



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC126
Inspection Date	11 November 2008
Childcare Inspector	Mrs Sharon Ralfe
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Little Chicks Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Block 3A Mansergh Bks BFPO 113
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 **good**. The registered person **meets** the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Chicks Day Nursery opened in 2000. It is situated on the first floor of a military building located on Mansergh Barracks. The nursery serves the needs of British Service families and civilian employees attached to the local military community.

The nursery is registered to provide care for 38 children under 4 years; of these, not more than 11 may be under 2 years. Little Chicks Day Nursery opens from 08.45 to 15.00, Monday to Friday, during school term times only. Parents are provided with the choice and flexibility for their child to attend part of the day or full day. There are currently two children attending who have special needs; three children speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is co-ordinated by the Army Welfare Service. Currently, there are five full-time and five part-time staff working with the children; the manager, deputy and one member of staff have a level 3 qualification in early years and one member of staff has a level 2.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in a clean environment where good hygiene procedures are implemented; staff wear disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing and premises are clean and well maintained. Children become increasingly independent in their personal care and gain understanding of good hygiene practice through support and guidance from staff; for example they are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before meals and brush their teeth after meals; however, opportunities are sometimes missed to remind children of the importance of covering their mouths when coughing to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's health is promoted as they are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks. Children's allergies and dietary requirements are considered appropriately and a monthly menu provides a good variety of different foods which appeal to children and introduces a range of tastes and textures. Drinks are available throughout the session and children are given a choice of milk or fresh drinking water at meal times. Children and staff eat their meals together, which encourages good interaction, social development and good table manners.

Children have good opportunities to exercise both indoors and outdoors. They have at least one outside play session each day when they are able to run around freely, play games and use equipment to push and pedal, such as cars and bicycles. Younger children also benefit from fresh air as they are taken for walks around the area in pushchairs. Indoors children dance and move to music and learn to manoeuvre around obstacle courses using a range of equipment which develop their physical skills, control and coordination. These activities promote children's health and physical wellbeing.

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

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children play in a safe and secure environment where they are able to use a wide variety of suitable toys and play materials. These are appropriately set out and allow children to access them independently. Daily safety checks and regular risk assessments both indoors and outdoors enable staff to identify and address any potential hazards. However the procedure for discarding broken equipment is not always followed, which could compromise children's safety.

The building is securely locked when children are present to prevent unauthorised access and to ensure that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. Effective procedures are in place to ensure that children are only collected by persons who are authorised to do so. Visitors to the building are monitored and not left unsupervised with children. The fire evacuation procedure is practised with the children, thus helping them to understand what to do in the event of an emergency.

Children's welfare is promoted as staff have attended safeguarding training; they have a secure understanding of child protection issues and are aware of their responsibilities to record and refer concerns. There are clear policies in place to support staff in implementing appropriate procedures in the event of any concerns and to ensure that only suitable people have regular contact with the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children are happy, settled and well occupied throughout the session. Staff join in with children's play and respond to them with warmth and interest. Children take part in a good variety of activities and experiences over the course of the day which support their learning and development. Children's development is further enhanced by group activities such as snack

time and story time which enable children to develop their social skills and independence. Children enjoy the opportunity to take turns being 'Today's Helper' giving out cups and engaging in discussion. They feel at ease within the setting because staff know the children well and are responsive to their individual needs, which includes developing children's confidence by praising their efforts. Relationships between staff and children are positive and caring; staff show an interest in what children say and do and respond well to their requests. Children clearly enjoy their time at the setting.

Children are developing a good understanding of numbers, counting and colours with good encouragement from staff; for example when playing dominos, they listen quietly to instructions and respond well when it is their turn. This helps them make good progress in learning and personal development.

All children are able to access a broad range of activities and resources, such as jigsaws, construction, books, musical instruments, manipulative toys, and creative play. Staff have a good understanding of the way children learn and develop, and provide a good balance of structured and free play activities. Children enjoy participating in purposeful activities, such as imaginative play. Staff develop children's thinking by asking appropriate questions, ensuring children are given time and encouragement to answer. Children's relaxation is promoted well and they are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. Children are treated with equal value and their individual needs are met; they are made to feel welcome by staff who create an atmosphere which is warm and friendly. Children settle well because an effective settling-in procedure, which includes a keyworker system, is in place. This helps them develop a sense of belonging and develop trusting relationships with staff. Displays of children's artwork and photographs of individual members of staff and children engaged in various activities contribute to the provision of a warm and welcoming environment for all children, staff and parents. Children play with some resources that reflect positive images of the world around them; this includes dolls, books and small world figures.

Children with special needs are supported appropriately as the nursery works well with parents and other agencies. Staff's knowledge, experience and good partnership with parents mean that children who have English as a second language are effectively supported, ensuring their individual needs are met.

Children benefit from the staff's good understanding of positive behaviour management and effective role modelling. Staff are calm and consistent in their approach and children respond to the praise and encouragement shown to them. This helps to promote their self esteem and develop their confidence. Children behave well and play cooperatively together, learning to share and take turns. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents is good. Information is shared with parents through informal daily discussions and written information. Newsletters are regularly distributed and information displayed on the notice board. Daily reports are completed for all children, which keeps parents informed of their children's progress and care routines.

Organisation

The organisation is **good**. All required documentation which contributes to children's good health, safety and wellbeing is in place. Children benefit from clear policies and procedures which are reflected in daily practice. Good overall organisation of the environment ensures that children benefit from having access to a varied range of safe and stimulating resources which are arranged

well to maximise play. Children are able to move around independently and confidently and they receive a good level of support due to high adult: child ratios.

Children's care is enhanced as they are looked after by staff who have good understanding of child development and demonstrate a commitment to update their knowledge through attending various courses, such as on behaviour management, equal opportunities and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Several members of staff hold appropriate qualifications.

Staff have clear roles and responsibilities and work well together as a team; they all receive induction training, which ensures that they are familiar with the nursery's routines, policies and practices, thus enhancing the effectiveness of their work.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure the daily register was accurately maintained and to promote safety by ensuring cleaning materials in the toilet area were made safe or inaccessible to children.

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 **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 safety by ensuring children are provided with play materials and equipment which are safe and maintained in good condition.