



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC150
Inspection Date	23 April 2008
Childcare Inspector	Laurie Ferris
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Happy Hippos Day Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Artillerie Strasse 28/1&2 33104 Sennelager
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Happy Hippos Day Nursery is a large setting occupying 2 adjoining flats located within a large military estate. A Foundation Stage unit managed by Service Children's Education (SCE) occupies the upper floor of the building. The setting is within walking distance of the local barracks. There are 12 rooms in use which include activity rooms, toilet facilities, sleep areas, 2 kitchens, parents' room, office, sensory room and an art and craft room. There is a large enclosed outdoor play area.

The setting serves the needs of British Service families and civilian employees attached to the military community. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 15.30, term time only.

Happy Hippos Day Nursery is registered to provide full day care for 53 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years. Children are grouped according to age, children aged under 2 years occupy one side of the premises and children aged over 2 years the other side.

The supervisor is supernumerary and has a level 3 qualification. There is a deputy and 6 keyworkers, 3 of whom are suitably qualified and 1 working towards a level 3 qualification. A cleaner and an ancillary worker are employed on a daily basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for by staff who are aware of the importance of implementing good health and hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of infection; the premises are kept clean, the sandpits are sterilised on a weekly basis and staff responsible for the preparation and handling of food follow effective procedures as most staff have received training in this area; disposable aprons and gloves are worn when changing nappies, although the changing mat is not always wiped after each use which could compromise children's health. Children learn about good personal hygiene through consistent daily routines with clear explanations given by staff to raise children's awareness of good practice, for example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating.

Children are protected from illness and infection and are well looked after when they are ill as the setting has a sick child policy and maintains appropriate documentation for the recording of accidents or incidents and the administration of medication. Children are further protected because there is at least one adult in each playroom with relevant first aid training and there are procedures in place for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks of fruits, yoghurts and vegetables. The weekly menus provide a variety of food which appeals to children and introduces a range of tastes and textures. Young children are fed according to their own individual needs and not as part of the nursery routine, with staff holding babies closely whilst bottle feeding. Drinks are always available. Older children develop independence by helping themselves to fresh drinking water from water fountains available in each playroom. Parents provide packed lunches which are appropriately stored. Children's allergies and individual dietary requirements are meticulously addressed by staff, ensuring parents' wishes are respected and children's individual needs are met.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy living as they talk about the fresh air being good for them during outdoor play. Children have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills both indoors and outdoors. Children have the opportunity to rest and play according to their individual needs; sleeping children are monitored to ensure their safety and toddlers receive reassurance as they settle down during nap time; for example, a bold and bright notice at the sleep room's door alert staff of sleeping children.

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, attractively decorated with displays of children's artwork. Children have access to enough space to give scope for free movement and well spread out activities. Children benefit from an accessible and stimulating environment, equipped with furniture, equipment and toys which are well maintained and appropriate for their purpose. For example, children are offered snacks on bright and colourful child sized benches and tables.

Children's safety is highly regarded as staff are vigilant and take positive steps to minimise potential risks; daily safety checks and regular risks assessments are conducted; broken toys are discarded or repaired, electrical sockets covered and an effective system is in place for managing access to the premises and recording the presence of any visitors. Children are further protected as fire safety is actively promoted with appropriate fire detention and fire control equipment in place and fire drills are conducted regularly, which increases children's understanding of what to do in an emergency. Children are further protected as staff supervise children at all times and suitable procedures are in place in the event of a child being lost or not collected.

Children benefit from staff who understand their responsibility with regards to child protection and work with other agencies to safeguard children; an adequate number of staff have attended child protection training. Additionally, there is a designated person responsible for liaising with Local Safeguarding Board and the child protection policy includes contact details of British Forces Social Work Service.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children enjoy their time at the nursery and settle down quickly as they are warmly greeted by staff. Children are provided with a good range of play opportunities and first-hand experiences which allow them to build on their natural curiosity. They explore different sounds, smells and textures in the sensory room where different musical instruments are attractively displayed. Children are encouraged to be confident, independent and develop their self-esteem; they have opportunities to select resources and the activities they would like to do, effectively praised and encouraged by staff.

Children remain well occupied and engrossed in purposeful play throughout the sessions. Children achieve and make progress because staff show an interest in what children say and do, joining in with the activities which they effectively support. Children benefit as staff are enthusiastic and clearly enjoy the company of the children in their care.

Young children have built strong bonds with their key person, which increases their sense of well-being. Children acquire new skills and knowledge; they develop their imagination through role play; they have the opportunity to be creative and explore different media; they develop early communication skills, as staff effectively interact with them, consistently encouraging and praising the children, using rewards such as stickers.

Children benefit because the setting uses the *Birth to Three Matters* framework to plan, observe and evaluate children's play, learning and development. Staff use individual files to record each child's individual progress and stage of development and maintain home link records that parents view on a daily basis.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. Children are cared for by staff who actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all. Children are treated with equal concern and learn about diversity through a variety of resources, play materials and multi-cultural displays reflecting positive images of our wider society. In addition, children learn about themselves and are beginning to acknowledge and value each others' similarities and differences.

Staff demonstrate an awareness of inclusion procedures and of ensuring children with additional needs are fully included in all activities, well supported by staff who will work closely with parents and other agencies to organise the environment and plan activities to meet all children's needs appropriately.

Children behave well because good behaviour is consistently promoted by staff who are able to manage a wide range of behaviour, respecting children's differing levels of understanding and maturity and using effective strategies such as praise and rewards.

A strong partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's wellbeing and promotes continuity of care. Parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's day at the nursery with staff on a daily basis. Additionally, written information about children's individual progress is given to parents of babies and young children on a daily basis and weekly basis for the older children.

General information about activities, routines and menus is displayed for parents on a notice board. Children's welfare is promoted because the setting maintains a complaint procedure which is made available to parents. Parents interviewed on the day of the inspection spoke highly of the care and learning experiences provided by the setting.

Organisation

The organisation **good**. Children's care, welfare and learning opportunities are enhanced through appropriate organisation. Children are kept safe as staff maintain good supervision and ensure ratios are met at all times. Children benefit from a staff team who organises spaces and resources well to meet children's needs. Children are protected from harm because effective recruitment and vetting procedures are in place, which ensures that non-vetted adults are not left alone with children. Appropriate induction training of newly appointed members of staff support them in developing understanding of their role and responsibilities. Additionally, the continuing training needs of staff are identified and met through in-service training and an effective qualification programme, although 50% of staff working with babies have not received training in this specific area.

Documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is in place, appropriately stored and made available to British Forces Early Years Service for inspection.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was given a number of recommendations which have all been addressed. Safety both indoors and outdoors has improved and all hazards have been removed. All broken toys are discarded or repaired. Electrical sockets in areas accessible to children are now fitted with sockets covers.

The child protection policy includes contact details of British Forces Social Work Service and the procedure to be followed if an allegation was made against a member of staff or volunteer. All policies and procedures are made available to parents at initial placement. Regular staff meetings and staff individual training plan ensure that staff have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and any issues created by lack of experience are addressed.

All documentation is in place and well maintained. The setting is aware to inform British Forces Early Years Service of any significant changes.

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 **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 good health by consistently taking positive steps to prevent the risk of cross contamination
- ensure that at least 50% of staff caring for babies have received training in this specific area.