduce the High Scope nursery approach. She also found her studies to be interesting and useful and displayed a motivated approach to her work.

The acting head teacher was involved with the early years worker on a daily basis due to the small school environment and they were able to share good practice, ideas and resources.

Areas for Development

In the school Standards and Quality Report there were plans for the early years worker to extend her visits to other nurseries. The early years worker is also to continue training in order to obtain full SCCC registration.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 4 - Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the management and leadership of the service.

Service Strengths

See also 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1.

The school plan, annual report and development reports were all presented to the Parent Council by the head teacher.

The parent interviewed confirmed she was involved with the nursery on a daily basis and that suggestions she made were taken up by the nursery. She felt that there was an open door policy and she was able to access the classroom at any time. There was a review at the end of each session when she was able to be in the classroom. The parent also brought in photos to share with the nursery staff and these were included in the scrap book which the staff were making with the child. She was also able to meet and discuss any items with the acting head teacher on a regular basis.

Areas for Development

None were identified at this inspection.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 4: We use quality assurance systems and processes which involve service users, carers, staff and stakeholders to assess the quality of service we provide.

Service Strengths

The school used a range of quality assurance systems to assess the nursery, including quality indicators from The Child at the Centre. They also used the national priorities set by the Scottish Government and the Orkney Education Service Plan to influence their evaluations.

Evaluations took place following discussion with Education department's link officer, as well as input from pupils, parents and community members where appropriate. Improved self evaluation was also being highlighted throughout the school as part of the local authority development plan for schools.

The acting head teacher was aware of her duties in regard to notifying the Scottish Social

Services Council of any suspected misconduct and supplying them with any information that they might require in carrying out their duties.

Areas for Development

The new Parents Council will allow for consultations to take place at group level, in addition to the individual input which had taken place previously from parents and members of the community.

CCO Grading

4 - Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

Enforcement

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

Other Information

An acting head teacher had been in place at the school for some two months. Interviews for a new head teacher appointment were being arranged at the time of the inspection.

Requirements

No requirements were identified at this inspection.

Recommendations

1. Within the school environment staff should ensure that where possible resources and displays for the nursery are at a suitable height for the nursery children.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 : Standard 11

- Access to Resources.

Marion R. Sutherland
Care Commission Officer