

Happyhansel Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Happyhansel Primary School
Walls
Shetland
ZE2 9PG

Telephone: 01595 807450

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

5 September 2018

Service provided by:

Shetland Islands Council

Service provider number:

SP2003002063

Service no:

CS2003016127

About the service

Happyhansel Primary School Nursery is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school.

The nursery has exclusive use of the old school building; adjacent to the new primary school building in Walls, on the west coast of mainland Shetland. The accommodation comprises one classroom, kitchen and toilets and a garden area. The nursery also shared the general purpose area/gym hall within the main school building and the outside play area.

Included within the aims of the nursery were:

- To provide opportunities for discussing describing, questioning, listening and recalling thus enhancing and developing skills.
- To enable the child to develop as a happy, cheerful, well-balanced individual and to broaden his/her range of experiences.

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Happyhansel Nursery on 5 September 2018. During the inspection we spoke to the depute head teacher and staff, observed staff practice and checked documentation relevant to the inspection.

The Care Inspectorate 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 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.

What people told us

During the inspection we observed and talked to the eight children as they played. They told us:

- 'I am the snack helper today; you have to wash your hands, clean the table and put the cups and plates out.'
- 'Look at my digger.'
- 'I am three. I am making mommy you just need some glue and stick them on.'

We spoke to parents informally as they collected their children all were positive about the service. Three out of a sample of five parents returned completed questionnaires to us before the inspection. All strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service. Comments included:

- 'There had been quite a high turn over of staff in the nursery. It was hard to know who the teacher was and there was no consistency. Since the new teacher has arrived in the nursery things have started to change for the better. There is more information coming home and there is a lot more structure in the nursery. I wish they were more involved with the whole school, concert and prize giving, I feel the nursery is left out.'
- 'My child has settled in very well in their first year, enjoys going to nursery and has formed good relationships

with both staff and fellow pupils. My child's dietary requirements and medical needs have been met and monitored successfully.'

- 'The new blog is great! A super way to keep up to date with whats happening. We love the weekly planner too, and discuss this at home with our child. We find it prompts them to tell us what they have been doing that week and we tie it in with home activities.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plans and quality assurance processes as part of the inspection.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

Warm, friendly relationships were established between staff, children and their families. Effective communication with parents contributed to careful care planning enabling staff to meet children's health and medication needs. Staff demonstrated that they knew children's care needs very well and had the relevant knowledge and skills to meet them; contributing to keeping children safe and well.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through healthy snack choices and drinks. Children were being encouraged to try foods with new tastes and textures and use descriptive language. They were proud of their responsibility to help prepare snacks. Children's health was also promoted through regular access to the outdoors for fresh air and physical, energetic play. Improvements to the outdoor area; a mud kitchen and workbench stimulated children's imaginative play and the development of life skills.

Children were treated with respect by staff who routinely asked children about their needs and wishes throughout the session. Boys and girls had equal opportunities in free play and their choices were accepted by all. Children engaged in sustained imaginative role play and creative activities. We observed staff interacting well with children to extend their learning and social skills. Children moving from the nursery to the primary one class were being very well supported, because the teacher was shared between the two classes.

The management team had successfully supported the nursery through a period of instability and had now recruited a stable and motivated staff team. Ably led by the nursery teacher the team were now building relationships with each other and with parents. They had been working to establish updated approaches to planning the curriculum in a more responsive way and to build on children's observed progress effectively.

The management team had also been working to develop links in children's learning between nursery and home. They were reviewing methods of communication to ensure all families were included. Parents had confidence in the management and leadership of the service.

What the service could do better

In order to ensure all children were challenged appropriately to achieve their full potential there was scope to provide a richer indoor play environment where children had more opportunities to create, investigate, and problem-solve. Some areas were sparsely resourced and uninspiring, for example the home role play corner. More real objects from the home, natural foods, real environmental print would better support learning in play. Resources could be more accessible to offer children choice and independence, together with the responsibility of tidying away. Indoors and outdoors children had access to some natural materials and 'loose parts'; open-ended materials that encourage experimentation, creativity and imaginative play. The Loose Part Play Toolkit may help to develop this:

- <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>

The nursery was well led and the staff team knowledgeable and motivated. They were excited about a planned change of premises into the school building. As the new team comes together in the new environment this would be a good time to review and refresh the nursery's aims, values and policies. The management team recognised that improvement plans would be better supported by rigorous formal monitoring and evaluation. The nursery was well placed to improve.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
24 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support
		5 - Very good
		Environment
		5 - Very good
		Staffing
		5 - Very good
		Management and leadership
		5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
11 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
10 Jun 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
16 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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