



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC125
Inspection Date	28 June 2010
Childcare Inspector	Kim Weaver
Registered Provision -Setting Name Suppressed if childminder	Little Angels Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address Suppressed if childminder	Tannenweg 15/1 33428 Harsewinkel
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 **outstanding**. The registered person **meets** the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Angels Day Nursery operates from a ground floor flat located within a married quarter estate. The nursery serves the needs of military personnel and their families; most parents live within the local area although some travel to access the nursery. There are three themed playrooms, children's toilet and nappy changing room, facilities for snacks and meals, an office and a secure garden. The nursery is registered to provide 15 places for children aged between 12 months to under 4 years; there are currently 24 children on roll.

The nursery opens five days a week during term times only from 9.00 to 13.00 with children attending a variety of sessions within these hours with some children staying for lunch. There are no children attending with special educational needs.

The provision is managed by the Army Welfare Service. The staff team comprises a manager, deputy, four keyworkers and one bank staff. The manager is qualified to level 3 and the deputy to level 2; two keyworkers hold a level 3 qualification whilst the others are currently working towards a recognised qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **outstanding**. Children flourish because staff follow highly effective procedures and practices which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children show increasing independence in their personal care through the exceptional support and guidance from staff. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and are developing excellent self-care skills through daily routines and discussion. For example, children thoroughly wash their hands before eating, meticulously washing between their fingers, and talk about 'washing the germs away' which helps them to gain an excellent understanding of hygiene. Children use individual labelled cloths to wash their face and paper towels to dry their hands. They take great pride in independently getting their own toothbrush, as toothbrush cups are labelled with names and pictures of animals which the children identify themselves. Furthermore, children enjoy a healthy environment as staff follow robust health and hygiene procedures; for example, staff are heedful about the use of aprons and gloves when preparing food and changing nappies. Changing mats are cleaned thoroughly with anti-bacterial spray after each use to prevent the spread of infection. Children are well protected from the sun's harmful rays, as staff are highly vigilant and ensure sunhats are worn and encourage children to apply sun cream when they go outside.

Children benefit as several members of staff have received training in first aid which means appropriate care can be given if there is a minor accident or incident. Children are further protected as the setting maintains a detailed sickness policy and implements procedures that ensure children do not attend when they are ill. All required medication, accident records and documents are meticulously maintained to ensure that children's medical needs are met and information is shared with parents.

Children who have food allergies and medical conditions are identified by photograph, in the kitchen area, to alert staff about children's specific dietary needs. Children learn the importance of eating healthily and enjoy a variety of nutritious and balanced snacks which are freshly prepared on the premises. Children choose from options such as wholemeal toast, assorted toppings, fruit, yoghurt and raisins. Children eat with gusto, discussing which foods are their favourite, making decisions about what they would like to eat and confidently and politely ask for more. Children are actively involved in the preparation of food and enjoy taking part in cooking activities. Lunchtimes are relaxed and pleasant occasions enjoyed by the children who sit together on suitable chairs or in highchairs. Staff are diligent in ensuring foods provided by parents are refrigerated carefully.

Children explore, test and develop physical control in stimulating indoor and outdoor experiences. For example, younger children were observed crawling along a tunnel developing their spatial awareness, gaining control as they travelled around, under and over the wide range of equipment. Older children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise and relish the extensive range of activities. Children's finer manipulative skills and control are actively encouraged through interesting craft activities. Children learn about the benefits and effects of exercise on their bodies. They recognise that they become hot after physical activity; staff ensure that drinking water is always available and children are confident in pouring their own drinks when they are thirsty.

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

The provision is **outstanding**. Children are cared for in a vibrant, child-friendly environment. The main playroom is extremely well organised, with each age group using dedicated base rooms as well as a shared dining room. Young children settle

exceptionally well in their playroom, where they benefit from small tables and comfortable, cosy areas as well as ample floor space to move and play freely. The setting is brightly decorated with children's art work, valuing their achievements and helping them to develop a sense of belonging as the children talk about what they have been doing. Children's understanding of the daily routine and available activities is encouraged through visual timetables and the use of pictorial symbols throughout the setting.

