Scourie Primary School Nursery
Day Care of Children

Scourie Primary School
Scouriemore
Scourie
Lairg
IV27 4TG

Telephone: 01971 502282

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
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Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
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CS2017358001

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 has been registered since 11th August 2017.

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.

Scourie Primary School Nursery is attached to the school in the village of Scourie, Sutherland. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 10 children aged from two years up to primary school age. The premises consists of a playroom, a further smaller playroom with a kitchen area, toilet and reception hall. The children had access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area and the school playground. They also routinely visited the local play park, village hall and go for walks in the surrounding area. Once a week they spent the whole session at a local wood.

What people told us

The children present were all observed to be very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. The children all enjoyed spending time outdoors playing and investigating in the garden. They proudly showed us the various plants they had grown.

During the inspection we spoke with five parents. They were all extremely positive in their comments about the quality of the service provided and the approachability of the staff. They were very happy with the range of activities on offer, especially the opportunities for outdoor learning and play.

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 systems. These demonstrated the service priorities for development, detailing how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service, and a clear schedule for improvements.

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

During this inspection we looked at quality 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, and quality statement 3 - We ensure that service user's health and wellbeing needs are met. In particular we focussed on communication and information sharing between the nursery and all relevant stakeholders and how the nursery supported and encouraged the children to develop a healthy lifestyle.

We found that the service was performing to a very good standard. We concluded this after:

- Talking with the children
- Talking with parents and carers
- Speaking with staff and manager
- Observing staff interaction with the children
- Inspection of relevant paperwork.

Ensuring there was good communication and regular consultation with parents and carers was a priority for the manager and the staff. As a small nursery serving the local community, the staff had very well established relationships with the majority of the families. This was confirmed by the parents we spoke with. There was a very good range of both formal and informal methods for information sharing with parents and carers. There was also a good range of opportunities for the children to be actively involved in day to day decision making as well as being involved in the ongoing development of the service.

Encouraging the children to develop a healthy lifestyle was an ongoing process within the nursery and included learning about how to look after their bodies and their teeth, learning about healthy eating, taking part in physical exercise and energetic play, encouraging supportive relationships with others and keeping themselves and others safe.

During the inspection visit, we observed a very lively and sociable snack. The snack helper enjoyed the responsibilities of their role and enjoyed being involved in snack preparation, especially cutting the fruit. We

discussed with staff how they could extend the experience and replace plastic cups and plates with ordinary plates and cups.

All the staff attended child protection refresher courses on a regular basis and had a very good understanding of how to keep children safe. Staff were aware of the service's policies and procedures and what they should do if they had any concerns of a child protection nature.

Outdoor play and learning was a priority for the nursery and was very popular with all the children. The playroom opened directly onto an exciting and fun outdoor space which the children could access throughout the day. On the day of the inspection, the children all spent much of the session outdoors. The children were able to take part in various planting activities both in the garden and in the school's poly-tunnel. We observed the children having lots of fun watering various plants in the poly-tunnel as well as planting some seeds in the garden. One day a week the session took place in a local wooded area which was extremely popular. The staff were all enthusiastic about how this element of the service could be expanded to enrich the children's learning and experiences.

The staff recognised the importance of risk and challenge in children's outdoor play. As a consequence, the children were being offered the opportunity to take part in activities which involved challenge, learning about risk and taking responsibility for their own safety and that of others.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection we looked at quality statement 2 - We make sure that the environment is safe and service users are protected, and quality statement 5 - The accommodation and resources are suitable for the needs of the service users. In particular, we focussed on the opportunities for outdoor play and learning. We found that the service's performance in this area was very good.

The nursery was based within the local primary school. They made very good use of the space available to them. There was a wide range of toys and equipment which challenged and motivated the children.

Outdoor play and learning was a priority for the nursery. The staff were all enthusiastic about how this element of the service could be expanded to enrich the children's learning and experiences. The playroom opened onto a large outdoor space which the children could access throughout the day. As well as making use of the outdoor area, the service made very good use of a range of resources in the local community, including a wood which they visited on a weekly basis. All the parents we spoke with were extremely happy with the opportunities the children had to play and learn outdoors.

We discussed with the service how they were proposing to continue to develop the outdoor learning experience for children. We directed the manager and staff to various websites where they could access relevant guidance and best practice to develop this area of their service, including 'Loose parts play', 'Space to Grow' and 'My World Outdoors.'

The manager and staff fully recognised the importance of risk and challenge in children's outdoor play. As a consequence, the children were being offered greater opportunity to take part in activities which involved challenge, learning about risk and taking responsibility for their own safety and that of others. The role of the staff was more to supervise and offer support when required.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

During this inspection we looked at quality statement 3 - We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce and quality statement 4 - We ensure that everyone working in the service has an ethos of respect towards service users and each other. We found that the service's performance was very good.

Due to the size of the school, the nursery children were part of an early years class which also included two children who were in primary one. The class was staffed by an early years practitioner who worked with the children five days a week, the deputy head, who was also the manager, who worked with the class two days a week and two primary teachers who worked one day each a week. There was also a supply member of staff who worked with the nursery children one day a week when the primary children joined up with another local primary school.

We observed staff being very welcoming when the children and their parents and carers arrived. They were extremely caring and nurturing towards the children. Staff interacted well with the children and offered very good levels of praise, encouragement and reassurance when it was required. While outdoors, the staff encouraged and supported the children's learning.

The parents and carers we spoke with were all in agreement that the staff were friendly, approachable and professional. Parents and carers appreciated how flexible, helpful and supportive the staff were.

The manager explained that there were regular staff meetings which offered an opportunity to signpost staff to current guidance and to discuss how it impacts on their service. Staff explained that it was helpful having the manager work directly in the service and being available to speak with staff, the children and parents and carers.

Ongoing training was seen as very important by the manager. Staff had the opportunity to attend a range of training to ensure they had the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the children attending. They discussed with us the various ideas they had taken from the training they had attended to improve the children's learning experiences.

During the inspection we directed the manager and staff to various useful websites including Education Scotland, Scottish Social Services Council and the Care Inspectorate Hub which provide information in relation to professional learning. We discussed the various options available in terms of training as well as visiting other similar childcare services.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

During the inspection we looked at quality statement 2 - We involve our workforce in determining the direction and future objectives of the service, and quality 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. We found that the service was performing to a very good standard.

The manager explained that working directly with staff had allowed her to establish very good working relationships with them. She stated that she very much valued staff feedback and their involvement in the ongoing evaluation of the service. There were various options available to allow for staff consultation and feedback. These included staff meetings, individual annual appraisals, as well as daily ongoing informal discussion and feedback. The early years practitioner we spoke with felt very much involved in the identification of the future objectives of the service. They were of the opinion that the manager appreciated, valued and took account of their suggestions.

There were also options available for parents and carers and children to give feedback. The manager and staff recognised that meaningful communication with parents and carers was an ongoing priority as was encouraging greater stakeholder participation in the process of quality assurance. The parents and carers we spoke with confirmed that the manager and staff were very approachable and welcomed any feedback they might have. Listening to the children and taking forward their ideas and suggestions was a priority for the manager and staff. The children were actively involved in decisions relating to planning. There were mind maps and floor books illustrating what the children wanted to learn about, what they already knew about any given subject, what they had learnt and what they would like to learn next.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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