

Cunningsburgh Early Years Day Care of Children

Cunningsburgh School
Cunningsburgh
Shetland
ZE2 9HB

Telephone: 01595 807250

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

13 March 2019

Service provided by:

Shetland Islands Council

Service provider number:

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Service no:

CS2004070872

About the service

Cunningsburgh Early Years operates from a purpose built extension to the primary school premises in Cunningsburgh, an area on mainland Shetland. During the operating times the service has dedicated use of the open plan playroom with kitchen area, toilets, office and fully enclosed outdoor area. Children also have use of the school gym, library, grounds and community play park nearby.

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.

We noted the Cunningsburgh School encouraged the children to: "always do your best".

The vision of the service was:

"To ensure children develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to achieve their fullest potential in learning, life and work."

We held a feedback session with the 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 14 children attending the service, the majority of whom talked informally with the Inspector during the morning. We asked children if they liked coming to play at this nursery and those who were asked told us that they did. The children were interested in what the Inspector was doing and we talked with them in an open and easy manner.

Among their comments were:

- "We are going outside later and you can see the mud-slide. We made it and it's really slidey".
- "I have been in the swimming pool. It's not a real swimming pool 'cos we made it but it's really good. We even have towels to dry with".
- "I have been painting at the easel but now I think it's snack-time. We get snack all the days".
- "Did you see my suit is all muddy? The mud was wet so we hanged it up but it's dry now. You ken it's dry 'cos the mud is a different colour but when we go out it will be all muddy again 'cos the mud will be wet".

We observed the children as they played. Children were animated whilst talking with the staff and positive relationships had been established. We saw children were relaxed and very 'busy' with their chosen activities. We saw happy, smiling faces and confident children who played well together within the setting.

We talked with seven of the parents and carers who arrived to collect their child. They were happy to talk with the inspector and told us that they were very happy with the care and support provided at Cunningsburgh. They considered the environment was safe and secure and the children had a good choice of activities. Parents told us the children were outdoors every day and described how they came home happy and delighted to have been playing in the mud. One parent told us she had been using the service for many years and had staff been consistently friendly and helpful.

Among their comments we heard were:

- "Great staff - they do so much with the bairns. The bairns really love it here."
- "I love the way they encourage the children to do things by themselves - it really brings them on. My child does things at home that they have learnt in nursery".
- "Since the last inspection when they did not have a good report I see they have changed many things. There is more info sharing, and I love the 'Class Dojo' - just love all the photos and seeing what they are doing".

We sent out six Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to give to parents and received four questionnaires back. We emailed two parents and received a positive reply back.

We noted the parents very happy with the service and we noted there were several written comments, including:

- "A welcoming place with lovely staff. Really appreciate the photos on 'Class Dojo' - it's a good way to prompt conversation at home about the day's activities".
- "Following the assessment of Cunningsburgh school/early years last year changes have been implemented into the early years setting. Lot of written info on boards, in corridor outside room".
- "Variety of activities the children can get involved in and the willingness to take them outside most days".

We shared all feedback we had gained through these methods with the head teacher and staff during the feedback session.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We normally look at their quality assurance processes and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision but did not do so because this will be followed up by Education Scotland when they next inspect 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 the atmosphere at Cunningburgh Early Years was calm and caring, with kindly staff who worked with the children and their families in warm and friendly manner. Parents who were asked told us they felt welcome and included and were regularly updated by staff about their child. Children were relaxed, and happy, comfortable with staff and enjoying their play.

Since the previous Care Inspectorate inspection in January 2016 we noted several changes to the early years environment. Children had access to a range of stimulating and interesting learning opportunities. We noted there were more natural resources, loose parts play had been introduced, and the play and activities in general were more child-led. We noted children were engrossed in their play. We saw happy smiling faces and heard the busy 'hum' of children who were investigating, exploring and creating.

We saw a nice example of co-operative play when they were making a 'swimming pool'. Staff asked what they needed, provided resources and blew up an inflatable pool for them. We heard them deciding together what the swimming pool rules would be, with children taking the lead, for example: "no shoes as that will hurt the pool and maybe tear it" and "no more than three in the pool as there is no room for any more". We noted that staff stood back and let children explore and investigate by themselves. They knew when they needed to offer additional support or intervene. Information was shared with parents through the learning stories, verbally and via the online 'Class Dojo'. Parents told us they liked the instant updates and it was nice to see photographs of their children's time at nursery.

Staff had regular meetings to discuss the service including planning and how to support care needs. We noted the small staff team worked well together. We noted children's records were up-to-date and safely stored. Staff sought information from parents which allowed them to plan specific care for each child. Care plans were updated regularly and showed how each child's needs were met. Those children with additional health needs were well cared for with staff receiving additional training to support them in their role.

The service had procedures in place to safeguard children, for example: a child protection policy providing guidance for staff and child protection awareness training on a rolling-programme as part of the staff's core training. When asked staff demonstrated a sound understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Appropriate systems were in place for recording and reporting any concerns.

Staff told us they had attended a range of training opportunities since their last inspection which enabled them to keep updated with current childcare initiatives and best practice. Staff supported the children's individual learning needs through regular observations and planned for their further development. We saw they were now using a 'Big Book' system for planning and evaluation with the children. We did not look at this in depth as this will be followed up by Education Scotland.

Children had daily opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles, for example: healthy eating. We observed snack-time and saw children learning to socialise, learn good manners as well as tidy up their dishes. All of which promoted their social development and taught them good life skills. We noted staff were very good at ensuring children with food allergies were well cared for and at no risk whilst eating. We saw staff listening to and valuing children's views, stories and opinions. Staff promoted positive behaviour and were very good role models for the children to follow. We heard staff remind the children to wait their turn, help their friends at snack-time, and play nicely together.

Children had access to fresh air and outdoor play daily, which parents told us they liked. Parents had been asked to provide an outdoor suit and boots so children could keep warm outdoors during the winter months. We joined the children for the outdoor session and found that for many, this was the highlight of their morning. Staff showed us the 'Big Book' with photographs of children enjoying sledging in the snow. Once the snow had gone they still wanted to slide so children had made their own mud-slide.

We saw them all thoroughly enjoying sliding here, adding water so it would keep slippery and getting covered from head to toe in mud. We saw afterwards they were very adept at taking off their muddy things, wash hands and return to the playroom. Parents were very much onboard with this with several telling us that it was lovely to see children playing so naturally and getting messy.

What the service could do better

There were several areas we agreed the service would look at:

- Staff told us they would continue following the improvement plan they had put in place following the Education Scotland inspection. They planned to further develop the service in order to ensure they were providing a supportive learning environment for the children.
- We noted the outdoor area was in need of further development. However, there were plans in place to extend the early years unit in order to provide the extended 1140 hour sessions. This was to be built where the outdoor area is. Staff told us a new outside space would be created, which they planned to develop with the children and consult parents. Staff were keen to promote outdoor play.
- We noted some children did not follow appropriate procedures when washing their hands. These were children who had recently started at the service. We reminded staff to support these children following current guidelines.

We shared updated version of the infection control guidance dated May 2018:

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/726344/infection-prevention-and-control-daycare-and-childminding-settings-2018.pdf>

- One member of staff's first aid training had lapsed and a refresher course had been booked.
- We also noted some of the documentation had the old Care Inspectorate address and we shared the current address in order for them to update all necessary documents.

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	
28 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
22 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
5 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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