



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC127
Inspection Date	24 May 2007
Childcare Inspector	Mrs Karen Deans
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Playpen Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Block 31 Princess Royal Barracks Marienfelder Strasse 33330 Gütersloh
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?

Playpen Day Nursery was first opened in 1998. The nursery operates from a one storey, semi-detached building located on a military barracks. The premises include 3 playrooms and separate toilet, office and kitchen facilities. Children also have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery is well established and serves the needs of the military personnel and their families. It is registered to provide 22 places for children aged between 12 months to 4 years. The nursery opens five days a week from 07:45 to 17:00 hrs most of the year round. The nursery is co-ordinated by the Army Welfare Service.

Eight staff currently work with the children. The manager has a level 2 qualification and is working towards a level 3 qualification in early years. The deputy and one other member of staff are also working towards a level 3 qualification. The manager is supernumerary and each child is allocated a keyworker.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in a clean environment where effective procedures and practices ensure that children's physical, nutritional and health needs are met. Children follow good personal hygiene routines as they wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Individual face cloths are used which maintains high levels of cleanliness and helps to prevent cross-infection. Children are encouraged to brush their teeth after eating using their own toothbrushes which are regularly sterilised. Posters are displayed above the washbasin reminding children to wash their hands. Children are well taken care of if they become unwell or have an accident, because most staff hold an appropriate first aid certificate and the sickness exclusion policy is strictly implemented. The administration of medication is correctly recorded and parents are given written information specifying the dose and time the medication was given, thus minimising the risk of accidental overdose. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs so that they remain healthy.

Children develop a good understanding of healthy eating through topics and activities, for example 'Foods that are good for you'. They are provided with a varied range of snacks that are nutritious and healthy and that meet their dietary needs, for example, fresh fruit, vegetables and yoghurts. Staff take into account parents' wishes and maintain clear records of any allergies or medical conditions to ensure all the children have appropriate and suitable meals. Snack and lunch times are enjoyable, relaxed occasions where staff and children sit together, sociably sharing conversation. Sleeping and feeding routines for younger children are monitored and recorded appropriately and discussed with parents. Babies and young children are offered regular drinks throughout the day. However, older children do not have independent access to drinking water and staff need to be more aware of when they might need to encourage children to ask for drinks when they are thirsty, especially in warmer weather.

Children enjoy a varied range of physical activities that contribute to their good health. They have regular access to the outdoor play area and walk to the nearby gym and 'Little Monkeys', a soft play area. Activities include use of both small and large equipment to develop strength and co-ordination. Children develop a good awareness of space. They move around confidently, with control and in a variety of ways, including running, jumping and hopping. They also use a good range of small equipment, which includes scissors, glue spreaders and coloured pencils, developing hand to eye co-ordination and small manipulative skills. Babies learn to move about independently with staff support.

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

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment both indoors and outdoors. For example, a fully enclosed purpose built outdoor play area means children can move around freely and safely. Children are protected from potential hazards, staff complete daily safety checks and risk assessments are carried out to minimise identified risks. Access to the provision is monitored well, for example, the main door is locked to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised and glass doors allow staff to ascertain the identity of visitors before allowing entry. Children's safety is well considered when on outings and walks; staff ensure there is a ratio of one adult to every two children and babies and young children are strapped securely into double pushchairs. Children are learning about their own personal safety, as staff routinely explain and reinforce safe practice, such as sitting properly on a chair so that they do not fall and hurt themselves. Adult to child ratios are good and staff supervise children at all times. Good systems are in place to record the attendance of children and staff. Fire drills are practised and recorded and an evacuation plan is displayed.

Children select from a good range of toys and equipment which is appropriate for their age and stage of development. Resources are stored at a low level and are easily accessible to the children, developing their independence and freedom of choice. These are regularly cleaned, checked and maintained in good condition. The environment is warm and welcoming and examples of children's art work are displayed and the use of photographs help parents to see samples of activities giving children a sense of belonging. Children show interest in their displays and readily talk about their family on the 'Family Tree'.

Children are well protected by staff who have good knowledge and understanding of child protection. This is maintained and updated through training. The setting has good policies and procedures in place which staff read and they are fully aware of the steps to take, should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children enjoy and achieve as staff plan a balanced range of activities and topics which is effectively linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The daily routine is varied and flexible, with times for children to rest, have meals and take part in activities both indoors and outdoors. Children make progress as staff have developed systems to observe and monitor children's play and use these observations to effectively plan for the next steps in children's learning. These are recorded in children's individual files which are shared with parents.

