



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC147
Inspection Date	26 June 2008
Childcare Inspector	Laurie Ferris
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Acreswood Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Arndt Strasse 2/4 33100 Paderborn
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?

Acreswood Day Nursery is a large setting occupying two adjoining houses; it is located on a large military housing estate and is within walking distance of the local barracks and amenities. There are nine rooms in use which include activity rooms, a sleep room, soft play room, role play room, toilet facilities, office and kitchen. The setting has access to a large and secure outside grassed area with hard surface for outdoor play opportunities. The setting serves the needs of the local military community and is open Monday to Thursday from 08.00 to 17.00 and Friday 08.00 to 16.00, term time only.

The nursery is registered for 46 children from 3 months to under 5 years. The children are grouped according to age; the children under two use the bottom half of the building and the older children access the top half.

The supervisor and deputy are supernumerary and hold a level 3 qualification. There are 10 practitioners, 2 of whom hold relevant qualifications and 3 are working towards a level 3 qualification. The setting employs 2 cleaners and an ancillary worker on a daily basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children's health is promoted as staff follow appropriate health and hygiene guidelines and take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection; they wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies and use antibacterial spray to clean the changing mat after each use. Children begin to learn the importance of good hygiene practice through the daily routine; for example, they are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. They play in a clean environment where toys and equipment are regularly disinfected. Additionally, children are well looked after when they are ill or have a minor accident because an adequate number of staff hold a relevant first aid certificate and appropriate procedures are in place for the administration of medicine. All accidents and incidents occurring on the premises are accurately recorded and parents sign to acknowledge the entry.

Children's healthy growth and development are promoted as they are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks from a weekly selection of mainly fruits and vegetables. Lunch is provided by parents and safely stored in the fridge. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the session. Children's special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies are taken into consideration and details listed in the kitchen to alert staff when preparing, selecting or storing food.

Children enjoy daily opportunities for playing in the fresh air in an attractively set out outdoor play area. Children play vigorously on the good selection of resources provided, such as wheeled toys and slides, thus developing co-ordination and balance. However, children were observed playing outside in the sun without adequate protection from the sun's harmful rays, which could have compromised their health and well-being.

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 are provided with the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their overall development; for example, furniture, equipment and toys are suitable for their purpose and help create an accessible and stimulating environment.

Children's safety is highly regarded as staff ensure risk assessments of the premises are conducted and reviewed each term. Additionally, daily safety checks are conducted both indoors and outdoors before children's arrival and staff remain vigilant throughout the session to minimise or eliminate any potential hazard, for example, checking the outdoor play area again before children go out to play. Children are kept safe as access to the premises is monitored, a record of all visitors is maintained and appropriate procedures are in place in the event of a child being lost or a parent failing to collect a child. Children are protected from fire hazards as fire drills are conducted at regular intervals and the fire fighting equipment is regularly checked.

Children's welfare is protected by staff who demonstrate a secure understanding of their role in safeguarding children and of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. There is a named person who has responsibility for dealing with child protection issues and most staff have received relevant training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children are happy, confident and settled within the nursery; they arrive eager to join in with the activities which they are encouraged to self-select from a good and stimulating range. Children are effectively guided by staff in their choice of activities, thus

building confidence, self-esteem and independence. Children acquire new knowledge and skills supported by staff who consistently interact with the children, for example encouraging children to describe and count some wild animals, thus further developing language and mathematical skills.

Older children develop early writing skills as they experience mark making using different media, such as crayons, felt tips, chalk and paint. Children show interest in the activities provided and are encouraged to take initiative, for example, during water play, they decide to organise a tea party and enjoy filling up kettles and pouring water in cups showing excitement and pride when they succeed. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and develop social relationships, for example playing co-operatively together during role play.

Children are given sufficient time to explore and investigate, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem; they begin to develop their natural curiosity as learners; for example during a nature walk, they have the opportunity to collect some artefacts which they consequently used to create a display. Children are encouraged to express their imagination and creativity through planned activities; they learn to move their body to music and delight in the sounds made by musical instruments; they enjoy playing with the extensive range of mini-world resources, such as wild and farm animals.

Children benefit from being looked after by staff who are effectively deployed to promote learning, with experienced and qualified members of staff supporting inexperienced colleagues. Children's activities are planned using the *Birth to Three Matters* framework. Staff record observations of what children do, however, valuable learning and development opportunities are missed because observations are not always used to plan the next steps for play and learning and provide for children's individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. All children are warmly greeted on arrival and quickly settle within the environment. They are familiar with the routines, which helps them develop confidence and a strong sense of belonging. All children are treated with equal concern and the setting maintains an appropriate equal opportunities policy. Children begin to learn about the wider community as they celebrate different festivals and are provided with resources promoting positive images of diversity, such as books, puzzles and multicultural dolls. Additionally, posters and welcome notices in different languages reflect the positive approach demonstrated by staff regarding the celebration of our diverse society. Although there are currently no children attending with disabilities or learning difficulties, suitable procedures are in place to offer support should the need arise.

Children benefit because staff's management of behaviour is consistent and developmentally appropriate, respecting individual children's level of understanding and maturity. Children behave well and are learning to share and take turns, being encouraged to play harmoniously together, supported by staff who are good role models and promote positive behaviour through praise and encouragement. There is a nominated member of staff responsible for behaviour management who is able to offer advice and support.

Children benefit from the good partnership established with parents and carers. Staff ensure parents' views and concerns are respected and acknowledged; a complaint procedure is in place and shared with parents, should they be unhappy with any aspect of the provision. Parents are provided at initial placement with an informative welcome booklet containing, for example, the setting's policies and procedures; a notice board is effectively used by staff to share with parents any useful information relating to childcare or child development; additionally, parents receive daily verbal and written information about their child's progress at the nursery and speak highly of the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is **good**. Children benefit from a provision that organises space and resources to maximise children's learning opportunities. Children are protected as appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are in place; unvetted staff are never left alone with children. Children's development, welfare and safety are promoted because staff are effectively deployed and demonstrate a sound understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Children benefit from appropriately maintained adult: child ratios and group sizes which positively support children's care, learning and play.

All staff receive induction training and have the opportunity to work towards recognise qualifications. The setting is aware to inform British Early Years Service of any changes affecting their condition of registration. Documentation required for the safe management of setting is in place and appropriately kept. However, children's attendance register does not include children's arrival and departure times, which could compromise their safety.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, two recommendations were raised, which have been addressed. Appropriate arrangements for hand washing are now in place to promote good hygiene practice and mirrors have been made safe or inaccessible.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, British Forces Early Years Service has received one complaint relating to National Standard 2: Organisation and National Standard: 6 Safety. British Forces Early Years Service conducted an unannounced inspection visit on 17 October 2008. The investigation covered staff deployment, health and safety procedures, and included discussion with the provider, observation of current practice and the examination of documentation. British Forces Early Years Service found no evidence that the provider was not complying with the National Standards. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 recommendations:

- promote children's good health by ensuring precautions are taken to protect children from the sun when playing outdoors.
- enhance children's development by using observations to plan for their next steps for learning and play
- ensure the daily attendance register includes children's arrival and departure times.