



## Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC164
Inspection Date	19 April 2007
Childcare Inspector	Lucy Finn
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Little People (York Centre Community Nursery)
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	York Centre Block 71 York Barracks BFPO 17
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 **does meet** the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little People, formally known as York Centre Community Nursery, is a purpose built nursery. It opened in 2003 and has sole occupancy of its premises. A maximum of 77 children may attend the nursery at any one time with ages ranging from 3 months to under 5 years. The nursery is situated within York Barracks and serves the needs of British Service families and civilian employees attached to the military community.

Little People currently opens from 08.30 to 15.30, Monday to Thursday, and 08.30-14.30 on Fridays, term time only.

The nursery comprises a baby unit, including a sleep room, a snack room and nappy changing area. Toddlers under two are accommodated in a second play room with access to the sleep room, a soft play room and a large shared outdoor area. Toddlers over two have their own play room, with access to a craft and soft play area and have use of a snack room shared with the under twos. The nursery has purpose built child sized toilets and appropriate nappy changing facilities. There is also a parents' room, staff room and office.

The nursery employs 12 members of staff, of these, four hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

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## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is **satisfactory**.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through the daily routines, such as appropriately washing their hands before food and after using the toilet, thus minimising the spread of infection.

Babies and younger children benefit from being cared for in a baby unit where all their needs are being met; appropriate nappy changing facilities are provided. Effective hygiene procedures are in place which most staff are aware of and follow, such as wearing gloves when changing nappies and washing hands prior to food preparation; however, these procedures are not always consistently implemented, which could encourage cross-contamination and the spread of infection.

Children are well nourished, enjoying a varied menu of nutritious snacks, such as fruit and cheese; individual needs, preferences and parental wishes are taken into account.

Parents provide packed lunches which staff prepare as required. Most staff responsible for the preparation and handling of food have received training in this area, however they need to ensure that they comply with regulations at all times and ensure that food is safely and hygienically served. Children with allergies and particular dietary requirements are adequately cared for; all staff are aware of the information. Children are encouraged to take an active role at lunch time, collecting their own plates and cups, therefore developing independence.

Children have access to fresh drinking water in all rooms.

Children have the opportunity to be active and enjoy the fresh air; they are offered a wide range of activities aimed at promoting physical play, both indoors and outdoors, such as using ride along toys and the soft play area.

Children and babies have their individual needs met, as they have opportunities to rest and sleep as required.

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

The provision is **satisfactory**.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and spacious indoor and outdoor environment; children's art work is displayed at child's eye level and they have their own named coat pegs which encourages children to develop a sense of belonging. Children are kept safe as the premises are secure and effective procedures are in place to manage access to the premises; access is closely monitored and a book is used to keep records of visitors.

Children play in a safe indoor and outdoor environment as there are appropriate health and safety policies and procedures in place; staff promote safety as they remind children how to keep safe for example when using the outdoor equipment. Children and babies have independent access to a wide range of toys and equipment which are suitable for their differing ages and stages of development, however, the large amount of toys and play equipment spread all over the floor could potentially be a hazard.

Daily checks of toys and equipment and visual safety checks of the premises are carried out; risk assessment is completed although requires further development to ensure all potential hazards are effectively identified and minimised in order to continuously promote children's and adult's safety.

Children and staff attendance is recorded in each room and fire drills are completed on a regular basis and recorded. Children are well looked after in the event of an accident as currently 9

members of staff are first aid trained and several first aid boxes are provided throughout the setting, which are checked regularly and replenished as required.

Children are protected because most staff have completed relevant child protection training and are aware of possible signs and symptoms of children at risk and of their responsibility in this matter.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is **satisfactory**.

Children show interest and are happy and confident to move around the various activities, with staff effectively interacting with the children and offering support as needed.

Children access a suitable variety of activities and enjoy new experiences such as painting, water play, role play and musical instruments. For example, the children were observed sitting on squares of carpet and joining in with action songs and musical instruments.

Children are encouraged to share and take turns, they interact together well, enjoying chats with staff, for example, whilst a child pours herself a drink from the water jug, they discuss together lunch time and what they would like in a sandwich. Younger children enjoy songs and respond with clapping and joining in with the singing.

Children are making good progress, as activities are planned based on the *Birth to Three Matters* framework and observations of children's play and activities are used by staff to plan for children's next steps of learning and development. Planning is discussed weekly at staff meetings, it is based on observations of individual children's play, and the activities are adapted accordingly. However, staff need to ensure planning remains up to date in the babies' and the over twos room, and developed for the older children attending the afternoon sessions.

Children have their individual needs met as the planning of activities is flexible to allow for children's individual care needs to be taken into account, such as sleep and rest routines; all the playrooms have been set out with rest areas, whilst younger children and babies are provided with cots in the designated sleep room.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is **good**.

Children have independent access to a good range of resources which reflect positive images of the world, for example, photographs and posters; children enjoy going out for walks around the surrounding areas. Activities include the celebration of different cultural festivals.

Children are familiar with the routine and their surroundings, which helps promote their sense of belonging; all children have easy access to all toys and equipment.

Children who have a special need or disability are warmly welcomed into the setting, for example, wheelchair ramps are in place to facilitate access.

Children are cared for by staff who have built good relationships with the parents. There are notice boards around the setting displaying useful information, for example about the setting's complaints procedure and snack menu. Parents receive a welcome booklet at initial placement including the setting's policy and procedures; parents are kept informed of their child's progress through daily discussions with staff; parents of babies and young children receive daily sheets containing various details about care patterns which can be updated as required. All children take home weekly progress sheets which include a space for parents to comment.

Children are encouraged to behave well and play harmoniously together; they show respect for each other and staff members.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is **satisfactory**.

Suitable recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. Adult to child ratios are maintained to support children's care, learning and play; staff deployment and group sizes contribute to children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievements and ability to take an active part in the setting.

There is a clear registration system in place for both staff and children. Personal files containing all relevant documentation are kept for staff, and although appraisals have not been completed as yet, all staff members have training plans to ensure that training needs are properly addressed.

Staff receive induction training, attend regular team meetings and training sessions. This provides them with confidence and understanding of their role and responsibilities; however, some practice relating to hygiene and food handling procedures could be improved.

Documentation is stored confidentially and kept up to date, however, not all observation and development records were available on the day of the inspection.

Staff are deployed appropriately; the supervisor is supernumerary and able to support the staff team. Staff in individual playrooms work well together and support each other in providing appropriate care of the children.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the nursery was asked to provide children with opportunities to develop good social skills and to encourage independence, to review the system for observing and recording children's development to support the planning of activities and to ensure the visitor's book was used at all times. All of these have been addressed.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

**N/A**

## **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 **does meet** 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, the registered person **must** take the following recommendations:

- promote good health and improve hygiene practice to prevent the spread of infection, by ensuring that all staff are aware of and comply with the setting's procedures for nappy changing and food handling
- develop risk assessments to ensure that risks are effectively identified and appropriate steps are taken to minimise hazards
- ensure planning is regularly updated and includes afternoon sessions to meet all children's individual needs.
- ensure all records are available for inspection by the Early Years Childcare Inspector.