Children are happy and settled in their environment. The atmosphere is friendly and the children approach the staff for assistance very easily. Staff take time to listen to what children say and encourage them to think about what they are trying to achieve. Children are very sociable to both adults and other children. They access an extensive range of equipment and play resources which they are able to choose freely, thus increasing their independence, for example, various craft activities, sand and water play, books, jigsaws, games and dressing up clothes. Children are well supported by staff and the keyworker system ensures continuity of care. All children are encouraged to join in and fully participate in the activities provided as staff have a good understanding of children's developmental needs. Babies and young children move around freely exploring their environment and accessing a variety of sensory, interactive toys and tactile resources. They receive cuddles and supportive interaction from staff who sit on the floor, talking, using eye contact, facial expressions and language to develop babies' communication skills. The playroom for babies is stimulating with a wide range of displayed art work, pictures, posters and mobiles to create a warm environment. Colour, texture and light have been used well to create a relaxed atmosphere.

Children enjoy listening to stories and staff endeavour to include any children, for example, who are not wholly engaged by asking them "What happens next?" Children become interested in the natural world, growth and change. They plant flowers in window boxes, taking care of them by watering them daily and watching them grow. Children are given regular opportunities to access outdoor activities and to play with a good range of toys, for example, bicycles, scooters, sit in cars, balls, hoops and cones. This ensures children develop in all areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. All children and their families are welcomed, valued, respected and fully included in all aspects of nursery life. Children benefit from being looked after by staff who display care and warmth toward them, showing interest and commitment to their development and learning. The provision offers good support for children with additional needs. This is maintained through staff working with parents and liaising effectively with other agencies to fully support the child and their families. Staff recognise each child as an individual and work closely with parents to meet their child's needs.

Children develop a positive attitude to others and foster a good understanding of the wider world and the local community. They have access to a good range of resources and activities that show positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Children behave well. They develop a sense of belonging to the nursery as they become familiar with routines and expectations. They have friendly relationships with the staff and other children. Children are aware of their boundaries and take responsibility for their own behaviour. They eagerly help to tidy up, accompanied by music, and are rewarded with a 'smiley face' sticker which they proudly display on a wall chart. The child with the most stickers receives a certificate to take home at the end of the week. Praise is given freely to children, ensuring that they develop confidence and self esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Children benefit from effective information sharing with parents through newsletters, daily chats, detailed notice boards and 'daily diaries'. Detailed information on the 'Birth to 3 matters' framework is available for parents and this helps them to be involved in children's learning. Settling-in sessions are actively encouraged to support children's confidence. Photographic displays give parents insight into the varied activities their children participate in. Staff share information about children's progress routinely and formal parents meetings are being planned. Parents have access to their child's records at any time on request keeping them fully informed of their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is **good**. Children's welfare and safety is promoted as the premises are well organised to enable children to move around and explore the environment freely and safely. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children and encourage their independence and initiative. Children's care and learning is enhanced by staff who work well together. There is an appraisal system in place to identify staff training needs and ensure the policies and procedures are consistently applied. There are clear staff recruitment procedures in place and most staff have been appropriately vetted. Systems are in place to ensure new staff waiting to be vetted are not left unsupervised with children. An induction procedure and handbook have been introduced for new staff, outlining their roles and responsibilities. Staff are deployed well to ensure appropriate levels of care and supervision. Adult to child ratios are often generous and always maintained to ensure that children receive good levels of adult support. Staff are keen to develop their knowledge and skills by pursuing further training courses.

All of the required documentation is in place, such as registration and emergency contact details, and is stored securely in the interest of confidentiality. The registration certificate is clearly displayed on the notice board.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision was asked to ensure that children were provided with a varied and balanced range of activities and first hand experiences that promoted all areas of development. Children are now provided with a varied and balanced range of activities. Planning is in place with

good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Observations, record keeping and evaluation of activities are carried out by staff ensuring children have access to all areas of development.

The provision was also asked to take positive steps to promote safety within the setting and that proper precautions were taken to prevent accidents. Plastic coverings have now been removed from the cot mattresses in the baby room. Children's crayons are stored in appropriate plastic containers. The sharp coat hook accessible to children in the toilet area has been removed. Daily safety checks and risk assessments are carried out by staff.

A third action was raised to ensure induction training was effective in ensuring all staff understood how the setting worked and what was expected of them. Effective induction training is now in place and staff are all aware of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. An operational plan is also available for staff to read.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 children's access to fresh drinking water, especially in warmer weather.

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