

# Dornoch Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Dornoch Primary School  
Evelix Road  
Dornoch  
IV25 3HR

Telephone: 01862 810180

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

7 November 2018

**Service provided by:**

Highland Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003001693

**Service no:**

CS2003017201

## 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)

This service has been registered since 2002.

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.

Dornoch Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 38 children, from the age of three years to those not yet attending primary school. The deputy head teacher for the Dornoch Campus manages the nursery. The nursery operates term-time only and offers flexible childcare to families in the local community.

The nursery is attached to Dornoch Primary School. The nursery premises consists of a dedicated playroom with kitchen area, reception area and toilet facilities. The playroom opens directly onto an enclosed outdoor play area and the school grounds and gym hall are also used for energetic physical play.

## What people told us

The children present were observed as being very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. There was a good rapport between the children and staff which allowed for natural and open communication. The children told us about the different things they enjoyed doing at nursery. Being outdoors was very popular with all the children.

During the inspection we spoke with five parents, and 10 parents and carers gave us feedback through our questionnaires. They were all positive in their comments about the quality of the service provided. Eight strongly agreed with and two agreed with the statement 'Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service'.

Comments made included:

'My little girl was a very shy child but now she is confident. She loves the nursery teachers and has a good bunch of friends in her nursery class'.

'They really care about the kids'.

'Care and support is amazing'.

'My child has a split placement and there is good communication between the two settings'.

'The morning nursery staff I feel go above and beyond. I could not wish for a better start to his education'.

'The afternoon staff are very friendly and approachable'.  
 'My child is happy at Dornoch and has formed a particularly strong attachment to one of his keyworkers'.  
 'My child had additional needs which are met very well'.  
 'My son has just started P1 and attended Dornoch Nursery also, the level of care, support and encouragement he received was second to none'.  
 'My daughter has now just started nursery and the staff have done an excellent job of settling her in. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them and the children's happiness and wellbeing is their top priority'.  
 'I cannot fault Dornoch Nursery. My child took a few weeks to settle and the staff were incredibly patient and really helped him/us get off to a good start'.  
 'I am regularly updated on his progress'.  
 'There are too many decision makers, and the parents and staff who know the children best are not listened to enough'.  
 'The outdoor space is very 'show-home'.

## 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:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	4 - Good
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	not assessed

## What the service does well

During this inspection, we focussed on how the service encouraged children to develop a healthy lifestyle. Connected to this we looked at the outdoor facilities and opportunities for outdoor play and learning. We also looked at how the nursery supported the children's transitions to primary school.

From our observations, it was evident that staff knew the individual needs of each of the children attending. Staff were very caring and nurturing in their approach. The parents and carers we spoke with during the inspection were all positive in their comments about the staff, their approachability and professionalism. Several parents commented on how helpful and supportive the staff had been when their children first started attending and were settling in.

Encouraging the children to develop a healthy lifestyle was an ongoing process within the nursery and included learning about how healthy food is good for them, looking after their bodies and their teeth, taking part in physical exercise and energetic play, and keeping themselves and others safe.

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. The children themselves attended safe, strong and free sessions where they learnt how to keep themselves and others safe.

Since the previous inspection, the nursery had moved into refurbished premises. The new playroom was clean, bright and very welcoming. The playroom opened directly onto an enclosed area for outdoor investigative play and learning. The service had started to develop the outdoor space to encourage the children's imaginative play, problem solving and risk assessment skills. The staff were all enthusiastic about outdoor learning and how this element of the service could be expanded to enhance the children's learning and experiences.

There was a good programme for transitions in place. Being located within the school grounds was very advantageous. The children received visits from the primary one teacher. There were also opportunities for the children to take part in whole school events and to get to know the school layout and meet the older children. The parents we spoke with were all of the opinion that the programme for transitions was very good.

## What the service could do better

During the inspection, we looked at the personal plans in place for the majority of the children registered with the service. Some of the personal plans were incomplete and parents and carers had not been involved in filling them in. We reminded staff of the legal requirement to regularly review all personal plans and to include parents and carers in this process. Personal plans should also include the names and contact details for any other professionals involved with individual children. The service should also ensure that there are full, written health care plans and protocols in place for those children with specific health needs and allergies.

We were able to observe the children having flexi snack. We discussed with staff how they could involve the children more in snack preparation and encourage them to develop their independence skills. We also spoke with the manager and staff about how they could reduce their reliance on plastic cups and plates, and instead replace them with ordinary cups and plates.

The service should review the layout of the playroom to maximise the opportunities to enhance and enrich the children's play and learning experiences. We discussed how the service could expand the resources available, including greater use of natural resources, and increase the children's learning. We also spoke about how the story corners/quiet areas could be made more comfortable, cosy and attractive.

The service was continuing to develop the outdoor play area. We discussed with the staff how they could further develop this area and introduce more natural resources and learning and investigative opportunities for the children. Given the playroom opened directly onto the enclosed outdoor area, there should be greater opportunity for free-flow between the two. During the inspection we discussed where the manager and staff could access relevant guidance and best practice to develop this area of their service, including 'Loose parts play' and 'My World Outdoors.' We also suggested it would be helpful to staff to visit other services to see their outdoor learning facilities.

## 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
2 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
26 Nov 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
12 Mar 2009	Announced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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