



## Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC180
Inspection Date	10 October 2007
Childcare Inspector	Mrs Karen Deans
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Wessex Daycare
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Mayfair Road MB 62 Wessex Barracks Lager Oerbke Bad Fallingbostel 29683
Type of Care	Full Daycare

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

British Forces Early Years Service is granted with accreditation by the Secretary of State for Defence for regulating childcare provision for Crown Servants overseas, in accordance with the criteria set out in the Tax Credit (New Category of Child Care Provider) Regulations 2002. The purpose of this inspection is to assure the Ministry of Defence (MOD), parents and the public of the quality of child care.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The report includes information on any complaints about childcare provision which British Forces Early Years Service (BFEYS) has received since 1st January 2006.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see booklet "*Are you ready for your inspection*" which is available from BFEYS.

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are **good**. The registered person **meets** the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wessex Daycare opened in February 2006 and is situated in Bad Fallingbostel, Bergen-Hohne Garrison. It is co-ordinated by the Army Welfare Service and serves the needs of military personnel and their families from the surrounding areas.

Wessex Daycare is located on the ground floor of a newly refurbished, double-storey military building which is shared with the Army Welfare Service Youth Club located on the first floor. The Daycare has sole use of its premises with its own separate entrance.

Wessex Daycare is registered to provide full daycare for 74 children from 6 weeks to under 5 years. The setting opens five days a week from 08.00 to 15.00 all year round.

Wessex Daycare premises consist of four playrooms, a large physical playroom, a sleep room, an office, a kitchen/staff room, adults' and children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. Children also have access to a large fully enclosed purpose built outdoor area.

The staff team comprises a manager, a named deputy, 17 keyworkers including supply staff and one member to carry out cleaning duties.

---

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment by adults who have a clear understanding of, and implement, good health and hygiene practices. Children are gaining a good awareness of personal hygiene as staff encourage them to wash their hands after using the toilet and before sitting down to eat, offering guidance and support; children are provided with easily accessible sinks, liquid soap and paper towels. Children are protected from the risk of infection as staff follow good hygiene procedures when changing nappies; for example, they wear disposable gloves and disinfect the changing mat between changes.

Children's health is protected by staff who have an up-to-date knowledge of first aid and follow the correct procedures for recording accidents and for administering medication to the children in their care. There is a range of written procedures to help promote children's good health; parents are informed of the setting's sick child policy within the prospectus and written permission is requested to apply sun cream or seek emergency medical treatment or advice. Children are able to rest or sleep according to their individual needs. Babies and younger children are provided with a quiet environment for sleep times to ensure their home routines are followed. Feeding and sleeping routines are monitored and recorded appropriately and discussed with parents.

Children are provided with a varied range of snacks that are nutritious and healthy and meet their dietary needs. The organisation of meal time assists in supporting children's health. For example, packed lunches provided by parents are correctly labelled and stored in the fridge. Snack and lunch times are enjoyable, relaxed occasions where staff and children sit together, sociably sharing conversation. When children are thirsty they can help themselves to water which is available in jugs at the side of the room. Babies and younger children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day. Children are becoming aware of what is good for them to eat through general discussions and displays of healthy eating habits. Those with allergies or particular food preferences have their needs met appropriately because parents have provided the setting with detailed information; these are displayed in every room and updated regularly.

Children engage in various activities which promote their healthy growth and development; they are able to run, climb and slide when playing outside in the purpose built play area. They also have access to a large indoor play room equipped with a ball pool and wheeled toys where they can manoeuvre around obstacles and practise moving in different directions. Babies are freely able to crawl and toddle and good adult support enables them to become confident movers. Children move around the setting with confidence and show a good awareness of space, themselves and others. Fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination are developed by the children using scissors, glue spreaders and small tools and equipment when playing with sand or play dough.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them to stay safe**

The provision is **good**. Children benefit from being cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable to meet their needs. They feel relaxed and at ease in the warm and welcoming rooms. The setting is colourfully decorated with children's work, posters and mobiles. Children are provided with separate play areas within rooms which are creatively laid out and well equipped, for example, washable flooring for messy play and comfortable mats for children to take part in small scale play on the floor. Children use an extensive range of equipment that is appropriate for their needs and conform to safety standards. They have furniture which is appropriately sized, for example, nursery tables and chairs enabling them to sit comfortably to undertake activities and eat together. Babies are kept safe through the use of good quality sturdy equipment and some domestic style furniture which provides a comfortable environment. Children are able to move around safely and help

themselves to toys and play materials. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as staff routinely explain and reinforce safe practice, such as not running indoors and tidying up toys after play. Children are aware of safety rules and gentle adult guidance helps them to use equipment safely; for example, children are reminded to wait and use the slide one at a time so that they do not hurt each other. A variety of sleeping arrangements are available for babies ensuring that parents' preferences are met.

Children are cared for safely and steps are effectively taken to reduce risks. The front door remains locked and visitors are asked to sign in on arrival. Daily safety checks are carried out and full written risk assessments are regularly conducted and made available; induction training ensures new staff are aware of the procedures to follow to protect children and keep them safe. Frequent evacuation procedures are practised with the children, ensuring that they become familiar with what to do in the event of an emergency. Safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. Adult to child ratios are maintained throughout the day ensuring children's safety.

