

# Sgoil Araich Lionail Day Care of Children

Lionel School  
Ness  
Isle of Lewis  
HS2 OXB

Telephone: 01851 810208

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 30 May 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002104

**Care service number:**  
CS2011299638

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

Sgoil Araich Lionail registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 to provide a care service to a maximum of 25 children from the age of 2 years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery provides Gaelic medium pre-school education and care 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 3 years.

At the time of inspection there were 16 children registered with the service and 14 children were in during inspection. The service provided opportunities and programmes for learning through play appropriate to the children's needs and in accordance with Pre-birth to three and the Scottish government document 'how good is our early learning and childcare'.

The service was provided from the age of two years from the dedicated nursery room in Sgoil Lionail in the Ness area of Lewis in the Western Isles. After the session children were taken to the school doorway to be collected by parents and staff greeted parents and shared information regarding children's well-being and activities carried out.

The stated aims of Sgoil Araich Lionail 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. 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.

## What people told us

We carried out our inspection on the morning of the 30 May 2018 and feedback was provided to Sgoil Araich staff throughout the inspection, and to the head teacher and Sgoil Araich staff at the end of the inspection.

We did not have an opportunity to speak with any family members; however, we had sent the service 12 Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to distribute to families and seven had been completed and returned to us. From the returned questionnaires we find that families felt positive regarding the care and support provided to the children.

Some comments were:

'Staff at Sgoil Araich Lionail are excellent and have supported my child 100%. They are excellent in everything they do and care for every child at Sgoil Araich as an individual with individual and sometimes unique needs'.

'My child is happy to go to Sgoil Araich and separates easily which ensures he enjoys going and staff are welcoming. He regularly chats about friends he has there and activities or new skills he has learnt and I'm happy with his progress. I am grateful for the indoor facilities for physical activities.'

I have never had any problems with Sgoil Araich Lionail. All my children have really enjoyed going. They seem to take part in a wide range of activities, both active and crafty with Gaelic encouraged throughout.'

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. Those 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	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

We observed the quality of the experiences and care and support the children were provided with in nursery as very good. Children were warmly welcomed on arrival and positive caring, nurturing relationships were developed between the children and staff.

Children had a range of activities to choose from and we observed some very confident children who played well together and used their imagination and organisational skills with their peers.

We found the staff consulted with families on all aspects of their children's development needs and provided continuous feedback on their progress. The Sgoil Araich provided opportunities for family members to attend at agreed times to discuss their child's welfare and progress.

Open days for families had been available and all had been invited and some parents had taken the opportunity to attend and had read stories or play games with the children.

Planning for learning took account of staff observation and assessment of the children's abilities to promote a child led approach to children's learning. A good transition programme was in place for children going to school for the first time. They had been going to the primary one classroom on a weekly basis since March and were confidently looking forward to starting school.

Staff worked well with agencies such as speech and language therapists, health visitors, support workers and ancillary school staff to share information and develop strategies using the GIRFEC principles. As a result of this close partnership working, children received high quality care and support.

Children were provided with a healthy snack and had good outdoor experiences although the outdoor area had not been developed to ensure safety. During outdoor play children were learning shapes and colours and were developing a good understanding of the Gaelic language.

Staff and parents were involved in developing and monitoring the progress of the school improvement plan which included Sgoil Araich developments. Staff had attended a range of mandatory training opportunities in addition to specific training for example; Emergent Literacy, Managing Challenging Behaviours, Book Bug and My world outdoors.

## What the service could do better

The following requirement had been made at the previous inspection and had not been acted on at the time of this inspection; therefore, it remains a requirement..

1. The provider must, within 6 months of the publication of this report, provide a suitable outdoor play area for Sgoil Araich Lionail.

**To comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) .**

**Regulation 10. Fitness of Premises:(1) A provider must not use premises for the provision of a care service unless they are fit to be so used.**

**(2) (a) Premises are not fit to be used for the provision of a service unless they are suitable for achieving the aims and objectives of the care service and to comply with National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16.**

**Standard 2. A safe environment.**

Some parents had stated in their returned CSQs that they were not happy with the provision of a safe and secure outdoor play area and comments were:

'The staff do a great job taking them outside but the area is not specific for the Sgoil Araich and this has been the case for at least six years. The children should have an inviting, colourful, tactile outdoor area to play and have fun'

'I feel the outdoor facilities are inadequate especially for children in this age group. This is a big concern for me as a parent.'

'The outdoor space could be improved.'

'There is no safe outdoor area or fixed safe equipment outside. The play area is full of rabbit holes which are a danger.'

We have been assured by the head teacher of Sgoil Lionail and the Early Years service manager that money had now been acquired for the development of the outdoor and access area. We have been assured the project will be progressed to completion over the school summer holidays.

We will monitor the progress over the summer.

We discussed and staff agreed they would ensure that the child's personal plan was reviewed, signed and dated at least once in every six monthly period, or more frequently when there are any significant changes. They will record significant steps of children's needs and development in each individual care plan.

Staff had recorded good observations of children's progress and should have a consistent approach to identifying next steps for learning and children's evaluations of their own learning.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
3 Oct 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
7 Oct 2014	Unannounced	Care and support
		5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
31 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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