

# Reay Under 5's Playgroup Day Care of Children

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Type of inspection: Unannounced  
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**Service provided by:**  
Reay Under 5's

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003001853

**Care service number:**  
CS2003008678

## 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 was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

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.

Reay Under 5's is registered to provide daycare to a maximum of 20 children from the age of three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service was located within a community hall in the west of county Caithness. The service made use of the main hall, toilet facilities and small kitchen. There was a small outdoor area to the side of the hall which the service accessed on a daily basis. The playgroup also made very good use of various local resources including walks, the beach and the local woodland area.

## What people told us

Throughout the inspection we spoke with the children individually and in groups. They were all very enthusiastic and wanted to tell us all the things they could do while at playgroup. The children enjoyed spending time outdoors making use of various things to make their own dens. The older children particularly enjoyed telling us about their recent transition visits to the primary school.

During the inspection we spoke with seven parents, and seven parents and carers gave us feedback through our questionnaires. They were all very positive in their comments about the quality of the service provided.

Comments made included:

'I feel that Reay Under 5's Playgroup offers an excellent learning and development environment for my son.'

'They are always out.'

'One of the most important things for me is that my child is very happy at playgroup. He is very comfortable and happy with both Yvonne and Rachel and has good relationships with his peers which I believe is cultivated and supported by the playgroup environment.'

'There are always a variety of activities available and opportunities are taken for outdoor activities on a regular basis.'

'His learning journey folder is always available to view and contribute to.'

'Yvonne and Rachel are wonderful with my son. He enjoys going to playgroup a lot. The children are always doing plenty of different things.'

'They make very good use of the outdoor space.'

'Overall, I am extremely happy with the service provided.'

## 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>	5 - Very 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, opportunities for outdoor play and learning, and promoting risk in play. We also looked at how the playgroup supported the children's transitions to the primary school.

We observed a very relaxed and sociable snack where the children and staff all had snack together. The children, their parents and staff all preferred this arrangement. Parents and carers believed that by sitting together the children learnt good social skills. The children who were snack helpers enjoyed helping staff and the responsibilities the role entailed. Snack time was an opportunity for the children to try new foods and to take part in food tasting activities. The children were very independent at snack time, making their own sandwiches, selecting fruit and pouring drinks. Parents and carers were very happy with the snack offered and were of the opinion that healthy eating was encouraged.

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.

One of the staff members had completed part of 'Connections' training which looked at how to offer opportunities for physical play and exercise both indoors and outdoors. Staff were very positive about this training and how they could use it to develop their own service.

Outdoor play and learning was important for the playgroup. They had a small, fully enclosed outdoor area which they accessed on a daily basis. As well as various play activities, there were opportunities for the children to get involved in various planting activities. The children talked about the potatoes and strawberries which they had planted in pots. They also told us about their visits to one of the staff members greenhouses where they were growing and caring for other plants. The playgroup made visits to local resources including the beach and forest walks to allow the children to explore and learn about their local environment. The children enthusiastically spoke to us about a recent visit to the local woods with the ranger.

The service made good use of natural resources both indoors and out. They had also introduced a range of loose parts equipment, including tyres, guttering and pieces of wood, in the outdoor area to encourage the children's imaginative play, problem solving and risk assessment skills.

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. We were able to see the 'Our safety book' floor book. It was full of comments from the children and photographs illustrating what they had learned about how to keep themselves and others safe when taking part in various activities. For example, comments from the children about a pony riding activity included 'Be quiet so the horses don't get angry' and 'You have to hold the string so you don't fall off.'

The playgroup and the local primary school had a programme for transitions in place. The school was a short distance from where the playgroup met. The children had received visits from the primary one teacher and their primary six buddies. The children told us about their visits to the school and how they had stayed for lunch in the school canteen during one visit. Comments made included - 'I've only got one buddy now', 'Our teacher is nice' and 'I had fish and chips'. The parents we spoke with were all of the opinion that the programme for transitions was very good.

## What the service could do better

The staff explained that they were continuing to develop the outdoor play area to enhance and enrich the opportunities for investigative and imaginative play and learning. They had accessed various good practice guidance including 'My World Outdoors' and 'Loose Parts'. We discussed with staff how they could continue to involve the children, parents and carers and the wider local community and businesses in the development of the outdoor area. We suggested visiting other services to see how they had developed their outdoor area.

## 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	
22 Aug 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
25 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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