# Annual report for the daycare center (Presented during the parents meeting on November 9th)

## Number of children and staff

In Eiði we currently have: 18 nursery children, 34 daycare children, 39 children in the recreation centre and approx. 20 children attending the youth centre. In addition to a janitor, integration hours, Special aid, substitute teachers, and a manager, our staff numbers: 6 pedacogical educators, and 16 assistants. In terms of full-time equivalent measurement (FTE), the various areas of the center have the following FTE numbers: The nursery has 5,38 FTE, in addition to preparatory hours 0,12 FTE. The kindergarten has 7,75 FTE in addition to in addition to 0,15 FTE. The recreation centre has 2,4 FTE, in addition to prep hours 0,15 FTE. The youth centre, 7. - 10. grade has 0,25 FTE. Altogether the centre has 15,8 full-time employees

We have 2 nursery rooms, 3 childcare rooms, a recreation centre and youth centre. Last year we mixed all the ages of each childcare rooms, so that children aged 3 to 5 are together and not like before when we had one room for the 5-year-olds.

## Evaluation of staff numbers

The departing council showed an interest for and understanding of pedagogical work within the daycare field. They did this by providing us with preparatory hours, a higher number of staff and lessening of the group of children. The pedagogical team has evaluated our efforts and a few note was handed to the council on April 30th 2024. The conclusion regarding the evaluation is the following:

* After receiving preparatory hours, the pedagogical educators and assistants have been granted more time to prepare their day-to-day work and be with the children within the framework of the pedagogical aims and objectives, which emphasize development and learning.
* Given the increase of work hours, staff feel less stressed and feel more energized in their work to provide the children with a good and developmental day-to-day life. After receiving preparatory hours, the pedagogical educators and assistants have been granted more time to prepare their day-to-day work and be with the children within the framework of the pedagogical aims and objectives, which emphasize development and learning.
* Given the increase in work hours, staff feel less stressed and feel more energized in their work to provide the children with a good and developmental day-to-day life. Unlike before, when one member of staff was often left alone with the children for several hours.
* The new maximum number of children allowed (stipulated by the council) of 12 children in the nursey, 16 in daycare and 36 in the youth centre has contributed to an increase of calmness of the children and has increased the well-being and energy of the staff.

## Our Pedagogical work this past year

Each year during our pedagogical meetings, we discuss the composition of the groups of children and the transfer between nursery to daycare. We always strive to pay attention to each individual child, the group aswell as the age gaps. When we were transferring children between classrooms last year, a few parents brought forth their wishes regarding which room their children attended. We met these requests to the best of our abilities to meet these requests and we believe that the transfers were successful, and that the composition of each group is good. We’ll likely have two daycare classrooms, but we are not worried about transfering the children, given our experience on how to handle this in the best manner.

Last December we had a consultation day. Two subjects were scheduled. In the morning the subject was “Language learning through song”. The teachers were Eyð Tórhaldsdóttir and Jóhanna á Rógvi, Pedagogical educators at the daycare in Argir. They held a presentation in which they showed their boxes of songs which they had collected and built for sessions of singing with the nursery children. We also had a singing session together. A good morning where we received inspiration to visualse and use songs as tools of linguistical development. In the afternoon, the subject was “Games and movement”. Marjun í Jákupsstovu, pedagogical teacher in Eiði school, was the teacher. She gave us lots of ideas and games that we got to try.

This spring, the consultation day was used for a recreational trip to Edinburgh. It’s clear that such trips abroad where the staff are together in a different way and get away from the daily humdrum increases the sense of belonging within the group. This was a good trip where staff got to know each other better, had communal experiences and strengthened their togetherness.

Some staff members have been on short courses. Two pedagogical teachers were on a course called “Play, learning and creativity. When staff have been on courses, we schedule meetings in which the participants of said course present their experiences. This is a way to ensure that all of the staff benefit from the courses some of them are sent to. Our new staff members have been trained in the “Betri Vinir” (better friends) anti-bullying program, which has been widely accepted by daycares across the country. This is why we send all our new staff to be trained in this program.

The next thing we wish to develop is our communication. We therefore brought Danish pedacogical educator and advisor Tina Brandt, who, together with Louise Klinge, wrote the book “ The relational Competence of Pedagogical Educators”, to have a consultation day with our staff. On the day, we were taught the meaning of relation competence and were inspired regarding communication skills as well as knowledge regarding the importance of communication skills with regards to the well-being and development of our children.