Children are very secure as access to the provision is meticulously monitored; the doors are locked and the presence of visitors is promptly recorded and clear procedures are implemented for the collection of children. The generous staff ratios mean that children receive an exceptional level of support and supervision; staff are skilled at keeping children safe whilst not compromising their independence. Excellent storage facilities maximise the use of space and actions are taken to reduce any risk to children; this allows children to safely enjoy and explore both the indoor and outdoor environment; staff carry out thorough daily safety checks and risk assessments are rigorously reviewed. This is evidenced by the low entry in the accident record. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe, for example through gentle reminders by staff such as 'please mind the step' when going into the garden. Furthermore, emergency evacuations of the premises are regularly conducted; appropriate fire safety equipment, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are fitted and regularly checked to ensure that they remain in good working order. Children have easy and safe access to an abundance of high quality toys and equipment which are suitable for their differing ages and stages of development, rotated for interest and maintained in excellent working order. Children are extremely happy and confident because they are able to make choices in their play.

Children are well protected from harm as staff demonstrate an exceptionally clear understanding of safeguarding children and the procedures to follow if concerns are identified, keeping children safe. Detailed policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents to ensure they are aware of the setting's responsibilities. High priority is given to training, enabling staff to update their knowledge and understanding. As a result all staff are fully trained in safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **outstanding**. Children flourish in this nurturing and highly stimulating environment where their care and educational needs are met to an exceptional level. Children are eager to attend and relish their time in the vibrant and safe setting which puts them first. They are animated and enthusiastic as they make choices about their activities and play opportunities. Children become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children gain from a keyworker system and the close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust, and help them develop a strong sense of self. Children's self esteem is consistently fostered, helping to develop a positive attitude to learning. This empowers children.

Children benefit as the majority of staff have attended training in the Early Years Foundation Stage and continually improve their own professional knowledge through training, for example by attending relevant courses to keep in touch with current thinking and best practice. The present theme 'People who help us' is successfully linked to the EYFS Practice Guidance, helping to engage children's interest and promote their learning. Long and medium term planning is completed and covers themes and topics that support all areas of learning. Weekly plans follow observations of children, take into account their interests and support their learning needs towards the early learning goals on an individual basis. Evaluation is rigorous and achievements are well recorded. Staff use this

information to plan future activities and experiences that are stimulating and exciting, and take children further in their learning, as evidenced in tracker books and individual developmental files.

Children profit from mixing with children of other ages, which helps them to learn to communicate and develop strong relationships with one another. Children's personal development is very well supported because staff are skilful at using encouragement and praise to acknowledge achievements, which boosts children's confidence. Children talk happily about their home life and family, learning to make sense of their feelings and emotions with sensitive support from the staff. Children enjoy an excellent range of stimulating and challenging experiences; they learn how to take turns when playing games and are welcomed into ongoing activities, developing their understanding of how to share both toys and space. Children demonstrate independence and show pride in their surroundings, for example, an older child pushed his chair under the table and helped the younger children carry the used utensils to a member of staff to be washed.

Children play a dynamic part in their creative development. They enjoy playing with a variety of musical instruments including shakers and tambourines and are fascinated as they discover how to play their instruments in a loud, quiet, fast or slow manner. Children enthusiastically join in with action rhymes and often sing unaccompanied. Children become engrossed when staff provide a range of props to stimulate conversation during circle time and high quality adult-child interactions are extremely supportive of early communication skills. Additionally, children learn to listen to each other and take turns to speak because opportunities to sit together and chat are planned for each day. Children are developing a love of books as they join in with interactive stories and staff read stories in an exciting and imaginative manner. Children have ample opportunities to practise their writing skills through their play. Staff place writing materials in different areas to specifically encourage children to explore and experiment with writing as a means of recording and communicating. They provide an inspiring writing table where children independently develop their skills, using a variety of pens, papers and stamps. Children create pictures using a variety of media, and produce artwork which is linked to their topics. For example, they make colourful pictures using a wide variety of resources. Children show high levels of imagination and skills in designing and making models, particularly through both playdough and recycled materials.

