Rum Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Rum Primary School
Isle Of Rum
PH43 4RR

Telephone: 01687 462034

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
10 October 2019

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003015985

About the service

Rum primary school nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children. The age range of the children will be from three years to those not yet attending primary school. Two adults are to be on duty at any one time.

The service is located with the only village on the Island of Rum. The nursery is accommodated within the primary school, children using the service have access to a nursery space, classroom and outdoor area. On the day of inspection one pupil was registered in the nursery. The sole teacher is both the manager of the nursery and teacher of the primary school pupils. An Early Years Practitioner was in post and both the school and nursery worked very closely together.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's 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. These are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

What people told us

For this inspection, we arranged for the parents of the child using the service to attend a meeting at their convenience. We found that the parents were very happy with the service and found it to be vital in their child's development of their social and emotional skills. They credited the staff for working well together to create a friendly and warm ethos within the service. They told us their child was very happy in the service and benefited from a very good settling in procedure.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection.

The service had a very good improvement plan in place that focused on key areas for development that were needed to ensure a high quality of care and support for children using the service. Quality assurance and audits were very good within the service, this has been reflected in the quality of management and leadership section of this report.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good.

Care and support were provided in a way that was right for the child attending the service. Through discussions, we found that staff knew the child well, using face-to-face discussions and an extensive personal care plan to gather the child's likes, dislikes and needs. Staff told us that they used particular interests to engage and motivate the child to learn through play. For instance, the child's favourite animal, tigers, was widely used to encourage name recognition and engage in reading materials. This allowed the child to feel their interests were valued and acted upon.

Children, parents and staff worked together in the spirit of genuine partnership. Parents told us they found the settling in procedures to be a particular strength within the service. Parents were actively encouraged to spend time in the nursery, providing them with the opportunity to have an in-depth look into their child's experiences and outcomes. Staff told us that this unique personal relationship enabled them to work closely together, sharing key information, ensuring they provide a high quality of care and support.

Children's experiences were captured and shared with parents through observations and learning journals. Staff told us they had recently begun developing learning journals as a tool for tracking children's development and sharing achievements. In addition, meaningful wall displays were used to show case children's play and learning. We found that these were a useful way for children to reflect on their experience and recognise their own progression.

Snack and mealtimes were a nurturing and social experience for children. Staff told us children from the nursery and school were able to come together during this time to socialise and build on friendships. We saw that children were given healthy foods, often sourced from the island, such as apples and homemade marmalade. Children were able to select some food to be delivered by ferry, onto the island, in order to promote choice and introduce new foods. We found that staff worked well to provide an experience that children were able to enjoy and learn from.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good. Particular strengths were seen in the way children made full use of their environment to support their natural curiosities.

On the day of inspection, the nursery was found to be warm and welcoming. A wide range of toys and games were easily accessible for children to engage with and explore. We found that they had the opportunity to play with a good balance of structured and open-ended resources, also known as Loose Parts Play. This enabled children to lead through their own interests and engage in a good variety of imaginative play. Staff told us they monitor resources regularly, to ensure children's opportunities are both broad and balanced.

Children had regular access to a secure outdoor play space. This included, a sheltered area, loose parts and a larger space to run and enjoy active play. We discussed how this space could be further developed to provide children with more opportunities to engage in natural materials. Staff highlighted that this was an aspect they were planning to develop, by the time of feedback they had already made improvements, such a kitchen area outdoors. We found that children had been included in the design of parts of the outdoor space, for example planting within the polytunnel. This was a good practice as staff listened to children and gave them ownership of their environment.

The local community was widely used to ensure children had a good range of experiences. Staff told us they had recently taken the children down to the beach to fly kites for a child's birthday. We found this to be responsive to individual children and encouraged unique experiences. Children were also taken to neighbouring islands for focused experiences such as, picking apples and investigating different species of moths. This was a valuable experience as children were able to learn about their wider world and meet new people.

During the inspection, we found staff and children learn how to keep themselves safe through their experiences. Staff told us it was important to provide children with opportunities that would provide them with good knowledge and skills for when they were visiting other islands or the mainland. For instance, developing an understanding of road safety, despite the limited number of vehicles on the island.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good. The early years practitioner has a main leadership role within the nursery, with the manager having an overview of the whole service daily.

Staff were found to work together with a strong, collaborative approach to the care and support of children using the service. Staff were enthusiastic and passionate about the play and learning experiences they were providing. Through discussions, we found that regular professional development was taking place in both a formal and informal manner. We discussed the importance of recording all professional development and reflecting on the impact this has had on children's outcomes. Staff agreed to explore this further.

We found that a rigorous induction process had been developed to ensure staff were given relevant information before starting their role. This enabled staff to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The manager told us they worked closely to share best practice knowledge and learn from each other's approaches. We found this enabled them to work harmoniously together with a shared vision.

Staff regularly met on an informal basis to share observations of practice and identify areas of development together. We found that such opportunities for one to one discussion, were carried out in a respectful and professional way, ensuring children's outcomes were at the centre of the service. We suggested that these meetings could be held in a more formal way, as a tool for identifying next steps in professional development, the manager agreed to consider this.

Through discussions, staff were found to have a good understanding of how to protect children from harm. We discussed the importance of keeping up to date with current best practice through regular training. They agreed to source relevant training to ensure they maintained a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. We found that this had been addressed by the time of writing this report.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good.

The warm and nurturing ethos of service was found to be fully embedded throughout the service and impacted positively on children using the service. Strong relationships with parents, enabled the service to work in regular partnership, using their views and opinions to improve the service.

Staff evaluated the service as part of their school improvement plan. Whilst we recognised the school and nursery worked very closely together, we highlighted the differences in the children's ages, stages and needs attending each service. We suggested using the Health and Social Care Standards and How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare to ensure that their self-evaluation was more robust and meaningful for the children using the nursery. These, and other publications, such as our 'Self Evaluation for Improvement - your guide', can be found on The Hub.

Since last inspection, the provider had improved systems to ensure staff were recruited appropriately. All staff were found to be registered or in the process of registering with an appropriate regulatory body. This ensured children were cared for people who were safe and fit to do so.

On the day of inspection, no examples of accident, incidents or medication paperwork were available to review. We were satisfied that the staff had a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in recording relevant information promptly and sharing these with parents.

Overall, we found the service to be providing positive experiences to children, enabling them to feel safe and secure. Staff worked well together to inspire children to achieve their potential through a broad range of play and learning experiences. The service should now use areas for improvement identified during the inspection, to improve outcomes for children using the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

It is a requirement that hot water is made available in the nursery toilets.

Scottish Statutory Instruments 2011 No 210.10 (2) (b) are of sound construction and kept in a good state of repair.

Timescale 4 weeks from publication of report.

This recommendation was made on 1 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation
On the day of inspection, hot water was available to children using the service.

Recommendation 2

It is a requirement that the nursery member of staff registers with the SSSC and meets with its registration criteria.

The Social Care and Social Work improvement Scotland (requirements as to care services) Regulations 2011. Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011 No. 210 15.(a) ensure that all times suitably qualified and competent persons are working in the care service in such numbers as are appropriate for the health, welfare and safety of service users.

Timescale: Two months from the publication of this report.

This recommendation was made on 1 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation
We found that all staff were registered, or in the process of registering with the relevant professional body, in line with current legislation.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
1 Apr 2014	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
21 Sep 2009	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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