Children are well protected from harm as staff are fully aware of their duty to report concerns to the designated member of staff responsible for child protection and to the appropriate agency. A child protection statement is in place and available to parents. The statement highlights the importance of confidentiality and includes procedures for allegations against staff and the Local Safeguarding Children Board's contact number, effectively promoting children's welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is **good**. Children enter the setting confidently, are welcomed by staff and separate from their carers with ease. They demonstrate a sense of belonging, being very familiar with the routines, for example, on arrival the children find their named pegs and hang up their coats and bags. Children undertake a wide range of activities and play opportunities that develop their emotional, social and intellectual capabilities, such as construction, role-play, dressing-up, musical instruments, painting, sand and water play and puzzles. Children develop independence in initiating their own play and learning, being encouraged by staff to make choices with regard to the toys they wish to play with, for example, selecting books to read or playing in the home corner. Children are encouraged to develop self-help skills, such as putting on their own apron for painting and taking turns to be the 'special helper'. Staff talk and listen to the children and are interested in what they say and do. They position themselves at the child's level to support them with their activities, for example at the table while painting. Staff interact very warmly and enthusiastically with babies and young children, speaking kindly and calmly to them, which ensures they feel confident, secure and self-assured. There is good eye contact, use of facial expressions, smiles and lots of cuddles, which helps to form positive attachments. Children enjoy and share stories, songs and rhymes.

Children are offered a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities and the *Birth to Three Matters* framework is being used to plan activities to promote the development of the younger children attending the provision. However, the planning of activities could be improved to maximise opportunities to extend learning and to incorporate observations to plan the next steps for children's play, learning and development.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is **good**. Children's individual needs are well met by staff who value and respect them and promote their self-esteem through interaction and play. Children are warmly welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities. Staff take great care to establish close relationships with the children; there are many opportunities for babies to be valued, cuddled and comforted.

Children access a good range of resources which increase their awareness of diversity and develop a positive attitude to others, for example small world figures, books, puzzles and posters. Different cultures and festivals from around the world are explored through creative play, music and food. Children behave well. Staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management and take the time to explain to the children the 'nursery rules' to help them understand what is expected of them. Staff act as good role models, use praise and encouragement skilfully and understand positive strategies for promoting children's appropriate behaviour. Children play together co-operatively, share the play equipment and are well mannered; they are encouraged to say 'please' and 'thank-you' at snack and meal times.

Partnership with parents is good and contributes to the wellbeing of the children. Parents are warmly welcomed into the setting and readily chat to staff when they collect their child. A detailed notice board and regular newsletters provide parents with information about the provision, its childcare practices and the activities provided; parents receive good information about the outcomes for children based on the *Birth to three matters* framework as they are displayed throughout the nursery. Photographs are used to enable parents to identify members of staff and their child's keyworker. Parents receive information about the procedures to follow for making complaints and the process for resolving them. They are kept updated with their child's progress through open days and daily verbal exchanges of information. The nursery liaises well with all parents to ensure that children's records contain sufficient information to enable appropriate care to be given; for example, parents complete an "all about me" document for their child at initial placement. Staff complete daily sheets regarding food intake, nappy changes and sleep times.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is **good**. The organisation of the setting promotes the welfare and development of all children. The nursery follows appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure staff are suitable to provide care for the children. Relevant induction procedures ensure that new staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Appraisals are regularly undertaken for all staff to make sure they are given sufficient opportunities to improve their skills and identify their developmental needs. Regular staff meetings are held to plan activities and discuss children's progress. Effective use is made of staff, space and resources so that all children are well cared for and supported during their time at the nursery. Staff maintain the required adult to child ratios at all times and this means children receive good adult support with staff spending time interacting and playing with them and supporting their development through play. Children are offered a balanced range of activities in a well organised environment where appropriate good quality toys and equipment are in place and easily accessible. An effective keyworker system is in operation to provide continuity of care.

Children's care and welfare is safeguarded by well maintained documentation. Clear policies and procedures meet requirements to ensure staff are well supported and children protected appropriately. These are regularly reviewed and updated and shared with parents. All required documentation is stored securely and is readily available for inspection.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, standards overall were judged to be inadequate and three actions were raised.

Staff responded promptly and devised an action plan to address the issues. Significant improvements have been made to promote children's safety and wellbeing. The setting needed to ensure that children's dietary requirements were met and that effective arrangements were in place when parents provided food, drinks and packed lunches. Information regarding children's dietary requirements is obtained from parents and recorded in their personal files. All allergies and special dietary requirements are displayed in the kitchen and play rooms. Staff are familiar with them and they are regularly reviewed and updated. Food and drink provided by parents is stored appropriately; packed lunches are labelled and stored in the fridge.

A second action was raised relating to staff deployment; staff are now deployed effectively and children are cared for in smaller groups.

A third action was raised about the system for recording children's attendance. Staff have introduced more rigorous registration procedures so that it is quite clear who is present on the premises at any time; these include arrival and departure times of all children and staff.

#### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints.

### **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are **good**. The registered person **meets** the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation:

- improve the planning of activities to maximise opportunities to extend children's learning and use observations to plan the next steps for children's play, leaning and development.