

Bun-sgoil Shleite Day Care of Children

Bun-sgoil Shleite (Sleat Primary)
Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RR

Telephone: 01471 844 326

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 June 2021

Service provided by:
Highland Council

Service provider number:
SP2003001693

Service no:
CS2003017265

About the service

We wrote this report following an unannounced, focused inspection which evaluated how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

The inspection was carried out using a blended approach of virtual and onsite scrutiny. We started the inspection on 8 June 2021 and gave feedback to the manager on 23 June 2021.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children. The service offered both Gaelic medium and English medium nursery sessions.

New nursery premises are currently being built to replace the old modular building which is no longer fit for purpose. It is hoped that the new premises will be ready by September 2021. As a temporary measure, the English nursery is using a room within the main school building while the Gaelic medium class is using a demountable building adjacent to the main school entrance. Both nursery classes have a separate entrance to their playroom. The English medium nursery children have use of the main school toilet facilities. Children from both nurseries were able to access a section of the main playground to the front of the school.

What people told us

During the inspection, we found all the children to be very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. They were outdoors making very good use of the 'loose parts' and having lots of fun taking part in a range of physical activities, investigative play and learning. The older children were able to tell us what they enjoyed doing at nursery.

At the time of the inspection there were no parents or carers present to give feedback.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

4 - Good

5.1 Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during Covid-19

Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.

Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Bun-sgoil Shleite Nursery was a small nursery providing childcare for children aged three to those not yet of primary school age living in Sleat and the surrounding rural area. On the day of the inspection there were 15 children attending the Gaelic medium service, who were being supported by three early years practitioners and one child attending the English medium class who was being supported by two early years practitioners.

We found all the children to be very happy, confident and settled within the nursery where they were part of a warm, caring and nurturing environment. We saw children had strong attachments with staff who were very responsive to their individual needs. Staff explained that having worked in the nursery for a number of years, they had well established working relationships with many of the families. The children spent a large part of the morning session playing outside which had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing and minimised the risk of spreading infection.

The nursery was considered to be part of the school and staff were routinely included in full school discussions. Prior to the children returning to the setting, the nursery staff and the manager met to consider how the pandemic and resulting lockdown may have impacted on the children's emotional wellbeing. They then put in place appropriate strategies, including emotional check-ins, which they periodically reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the needs of the individual children. Those children anxious about returning were provided with extra support and reassurance to ensure they felt safe and secure within the setting.

There were written personal plans in place for each of the children which had been updated following lockdown to ensure that they reflected their current individual needs. Information in the personal plans highlighted whether children might need extra support and reassurance when returning to the setting. As a small service, the children were given the space to freely talk about how they were feeling. Staff used books about feelings and emotions to encourage the children to feel safe to express their emotions.

While the children were unable to attend the setting, the staff were very proactive in maintaining contact with the children and their families. As a nursery serving a small community, the manager and staff were able to put in place a good system to share information and offer activities for the children and their families to complete. During contact, staff also explained to parents any changes which would have to be put in place in response to government guidance.

The service had robust processes in place to protect children from harm. Staff were fully aware of and confident in their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Prior to the children returning to the setting, the manager and staff had revisited their child protection policy and procedure and had reflected on how the pandemic may have impacted on the children and their families.

5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff

Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as good.

The service was proactive in relation to putting in place all the appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of the children and to prevent the spread of infection whilst still encouraging the children's natural curiosity and imaginative play. There were clear risk assessments in place which were routinely reviewed to ensure they reflected government Covid-19 guidance. Staff had access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning materials such as aprons, gloves and sprays as required.

Being outdoors and supporting the children to take part in investigative play and learning has always been a priority for the service. Spending lots of time outdoors significantly reduced the spread of infection. The service made good use of their surrounding natural environment and were continuing to make very good use of 'loose parts' to offer the children a rich learning experience full of challenge, fun and exploration.

There were clear cleaning schedules in place. The toilets were regularly checked and cleaned throughout the day. Any additional cleaning did not impact on children's experiences during the session as this was completed by the school cleaner. At the end of each day after the children had left, enhanced cleaning took place.

The service had good resources and systems in place to encourage and support good hand hygiene. Staff regularly cleaned their hands throughout the session in line with Covid-19 guidance. As well as using the warm running water and soap at the kitchen area and toilets to thoroughly wash their hands, the staff had access to hand sanitizer.

