Baltasound Junior High School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Baltasound Junior High School
Baltasound
Unst
Shetland
ZE2 9DY

Telephone: 01595 807020

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 February 2019

Service provided by:
Shetland Islands Council

Service provider number:
SP2003002063

Service no:
CS2003016119

About the service

Baltasound Junior High School Nursery operates from areas within the school premises in Baltasound, a village on the island of Unst, the most northern island in Shetland. During the operating times the service has dedicated use of one playroom with toilets leading off and an open area which at times is shared with the lower primary children. There is a door leading directly into the outdoor playground from the shared area. Children also have use of library, hall and music room as well as the nearby leisure centre for physical play.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service currently provide a morning pre-school session. On the day we inspected the service their were 13 children attending and two members of staff.

Included within the aims and objectives of the service were:

"To allow the full potential of each child to develop by:

- creating a secure and rich environment to meet the individual needs and interests;
- building upon the knowledge and learning previously acquired".

We gave feedback to the head teacher, depute head teacher and staff at the end of the inspection.

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

There were 13 children attending the service, most of whom talked informally with the Inspector. We asked them if they liked coming to play here and those who were asked confirmed that they did. The children were very friendly and interested in what the Inspector was doing and were happy to show their work and discuss their play.

Among their comments were:

- "We can play here all the time. I like the hammer and nails best".
- "I am a dinosaur and I can run".
- "I love the gym hall - it's good for running".

During the morning we observed the children as they played. We saw they were relaxed and very much: 'at home' within the setting. We saw happy, smiling faces and children who were very busy with their chosen activities. Children talked naturally with the staff and we saw very positive relationships had been established.

We talked with four of the parents and carers during the inspection, who informed us that they were very happy with the care and support provided by the staff at Baltasound. They thought the environment was safe and secure and the children happy. They told us there was a wide choice of activities provided which changed frequently. Parents told us the children were outdoors a lot, which they liked, and that outdoor suits were provided by the service.

We sent out five Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to give to parents and received all questionnaires back. We emailed two and received a positive reply back. We noted the parents very happy with the service overall and shared their views with staff.

There were several written comments, two of which were:

- "Baltasound Nursery have a very relaxed, friendly, safe and secure environment in which my children have thrived".
- "The activities, task, games, themes and outings but more importantly the staff. The staff are amazing!! put parents at ease, welcome children and settle them in a warm, safe, fun and exciting environment. The best start to education we could ask for".

We shared all feedback with the head teacher, depute head teacher and staff during the feedback session at the end of the morning.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their quality assurance processes 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	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found a warm and happy atmosphere within the early years unit at Baltasound Junior High School. During our inspection we saw happy smiling faces and noted children were enjoying their play and learning.

The staff worked with the children and their families in a caring and friendly manner. Staff demonstrated that they knew the children well which was partly due to the island community. Parents who were asked told us they felt welcome and included and were regularly updated by staff about their child. We saw all children were relaxed and happy, familiar with the daily routine and comfortable with staff. We saw staff listening to and valuing children's news and opinions. Staff promoted positive behaviour and were very good role models for the children to follow.

Children had access to a range of stimulating and interesting learning opportunities. We saw they used a 'Big Book' regime for planning and evaluation with the children. Staff told us children influenced the activities and were very good at making suggestions. They recorded suggestions made by the children using mind maps which fed into the big book. Staff supported the children's individual learning needs through regular observations and planned for their further development.

Staff had weekly meetings to discuss all aspects of the service including planning, evaluation, care plans and supporting individual care needs. Staff stood back and let children explore and discover at their leisure. They knew when they needed to offer additional support and when to extend play opportunities. Information was shared with parents through the learning stories and also verbally or at parents' meetings.

We noted a happy staff team who worked well together. The teacher worked part-time in the setting and was not present on the day we inspected. Staff told us it was very important to have the weekly staff meeting and had arranged the day so all staff could attend. Staff felt valued and supported by senior staff who also regularly attended the staff meetings. The parents thought highly off the staff describing them as: "brilliant" and "staff are great".

