

## Annual report for the daycare center (Presented during the annual presentation on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023)

### Number of children and staff

In Eiði we currently have 24 children in our nursery, 35 children in daycare, 39 children in the recreation center and about 20 children in the youth center. Today our staff numbers 7 pedagogical educators, one nurse, and 16 assistants. General staff also includes a janitor and cleaning staff, in addition to this, our staff includes a manager and substitute workers. All in all, our staff numbers 16,82 full time employees.

This year, the number of children in each classroom rose above 16 after the summer break. We decided to increase the number of daycare rooms to 3 rooms. We were unsuccessful in finding suitable accommodation anywhere in the village. It was therefore decided by the council, that our pillow room, kitchen, and meeting room, are to be used for this purpose.

These halls are greatly missed, and we will therefore shortly begin work to renovate the building, in order to get a new pillow room. The oldest children will attend the new classroom, which is called *Dáin*, and the children thrive in their new surroundings. There are disadvantages when it comes to dividing children into age groups from the age of 5. It is around this age that a child's ability to play with other children becomes more prominent. The plan for next year is to blend and socialize all our age groups.

### Illness effected our day-to-day work

Despite hoping for a covid free winter, we were not unaffected by illness. As with most workplaces, flu and general illnesses hit us quite hard and we had plenty of staff on sick leave. The staff took it in turn to offer their all to keep the institution running, and we barely managed to keep everything together. Unfortunately, on two occasions, we were forced to call on parents to either keep their children at home or pick them up early.

### Our pedagogical work in the past year

Over the past year, we strived to continue the progress of the pedagogical and special pedagogical work, to bond as a group and to continue to provide the best service possible for the youngest citizens of the municipality. Furthermore, we imagined that the remaining yard of the Korndalsgarður daycare center would be finished within the year. In the same vein, we hoped that the area outside the preschool building would be improved and made child friendly and that much needed renovation would be made on the building. And not least, we looked forward to the council's plans to build a new recreation center.

Our staff have developed as professionals within their field. Staff at both the daycare center and the and the Spírín recreation center have worked more with the core values of the Betri Vinir anti-bullying project, which works to strengthen the feeling of community between our children and attempt to prevent bullying.

The staff have also gained more experience regarding this project, through the material provided by Betri Vinir and through their tools as pedagogical professionals. Through this, the staff have improved their abilities in terms of setting developmental goals for the children.

Our day-to-day life in the daycare center is based on the curriculum. Learning while playing. The curriculum hangs on the wall of each classroom. We always attempt to keep the various subjects of the curriculum in mind, but we also work according to Faroese culture and various seasonal activities, such as the sheep slaughter in the autumn, Christmas traditions, our national bird the Oystercatcher, Faroese flag day and other holidays and various events in Eiði.

In the past year, the various classrooms have been organized into groups of four. Naturally, the noise pollution lessens greatly when group size is decreased when the children work in smaller groups, and the children have a better chance to concentrate whilst on walks, during playtime or when partaking in a creative activity.

Creativity fills a lot of the children's time in the Spírín recreation center. They paint using various techniques and materials, make jewelry and build huts. The staff make a point of getting the children outside in the fresh air and to keep them physically active. The children enjoy walks around the village and playing in the sports hall adjacent to the primary school.

## Staff wellbeing

It is important that management and staff cooperate and discuss any potential issue. Wellbeing in the workplace is one of the most important aspects when it comes to ensuring that staff can work effectively and provide the best services to children and parents alike. The staff have spoken positively in terms of the general wellbeing in the workplace, and it is also my belief that the staff wellbeing is on a good level. One of the determining factors of this wellbeing is the council's approval of increased workhours.

The fact that staff have been granted an increase in preparation-based work hours, that the classrooms have been granted more workhours and the decrease in number of children in the rooms means that staff are less stressed and leaves them with a surplus of energy to provide the children with a good day. A third contributing factor to the wellbeing is the decrease in noise pollution.

We have organized day trips for our staff. We went bowling and organized general leisure trips and activities. This year, we agreed to have our consultation meetings during the autumn, so that we might go on a trip abroad. Sadly, we did not manage to find a trip for a reasonable price. We plan to for a staff trip abroad in the coming spring.

## Consultation days and staff courses

We had one consultation meeting since the last report, where we worked with the subject of Low Arousal Approach and with the goals of this approach. Low Arousal Approach deals with adult to child interactions. We, as adults must show an angry and/or scolding attitude towards the children, but rather show calmness and kindness when dealing with the children.

## The surrounding outside area and plans for new recreation centre and pre-school buildings

We are pleased to have received such a good yard in the daycare center and new sheds for our trollies. Not to mention the surrounding natural area above Korndalsgarður. The parents did a great job in helping us improve the area outside Korndalsgarður, during the so-called yard day, in June. The area is heavily used by both the younger and older children.

Unfortunately, neither plans to finish the yard area, nor to improve the area surrounding Spírin and make it child friendly, were part of the 2023 budget. On the other hand, we are pleased to know, that the plans to build new buildings for both the Spírin recreation center and the youth club have become reality.

## Youth activities for children and youths from grades 4 through 10

We strive to give the local children and youths the opportunity to meet and make friends, play together, and enjoy each other's company in the youth club. Tuesdays have been open to children from grades 4 to 7. Thursdays have been open for children from grades 7 through 10. Unfortunately, it turned out that our staff at the youth club could not run both groups efficiently under the current conditions. This means, that the younger group did not attend the youth club after the summer break. The older group remains active.

## Parent meeting

We had one open parent meeting in October 2022 in the Kolshøll hall. The subject of the meeting was the Betri Vinir anti-bullying project and how we can ensure a healthy and strong sense of community for our children. The presentation was held by Annika Wenningsted, a representative of Barnabati, an organization that works towards providing a good life to every child in the Faroe Islands. She spoke of ways to prevent bullying, about the importance of parents being attentive to all children and not just their own. She also went through pieces of advice to parents, and the parents were given the opportunity to converse with each other.

## A new partnership

We have entered into an agreement with Ergo Care. The agreement states, that when we have a new pillow room, Ergo Care will be free to use it once a week. This agreement also eases the burden of commuting to and from occupational therapy. With the agreement, we the staff, are able to lead the child to Ergo therapy.

## Intranet

The staff have now familiarized themselves with intranet communication. The intranet will be widened, so staff will be able to communicate with parents. All children are registered on the intranet, and parents will shortly be informed of how the system is used. Us communicating through the intranet, ensures that we follow the European Union's GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) guidelines.

## Vision for the future

We strive to continually strengthen the feeling of community between the children and to use the materials provided by Betri Vinir. We have also set out to work more with the topic named “Exercise and health – the active, healthy child. We also hope that the council will allow us grants to start the next phase of repairing the Korndalsgarður yard. The plan for this phase is to remove half of the swings, in order to get access to more of the natural area. For example: A hill instead of asphalt, a larger tower, a small football pitch, and more. Naturally, we are pleased to get a new recreation centre building and youth club building.

Lastly, I wish to thank the parents, the parent’s council, The staff, the council politicians, and others for their continued cooperation.

Kristina T. Larsen, manager.