The children were all confident in washing their hands. The staff had spoken to them in a child friendly way about the need for regular handwashing and had made it a fun experience. The children could confidently tell us why it was important to regularly wash their hands. We discussed with the manager and staff having a mobile handwashing unit at the entrance of the school canteen to allow the children to wash their hands before lunch.

The service had put in place a system for the safe drop off and collection of children. Parents had to wear face masks, maintain social distancing and wait at the outdoor collection point while staff accompanied their children out. This arrangement allowed for staff to safely provide parents with some feedback each day.

Staff understood the service's policy and procedure should a child or a member of staff display Covid-19 symptoms while at the setting. They had completed online training prior to returning to the nursery and recognised the importance of promoting good infection prevention and control practice within the setting. Information and reminders in relation to the 'Test and Protect' programme were regularly shared with parents.

5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during Covid-19

Staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families

Staff are well supported and confident.

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as good.

The staff and the manager were committed and motivated to provide children with the opportunity to have the freedom to play, investigate and learn in a safe environment. As a small service, especially the English medium class, the children were provided with a good standard of individualised care. The staff were all friendly, outgoing and offered a relaxed and secure environment for the children.

As the nursery was part of the school, enhanced cleaning required to minimise the risk of infection was completed by the school cleaner and did not directly impact on children's play experiences. Staff told us that they had completed additional training on infection prevention and control to ensure that they met current guidance. We saw that staff had implemented and embedded this training during the inspection. This created a safe and clean environment for both children and staff.

Where appropriate, staff wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of infection spreading. Staff were clear on expectations and procedures to follow if they or a family member became unwell and displayed symptoms for Covid-19. This reduced opportunities for cross contamination within the setting.

The manager met with the staff team from each of the services on alternate weeks which provided an opportunity for staff to be involved in reflective discussions, self evaluation of the service and staff to be updated on national guidance. As a result, staff were aware of why any changes were made and were confident in implementing the required public health measures which helped reduce the risk of infection.

The manager recognised the potential impact of Covid-19 on the emotional wellbeing of staff. As well as formal meetings, there were frequent informal opportunities to check in with staff and to offer them the time and space to discuss any concerns or anxieties they might have. Having staff who felt supported and valued had a positive impact on the quality of care and support the children received.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

The service should review and develop existing personal plans for children to ensure that staff have up to date information about children and how to support them. These plans should be developed and routinely reviewed in consultation with children and families. The service will also put in place clear written protocols for those children with identified health needs.

This is in order to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, SSI 2011/210 - Regulation 5(1)(2) - Personal plans.

Timescale: 29 November 2019.

This requirement was made on 19 June 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

During the inspection we looked at a number of personal plans. We found that they had been reviewed and updated. The personal plans included information in relation to how the pandemic had impacted on the child and their individual needs.

This requirement had been actioned.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 2

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.

Timescale: 29 November 2019.

This requirement was made on 19 June 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

The English medium nursery class had moved to a room within the main school building and the Gaelic medium class had relocated to demountable building in the school grounds while permanent, alternative accommodation was being built. The accommodation being used was appropriate. It is hoped that the new premises will be completed by September 2021.

This requirement had been actioned.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 3

The manager should develop and implement an effective system of quality assurance to monitor and improve all areas of practice and improve outcomes for children.

In order to achieve this the provider must:

- a) develop and implement a rigorous quality assurance programme
- b) implement regular effective support and supervision for all staff
- c) involve staff in the systematic evaluation of their work and the work of the service
- d) put clear plans in place for maintaining and improving the service
- e) ensure the manager effectively monitors the work of each member of staff and the service as a whole.

This is in order to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210 - Regulation 3 - Principles and Regulation 15 (a) and (b) - Staffing.

Timescale: 29 November 2019.

This requirement was made on 19 June 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

Since the last inspection, a new manager had been appointed. The manager stated that she visited the Gaelic medium and English medium nursery classes to monitor practice. She explained that she routinely met with the staff from each of the nursery classes and offered appropriate support. Staff were encouraged to be involved in the ongoing evaluation and development of the service.

This requirement had been actioned.

Met - within timescales

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	4 - Good

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