



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02CM4171
Inspection Date	28 April 2009
Childcare Inspector	Patri Vint
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	
Type of Care	Childminding

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?

The childminder has been registered with the British Forces Early Years Service since April 2008 to provide care for six children under eight years and overnight care for one child under eight years. The childminder currently provides care for two children.

The childminder lives with her husband and two children aged five and three years, in a three-bedroom property located on a military housing estate and within walking distance of local amenities and play parks. All areas of the property are used for childminding purposes except the cellar. A fully enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder offers a non-smoking environment.

The family has a hamster.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and uses their public liability insurance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **outstanding**. Children's health is given the highest priority as they follow clear and highly effective hygiene and personal care routines, consistently encouraged and supported by the childminder. Children have an excellent understanding about good hygiene practice and know, for example, why they need to wash their hands, as to 'get the germs away'. They confidently identify their own personal needs; they were observed independently requesting to wash their hands after a messy play activity and asking for a tissue to blow their nose. Children are protected from the spread of infection as they play with toys and equipment that are routinely cleaned and sterilised. A clear sick child policy, shared with parents, ensures that children are protected from illness and infection and well looked after if they become ill whilst in the childminder's care. Children are further protected as the childminder has a current first-aid certificate and maintains excellent documentation for the recording of accidents and incidents.

Children are well nourished and are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks. Children's dietary requirements, personal preferences and food allergies are considered and children are encouraged to make healthy choices when choosing their food. Meal times are a relaxed, social occasion when the childminder and the children sit together enjoying each others' company. Children have an excellent understanding of healthy eating through well planned topic work, such as looking at where food comes from; they are encouraged to help preparing snacks and enjoy the weekly baking sessions. Children can independently access fresh drinking water at any time.

Children greatly enjoy outdoor play and are stimulated by the wide range of activities provided that contribute to their good health. Their physical skills develop as they have the opportunity to play daily in the fresh air with the extensive and varied range of equipment available in the garden, such as trampoline, bats, balls and wheeled toys; additionally, they thoroughly enjoy regular trips to local soft play centres and play parks. Children's fine motor skills are encouraged as the childminder provides suitable activities, such as cutting, sticking and completing jigsaw puzzles.

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

The provision is **outstanding**. Children thrive in this homely and secure environment where they can move around freely and safely, develop confidence and have the opportunity to choose their activities, toys and games. Children's art work is proudly exhibited on a display board demonstrating the high regard the childminder has for the children in her care.

There is an abundance of age and stage appropriate toys and resources which are well maintained and stimulate children's learning and support their development. The childminder carefully considers which toys to set out according to children's interests. Children are also able to self-select what they would like to play with, as most resources are easily accessible. Children are confident in their environment to approach and ask the childminder for additional items which might be stored away. Appropriate furniture and equipment is provided to support children's differing stages of development, such as booster seats and step-up stools, thus meeting their individual needs.

The childminder has assessed her provision and made exceptional effort to ensure children's safety; for example, the use of safety gates prevents children from accessing the stairs and the cellar. Meticulous daily safety checks conducted before children's arrival ensure the premises and resources are safe and hazards minimised. Children's safety is further considered on outings as the childminder carries out a risk assessment before each trip; clear procedures relating to outings are in place and include a lost child policy. Children are supervised at all times and the childminder ensures they are not left alone with any adult who has not been vetted. Consideration has been

given to the care of the children in an emergency; the childminder has established links, with parents' permission, with other registered childminders familiar to the children and who would be willing to offer emergency care cover.

Children gain an excellent understanding of what to do in an emergency as the childminder has devised a written escape plan which she practises with the children on a regular basis. Children are also learning to avoid accidental injuries as the childminder gently prompts them to think about their actions, for example, while playing 'hide and seek', she encouraged the children to think about their choice of hiding place.

Children are protected from harm as the childminder has a thorough understanding of child protection issues and of the actions to take, should she have concerns about a child in her care. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and maintains appropriate documentation for the recording of any concerns. Children's safety and well-being are further protected as the childminder has devised a comprehensive child protection policy which is shared with parents to ensure that they are aware of her responsibilities in this matter.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children flourish within this welcoming environment well supported by the childminder who gives them her full attention and who is dedicated to her work. Play areas are well organised and made to feel welcoming as the childminder ensures that toys and resources are attractively put out prior to children's arrival.

Children's language and communication skills are developed as the childminder, who has a natural rapport with the children, joins in with their play, consistently discussing what they are doing and skilfully asking open-ended questions to extend their learning. Children are engrossed in their play and enjoy the variety of adult-led and child-initiated activities provided, supported by a wide range of toys and play materials that are regularly rotated to maintain children's interests, for example small world and role play equipment which fosters children's imagination. Children benefit from a variety of first hand experiences, such as weekly baking sessions where they develop their numeracy skills and learn to use technology, such as food processors and scales. Children are learning to care for pets as they enjoy supervised access to the childminder's hamster.

Children's social skills are fostered as they are provided with daily trips to the library or parent and toddler groups where they enjoy the company of others. The childminder has liaised with the local nursery setting and arranged for example for the children to accompany the nursery on a trip to find out about military vehicles.

A weekly planning system based on the Early Years Foundation Stage and built around various topics of interest to the children helps to engage them and motivate their learning. Some observations are conducted, shared with parents, and based on children's achievements, but they are not currently used to plan for children's next steps of learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **outstanding**. Children are exceptionally well cared for by the childminder who has a warm and close relationship with the children and their families. Children are beginning to gain a positive view of the wider world as their awareness of diversity and acknowledgement of other cultures is actively promoted by the childminder through the provision of a range of activities, such as celebrating different festivals and organising trips in the local German and Dutch communities.

Although there are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attending the provision, the childminder demonstrates clear knowledge of the steps that she would need to take to promote the welfare and development of any child with additional needs.

Children have a strong sense of belonging through strategies introduced by the childminder, for example, children are provided with a draw string bag which they are encouraged to decorate, as part of an established settling-in period, and which is used to store their personal belongings.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Children use good manners and show respect for others, for example saying 'please and thank you' without prompting, which is in turn praised by the childminder who acts as a positive role model with a kind and temperate approach to the children in her care. A written behaviour management policy is shared and agreed with parents; this is effectively used by the childminder to influence her approach to behaviour management. Children's achievements are highly praised and children are made to feel special and proud of their work; for example, during inspection the childminder took a photograph of the children and their art work so that it could be shared with the children's parents.

Children's individual needs are identified through detailed discussion with parents whose partnership is highly valued by the childminder. Parents are provided with information packs at initial placement, which include copies of the childminder's policies and procedures. Parents receive daily verbal information as well as a written weekly report which is produced by the childminder to highlight what their children have achieved each day, illustrated by the use of photographs. Information is also displayed for parents on a notice board which includes details on how to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is **outstanding**. Children benefit from the childminder's excellent organisational skills and professionalism. Space, time and resources are used effectively to ensure that children's individual needs are given the utmost priority to help them make progress. Adult: child ratios are maintained at all time and the childminder carefully considers the number of children she looks after, as to ensure that she can give sufficient and effective support to help all children in her care feel secure and confident.

A vast array of written documentation effectively underpins the care provided, promoting children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution. A detailed attendance record is accurately kept. The childminder keeps clear, confidential records on children's individual requirements as well as parental consent pertaining to their child's care needs.

The childminder is committed to improving her practice and has attended various training courses that will develop and improve the service she provides.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

No complaints have been made to British Forces Early Years Service

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:

- promote the outcomes for children by using observations to plan the next steps for children's play, learning and development.