



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC130
Inspection Date	15 March 2010
Childcare Inspector	Laurie Ferris
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Woodlands Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Block F Wentworth Barracks BFPO 15
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?

Woodlands Day Nursery has been registered since May 2002 to provide care for 57 children from 6 months to under 5 years. The nursery has sole use of the premises located on the ground floor of a military building. Children are accommodated in four playrooms and grouped according to age and stage of development. Premises also include an office, kitchen, toilet facilities and nappy changing areas. The nursery has access to a large secure outside area that offers a good range of outdoor play opportunities.

The nursery serves the needs of British Service families and civilian employees attached to the military community. It opens five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 09.00 to 15.00, term time only. Parents are provided with the choice and flexibility for their children to attend part of the day or the full day.

The manager is supernumerary and has a level three qualification. There are 15 practitioners, 4 of whom are fully qualified, and 3 currently working towards a formal qualification. The setting employs additional supply staff to cover for absences and an ancillary and a cleaner on a daily basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in clean premises and are protected from the spread of infection as staff follow appropriate procedures; for example, disposable gloves and aprons are worn when changing nappies and colour coded clothes are used for cleaning surfaces and equipment. Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices through the daily routine; they are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilets and before eating. Children are well looked after when they become ill or have minor accidents because an adequate number of staff hold current first aid certificates and the content of first aid boxes are regularly replenished when necessary; appropriate medication and accident records are kept; additionally, an appropriate sick child policy is implemented and shared with parents.

Children receive healthy, nutritional snacks which are freshly prepared on the premises. Packed lunches provided by parents are safely stored in the fridge. Drinks are always available. Children's health and dietary needs are generally met as information is requested from parents about any specific requirements, preferences and food allergies that their child may have. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. Suitable procedures are generally in place for the safe and hygienic storage of babies formula milk bottles; however, staff do not consistently comply with, or inform parents of, the latest recommendations from the Department of Health regarding the safe storage of milk bottles, as it was observed that prepared bottles of milk were being stored for long periods of time in one child's rucksack following the parent's wishes.

Children benefit from daily planned physical exercise in a well equipped indoor play area; however, children are not provided with the opportunity to enjoy active play in the fresh air on a regular basis, which could inhibit their physical development.

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

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for in safe, secure and welcoming premises with children's artwork attractively displayed. Children have access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities that promote their overall learning and development. Appropriate arrangements are in place for supporting children who may wish to rest or enjoy a more relaxing activity.

Children are provided with suitable and well-maintained equipment and resources which are appropriate for their purpose and help create an accessible and stimulating environment. These are of suitable design, conform to safety standards and are regularly checked.

Children are kept safe because access to the premises is closely monitored and registration documents ensure visitors are noted. Children's safety is highly regarded as staff ensure daily safety checks and risks assessments are conducted; emergency evacuation of the premises is periodically practised and fire fighting equipment is regularly checked.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child in their care; there is a designated person in charge of child protection issues who has received specific training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children are generally happy, confident and settled within the environment; they arrive eager to join in with the activities which they are encouraged to self select from a good and stimulating range. Older children are effectively guided by staff in their choices of activities, thus building confidence, self-esteem and independence.

Children acquire new knowledge and skills supported by staff who consistently interact with the children and ask open-ended questions; for example, while making play dough, children were encouraged to feel the mixture and describe any changes occurring as more ingredients were added.

Children are beginning to learn about the natural world as they grow seeds and care for them while observing the changes in plants. Younger children and babies have regular opportunities to investigate and explore different types of materials, such as paint and sand, which also helps to develop hand and eye co-ordination and fine motor skills. Additionally, the setting works in partnership with other professionals, such as the health visitor, to support and respond effectively to children's specific developmental needs.

Most children benefit from partaking in a range of interesting and stimulating activities suitable for their differing ages and stages of development, as staff are implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, using appropriate methods for observing, assessing and planning children's play and learning. The younger children learn about the results of their actions through repeated patterns of play; they build a tower of blocks with their key person and notice the connection between pushing the towers and it falling. However, some children were observed being bored, restless and showing signs of frustration, as the activities provided did not always match their abilities; for example, a paint brush was given to a young child who did not show pencil grip skills, thus restricting learning outcomes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. All children are treated and respected as individuals and have equal access to resources that reflect positive images of diversity, thus promoting their sense of belonging. Children are developing their knowledge and understanding of the wider world through a good range of toys and various resources, such as books and multicultural dolls. Greetings such as 'hello' and 'welcome' are displayed in different languages.

Although there are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attending the setting, suitable procedures are in place to offer support, should the need arise.

Children are generally happy and well behaved as staff adopt a positive approach to the management of behaviour. Children are encouraged to work harmoniously with each other and show respect for others; unwanted behaviour is dealt with by staff in a calm and attentive way. Children are beginning to understand about responsible behaviour because staff use appropriate methods such as distraction and offer children full explanations of why some behaviour is not acceptable. This helps children develop an awareness of their own needs and the needs of others.

Children benefit as their individual needs are being met. Staff work closely with parents who are encouraged to be actively involved within the provision, for example, being asked to contribute ideas for healthy snack menus. Parents interviewed during inspection were

happy with the care given to their children and the running of the setting; however some parents were unaware of the existence and role of the regulator, in particular in relation to concerns and complaints. Parents receive regular newsletters and are kept informed of their child's individual progress through daily discussions and written record sheets. However, partnership working with parents could further benefit through the sharing of good practice guidance and government information, for example in relation to special care requirements a child may have.

Organisation

The organisation is **satisfactory**. Children benefit from attending a provision where space and resources are adequately organised to maximise children's learning opportunities. Children are protected as appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are implemented; non-vetted staff are never left unsupervised with children. Children benefit from appropriately maintained adult: child ratios and group sizes which support their care, learning and play. Currently, less than half of the staff hold an appropriate qualification; an action plan has been devised which outlines how qualification shortfalls will be met. Additionally, the continuing training needs of staff are identified and addressed through in-service training. Contingency arrangements are in place to cover for staff absences; a deputy has been recently appointed, but is currently undergoing the required vetting procedures.

Documentation is appropriately kept and records of attendance for children and staff include arrival and departure times. The setting is aware to inform British Forces Early Years Service of any significant changes.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous quality inspection, few recommendations were raised. These have all been addressed. Hygiene practice has improved and staff are now aware of and comply with the setting's hygiene procedures; records of visitors are maintained and staff are effectively deployed and vigilant about children's safety at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

N/A

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On the basis of evidence collected on this inspection:

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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 recommendations:

- promote learning outcomes by improving the range of planned activities and experiences for young children, appropriate to their stages of development and based on their individual needs
- promote partnership working with parents by ensuring they receive information about the complaints procedure, the role of the regulator and the safe storage of babies bottles
- increase opportunities for children to experience playing outdoors.