



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC122
Inspection Date	25/01/08
Childcare Inspector	Kathryn Rodger
Registered Provision -Setting Name	Carpet Commandos Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address	Rudolstadterweg 13/1-4 Blankenhagen 33330 Gütersloh
Type of Care	Full Day Care

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 satisfactory . The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Carpet Commandos Day Nursery, previously known as Building Blocks Day Nursery, opened in 1991 and serves the needs of British service families and civilian employees attached to the military community. It is registered for 54 children aged from 6 weeks to 5 years and occupies premises located within a married quarter estate. Children are accommodated in 2 units according to age; one unit is used for babies and children under 2 and the other for children aged 2 to 5 years. Each unit consists of two ground floor flats linked by an arch way. Children have access to a large secure outside area that offers a good range of outdoor play opportunities. The nursery has sole use of the premises.

Carpet Commandos Day Nursery opens 5 days a week from 07.45 hrs to 17.00 hrs, all year round. Parents are provided with the choice and flexibility for their child to attend part or full time. There are currently no children attending that have special needs.

The provision is managed by the Army Welfare Service. Currently 10 staff work with the children; the manager and 2 supervisors are CACHE trained. In total 4 members of staff have a level 3 qualification and one has a level 2 qualification in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children are well protected from the spread of germs, as effective health and hygiene policies and procedures are in place and well implemented by staff. Good simple routines are followed which include regular hand washing and teeth cleaning; staff use sterilising gel and wear gloves when changing nappies. Children learn about healthy living during the daily routine because staff explain procedures clearly to children and help to make them enjoyable experiences. For example older children have fun finding their own name initial on their toothbrush cups.

Children's healthy growth and development is promoted through the provision of healthy snack and drink choices, for example fruit and milk. Parents provide lunch and children learn to make healthy choices during snack and meal times as staff support and encourage children to choose appropriately and learn about their own needs, drinks are available throughout the session including during outside play. Children's special dietary requirements are met as rigorous procedures are in place to ensure information gathered from parents is adhered to; for example, information is displayed confidentially in staff areas and effective systems are in place to ensure food is properly prepared and served.

Children take part in physical activity daily in the secure outside play area. Children have memorable experiences playing outside and enjoy choosing between the outdoor equipment provided, such as toy cars and play houses. Children's sleep and rest needs are met as babies and young children are provided with clean, safe sleep and rest facilities, according to individual needs and parents' wishes.

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

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children are welcomed into the setting by friendly staff who greet children by name. Children's pictures and photos are displayed on the walls and children know where space has been set aside to store their individual belongings. Children in the baby unit enjoy a quiet well maintained and inviting environment, however this is not successfully mirrored in the unit for 2-5 year olds, as children's belongings are stored untidily, some equipment is broken and displays look uninviting. Children do however learn about the importance of keeping their environment tidy as they help put toys away in boxes to keep their play environment safe and clear from hazards.

Children benefit from equipment that is generally safe and suitable in both units. Children's toys are appropriate for each age range and are suitably stored in each room in shelving units, which promotes independent choice. Children benefit from a good range of facilities, as the setting is well equipped with dishwashers to sterilize dishes, washing machines to ensure bedding is clean and toileting equipment to help children with potty training.

Children are cared for in a suitable, safe environment where effective systems are in place to promote safety. Risk assessments and daily safety checks are completed, however not all identified risks are accurately recorded, such as the broken gate. Children are kept safe as access to the nursery is closely monitored, entrance doors are made secure, a record of visitors is accurately kept and registers are maintained. Children are made to feel safe and secure because staff use the keyworker system to maintain consistency and continuity of care and children are grouped appropriately within designated rooms with suitable adult to child ratios.

Children are protected from harm as the setting has a nominated person for child protection and

staff are trained and know what procedures to follow, should they have concerns about any child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through activities that are carefully planned and evaluated by staff using the *Birth to three matters* framework and *Early Learning Goals*. Children are offered a range of play activities, both indoor and outdoor, such as painting, reading and singing. Children listen to the staff and respond to their requests.

Babies' and children under 2's communication skills are developed through activities such as the 'song sack', when a child chooses an object such as a plate which symbolises the next song to be sung, 'Jelly on a plate'. Children are encouraged to participate in the activities and clearly enjoy them, supported by staff through the use of praise and encouragement. Children in the over 2's unit show interest in activities, such as story time and singing, however opportunities to further develop children's learning could be improved through more consistent and effective interaction by staff.

Children have free access to play materials from the open shelving in both units, which helps them explore and choose which toys they would like to play with. Children are offered the opportunity to develop their creative and imaginative skills, for example junk modelling.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. Children's sense of belonging is reinforced with individual children's photos on coat hooks and wall displays of family tree collages, containing photos and drawings. Children are beginning to learn about the wider society as project themes include topics such as different countries and flags.

Children who attend who are bilingual are identified by staff and children are beginning to value and learn about each others' similarities and differences; they discuss each others' family trees; they are taught basic sign language for example for 'please' and 'thank you' and explained why some children may need to use sign language to help them express themselves.

Children learn the difference between right and wrong through everyday activities; for example they are reminded not to push when playing outside and they sing 'please' and 'thank you' before snacks and meals. Children's unwanted behaviour is managed calmly and effectively by staff.

Children are cared for in an environment which promotes partnership with parents to meet the needs of each child. Information is gathered from parents at induction and parents can comfortably approach staff daily. Plenty of daily feedback is given to parents and information varies according to children's differing ages; for example, parents of babies receive detailed sheets with information on sleep times, food intake, nappy changes and activities, whilst parents of older children are given information on their behaviour and activities undertaken.

Organisation

The organisation is **satisfactory**. Children are suitably protected because effective recruiting and vetting procedures are in place; staff who have not completed procedures are clearly identified and are not left alone with children. In addition, rota systems are in place to nominate key staff members to specific duties, such as nappy changing and the organisation of snacks and lunches. Children's wellbeing is regarded highly; half of the staff are qualified in early years and almost half the remaining staff are working towards an appropriate qualification. The setting has also introduced in-house training sessions to support staff in their professional development.

Adult and child ratios are maintained and managed well; contingency procedures are put in place,

for example to deal with staff absences or to further promote safety when a risk is identified. Children are looked after in key groups suitable to their needs and staff are deployed effectively to ensure that all children are given the best opportunity to participate and make progress.

All policies, procedures and required documentation are in place, including a complaints policy; however, some documents are not accurately updated or organised coherently, for example, staff's files, policies and procedures and accident books.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was given 2 actions which have been addressed. Procedures for documenting and adhering to children's dietary requirements are in place and effectively implemented; the procedures include a system to share this information with new and supply staff. The second action related to the deployment of staff, especially during snack time; a rota system is now in place with only one person responsible for serving food; during meal times, children are supervised and are encouraged to sit at the table whilst eating to minimise risks to their health and safety.

Complaints 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 **satisfactory**. 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 recommendations:

- improve safety by ensuring all hazards are incorporated into risk assessments
- improve care, learning and play by ensuring that adults interact with children at a level which extends children's language and thinking skills
- ensure all documentation is accurately maintained and available for inspection at all times.