We saw children's records were up-to-date and safely stored. Staff gathered information from parents which aided them in planning the care needed for each child. Care plans were updated regularly and showed how each child's needs were met. We saw children with additional needs received extra support and appropriate plans were in place to track how this was progressing.

The service had procedures in place to safeguard children, for example: a child protection policy providing guidance for staff. Staff had a sound understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Appropriate systems were in place for recording and reporting any concerns. Staff attended child protection awareness training on a rolling-programme as part of their core training. Staff regularly refreshed first aid and food hygiene and attended a range of training opportunities on in-service days aimed at improving the quality of children's experiences.

Children had daily opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles, which was included in the planning. Children learned about healthy eating, how exercise and fresh air helped them to grow up strong and healthy. We heard staff discuss the importance of road safety when crossing the road to the leisure centre. Healthy eating was promoted and we observed snack-time which gave children the opportunity to socialise, learn good manners as well as tidy up their dishes and brush their teeth. All of which promoted their social development and taught them good life skills.

Overall staff supervised the areas well. We heard staff remind the children to share, play gently, and be nice with their friends. Children had access to fresh air and outdoor play normally daily. Parents liked that the service provided all-weather suits and rubber boots. Children enjoyed a physical play session in the leisure centre.

What the service could do better

There were some areas we discussed with the head teacher, depute head teacher and staff during the feedback session and agreed would benefit from further development:

- We saw the outside area was in need of further development. Since the previous visit some new apparatus had been installed for outdoor play which the children enjoyed, for example: a mud kitchen and a climbing frame with chute. We saw the poly-tunnel had blown down and a 'polycrub' was in the process of being installed. The paved area was looking tired with weeds growing and generally in need of upgrading. There were buckets in need of replacing, planters overgrown. When upgraded this would provide an interesting area for children when playing outside.
- Staff had been working on planning and observation and told us this was an area they would continue with. Planning was child-led and described as: "fluid".
- Overall staff supervision was very good, however, at one point a child went indoors to use the toilet and decided to stay inside and play. We saw the child playing happily unnoticed, however staff quickly became aware after a short time and asked the child to come outside. We discussed the need to be mindful of children using toilets when they are all outside.
- We also discussed the forthcoming extended sessions (1140 hours) and staff shared plans for the changes to the environment and how they planned to manage the longer days. We reminded them of the need to have a rest area and a cosy area for relaxation.

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.

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

The service must ensure information about the children's early learning and childcare is shared regularly with parents and carers. If using learning stories these must be up-to-date.

Reference: National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 4: engaging with children.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We saw the learning stories were displayed within the playroom for children and parents to access. These were up-to-date and showed how each child was learning and progressing within the service.

Recommendation 2

The manager and staff must review how they are using the care plans. These should be up to date, regularly reviewed and safely stored within the service.

Reference: National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 3: health and wellbeing, standard 14: a well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Since the previous inspection staff had reviewed the personal plans and now included relevant information regarding the care needs of each child.

Recommendation 3

To share information about allergens within food with the parents and carers.

Reference: National care standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 3: health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This had been met.

Recommendation 4

The staff must review the nappy changing guidelines and make sure these are followed. A changing table or mat must be used when working with the children.

Reference: National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 2: safe environment, standard 3: health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This had been met.

Recommendation 5

To look at staff opportunities to meet together to discuss the service and the care and support for the children with their early learning, and to support staff to find ways to evaluate together.

Reference: National care standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 12: confidence in staff, standard 13: Improving the service, standard 14: well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Staff held a weekly staffing on a Friday in order for all staff to get together to discuss the service. Senior staff attended on a regular basis.

Recommendation 6

All staff should have an annual review which is recorded, to support them in their role.

Reference: National care standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 12: confidence in staff, standard 14: well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 2 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This had been met.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 4 - Good
16 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
3 Dec 2009	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.