Children's mathematical development arises out of daily experiences as well as planned activities. They sing counting songs with enthusiasm, and play simple board games in small groups. Staff are skilled in differentiating activities so that all children can participate and succeed at their own level. Children throughout the setting become inquisitive learners; an older child confidently questions what the visitor is doing and responds excitedly by saying "I like all the toys and this red car" when asked to show their favourite toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **outstanding**. Children thoroughly enjoy their time in this exciting setting where they are valued and respected as individuals, are self assured and confident and have extensive opportunities to develop a positive awareness of their own and wider community. Children learn to value the similarities and differences between themselves and others through discussion, the use of play resources and well planned purposeful activities and outings. Children gain a well-developed respect for others and their beliefs, cultures and traditions through well planned creative activities, such as role play, jigsaws, books reflecting positive non-stereotypical roles, alongside festivals, helping to raise children's awareness of the multi-cultural world.

Although there are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attending the provision, past evidence demonstrates the effective support provided by the named person responsible for special educational needs in order to meet children's specific needs.

Children's behaviour is of a consistently high standard. Children have an admirable awareness of right and wrong according to their individual stage of development. Children play exceptionally well together, happily sharing and taking turns with resources. Children demonstrate close, affectionate relationships with all staff.

Children benefit as a strong working partnership between staff and parents is very much in evidence; parents are consistently encouraged by staff to contribute to their child's development; they are invited to regularly access their child's profile, records and contribute to the setting of future targets, fund raising and community events. Parents are effusive in their praise of the setting and consider staff to be exceptionally caring, reliable, trustworthy and totally committed to their work.

Organisation

The organisation is **outstanding**. Children relish their time in the setting and demonstrate an excellent attitude to learning and are happy, settled and purposefully engaged throughout the session. Children's learning, development and care is enhanced through the exceptional organisation and the outstanding leadership and management of the setting. Children benefit from being looked after by well qualified and experienced staff who are very caring and who work remarkably well as a team in order to provide children with a wide range of interesting and challenging activities and play opportunities. Staff treat each other with courtesy at all times; they show a great deal of professionalism and are excellent role models for the children. They are encouraged to attend regular training, which meets their individual needs and continually improves the outcomes for children. The manager has high expectations of all staff, and leads by example. She values the staff as the nursery's greatest resource and staff feel valued and supported. This ensures a happy atmosphere in which children thrive.

Children are highly protected as staff are subject to robust recruitment, vetting and induction procedures. Recruitment procedures have been reviewed and potential applicants are invited to attend the setting for a session to assess their knowledge of childcare matters and ability to work with children before being employed. Newly appointed staff are supported to learn about how the setting runs and what is expected of them, including a thorough understanding of policies and procedures. The manager recognises the importance of carrying out regular reviews of induction to ensure staff understand all aspects covered, particularly in relation to their roles and responsibilities and suitability to work with children. The excellent appraisal scheme ensures that the nursery's comprehensive policies and procedures are consistently applied and understood by each member of staff, which underpins the outstanding practice of the setting. The manager ensures that the nursery maintains excellent adult: child ratios, and staff are effectively deployed so that they spend maximum time working directly with the children. The manager and her team are highly committed to working in partnership with parents in order to provide continuity of care for their children and ensure they receive the individual care and attention that they need. All required documentation and records are efficiently maintained, well organised, up-to-date and stored securely, including comprehensive records of children's hours of attendance.

The high quality of the provision means that the nursery meets the needs of the range of

children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was given recommendations which have been addressed. Positive steps have been taken when providing personal care; routines have improved during nappy changing procedures, which means children are no longer waiting for long periods. A training action plan is in place for each member of staff showing how qualifications will be met and in what timescale, reviewed regularly through staff meetings and appraisals.

Complaints since the last inspection

N/A

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.