## Research project

In September 2023 we took part in the research project “Management and quality of Faroese daycare institutions”, which a PHD student oversaw. Said student visited us for a day and wrote us a report regarding their findings. The student was of the opinion that the institution is cosy and that the walls are well decorated. We were given a few areas to develop. These were: Give the children more recognition and include them more in the daily activities, Furnishing the playrooms better and keeping in mind the number and placement of the toys. Use toys from the shelves rather than boxes, as this makes it easier and more motivating for the children to play. Furthermore, the student thought that our workshop was cluttered and asked why we didn’t have and allowed more creative playtime in the rooms. We dicussed the visit during our meetings and believe that we have improved the rooms with regard to playing and toys, as well as the “relation competence” discussed above.

## Work/Activities

As per usual we have a work plan, where parents can see our activity and work between August and July. The plan is visible on our intranet under the “documents parents” folder as well as on the walls of each room. For the first time, in cooperation with the church, we held a Shrovetide service aimed at children in March. There will be a Christmas service in December which parents and other relatives are welcome to attend.

The children take part in the annual Heystfagnaður autumn celebration, where they make various items. These items will play a part in the celebration in one way or another. This year, the items that the children made were used in the treasure hunt.

The activity in the third room which we received last year has gone well all things considered. Given that these premises is one singular room, It’s more difficult to organize the indoor activities into smaller groups. Therefore the noise levels are rather high.

## Youth club

until October, a pedagogical educator and an assistant have organized one evening a week for the youth club and occasional evenings during weekends. The activities include board games, baking, and watching movies. The attendees are mostly limited to the children who do sports.

We wish to see an increase and diversification of attendees so that it’s not limited to those who are active in sports. It was with this in mind that we applied for monetary assistance from the Ministry of Culture and we were granted a sum of 40,000 DKK. In addition to this, the council has also granted us a larger sum, to help us make club activities more interesting. We’ve got one more pedagogical educator and the plan is to organise more activities in order to increase the interest and likelihood amongst the youth to attend the club. We hope that this plan kindles the interest of the youth so that they may attend in a larger number and more regularly.

## Facilities and our work in the outside area

This year after the summer break we finally got a new pillowroom. This room is considerably smaller than the room which was converted into a classroom. ErgoCare has started using the room to train the children in need of occupational therapy. The room is also used by smaller groups. We have also installed windows in two smaller rooms, which means that the emergency exits are up to standard. One of the rooms is used for group activities and the other room is used as a playroom.

Work has been done on the ventilation system. It has been expanded upon and now functions better in warm weather. When it’s cold outside, we have to turn off the ventilation, as it will blow in cold air.

During this years Yard Day both parents councils agreed that their energy should go towards making the yard of the Spírin recreation centre more interesting. A terrace has been completed, flowerboxes have been painted and set. The work to improve playing opportunities is coming along, but there is still some work to be done before it is completed.

The municipality has informed us that the pram sheds will be completed before the coming of winter.

Last year we wrote about our happiness regarding the news of plans to build a new recreation and youth club building. Sadly, this work has not started, but there is a light on the horizon because the current council has published plans for the location and projected drawings of the new building. We hope that the newly elected council will make this much-needed plan a reality.

## Visions for the future

We wish to maintain and strengthen the good sense of community where all children feel a sense of beloning. We wish to become even better at having good and developmental relations with the children, so that they feel safe with us adults, which is a prerequisite for the chiildren to develop and learn.

We’ve not let go of our wish that the municipality uses parts of the annual budget to grant us funds, so that we may begin the next phase of repairing the yard of the Korndalsgarður daycare centre where the plan is to remove half of the swings to increase the natural area, - for example a hill instead of asphalt, a larger tower, a small ball playing field and more. It goes without saying that we look forward to getting a new recreational and youth club building.

Finally, I wish to thank the parents, Parents councils, staff and management for their good cooperation. A special thank you goes out to the leaving council for their showing of interest in and understanding of the pedagogical field by improving our working conditions .Conditions which have been to the benifit of our staff; our children and their relaties. We hope to maintain the good cooperation with the newly elected council.

Kristina T. Larsen, manager.