



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC150
Inspection Date	7 July 2009
Childcare Inspector	Kim Weaver
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Happy Hippos Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	28 1&2 Artillerie Strasse 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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Happy Hippos Nursery is a large setting occupying two 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 twelve rooms in use which include activity rooms, a soft play room, toilet facilities, sleep areas, two kitchens, parents' room, an office, a 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 8.45 to 14.00 term time only.

Happy Hippos Nursery is registered to provide care for fifty three children under five years. Children are grouped according to age; children aged under two years occupy one side of the premises and children aged over two years the other side.

The supervisor is supernumerary and has a level four qualification. There is a deputy who is qualified to level three and six keyworkers, three of whom are suitably qualified and one working towards a level three 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 learn about good personal hygiene through consistent daily routines and show a sound understanding of good practice as they explain for example why they need to wash their hands after toileting 'because of the germs'. Children's awareness of good hygiene practice is further supported through clear explanations by staff; at snack time they discuss why a knife needed replacing because it had been dropped on the floor. Good procedures implemented by staff sustain high levels of hygiene and help prevent the spread of infection; they wear disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing, thoroughly clean the changing mat after each use and provide individual flannels for the children to wipe their hands and face after eating. Children are well looked after if they have a minor accident or when they become ill as good policies and procedures are in place; the majority of staff have received training in paediatric first aid which means they are well prepared in the event of an accident or emergency. Documentation for the recording of accidents and the administration of medication is appropriately maintained.

Children benefit from a good range of healthy and nutritious snacks; this ensures they are well nourished and their dietary needs are met appropriately; snack menus are devised to ensure fruit and vegetables are offered each day and displayed for parents to see. Parents provide packed lunches which are appropriately stored in the refrigerator. Drinks are always available indoors and outdoors. Children show increasing independence at mealtimes as they are encouraged for example to spread a topping of their choice on toast using appropriate cutlery. Children of differing age groups join together for meals creating a small family group and staff encourage good interaction and social development as they sit with the children.

Children enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities which support and help develop their physical skills. Children have good access to an outdoor play area featuring a bench, grass, paths, trees, hills and a large sand pit to stimulate their imagination. Younger children are provided with a good arrangement of toys and play equipment to encourage crawling and standing. This contributes well to children's good health and physical development. Children have the opportunity to rest and play according to their individual needs as staff have a good awareness of each child's sleep routines.

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. Children's colourful artwork brightly adorn the walls and useful information to support children, parents and staff is displayed, making all visitors and families feel welcome. All areas of the provision are clean and well maintained. Children are able to move freely and independently access a wide range of resources and equipment; for example, toys are stored at child height in a variety of containers and storage units giving freedom of choice.

Children's safety is highly regarded as staff take positive steps to minimise potential risks; daily safety checks and regular risk assessments are conducted; broken equipment is discarded, electrical sockets covered and an effective system is in place for managing access to the premises, such as a visitor's book to record who is present in the setting at any time. Children are supervised at all times with good adult to child ratios; however, on the day of inspection it was observed that the outdoor play area had not been made fully secure which could have compromised children's safety. Children's welfare is protected as fire safety is actively promoted and fire fighting equipment is in place and regularly maintained; fire drills are practised and recorded appropriately.

Children are beginning to learn to keep themselves safe through clear explanations by staff, for example children are reminded to sit still on the chairs as to avoid accidental injury.

Children are well protected from harm as an effective safeguarding children policy is implemented; the majority of staff have attended training in this area and have a good understanding of the procedures to follow, should they have concerns about a child; additionally there is a designated person responsible for safeguarding children within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **outstanding**. Children thoroughly enjoy their day and relish their time at the nursery because staff are friendly, attentive and highly effective at providing a wide range of interesting and stimulating play activities and experiences which support children in all areas of learning and development. Children benefit as the majority of staff have attended training in the Early Years Foundation Stage and skilfully apply the principles to provide an extensive range of activities that interest and challenge the children. As a result, children are captivated and inspired.

Children's confidence and self-esteem is raised as staff effectively support the children in their chosen activity by joining in with their play and helping them to achieve, whilst having fun. Children are becoming competent learners encouraged by staff to develop their knowledge and skills, for example by using their senses to explore the environment; children were observed thoroughly enjoying themselves as they investigated the properties of semolina, feeling it with their fingers and toes, effectively supported by staff who competently introduced descriptive words, thus extending children's vocabulary.

Children have ample opportunities to explore and investigate the resources and materials available; for example during a craft activity a child trickled paint onto her hands, watching the paint fall through her fingers, feeling it and thereafter making hand prints on paper. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the developmental needs of individual children, encouraging them to initiate their own ideas and try out new activities at their own pace, thus building their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are becoming skilful communicators supported by staff who consistently interact with the children of all ages, developing speech and social skills. Children enjoy warm and caring relationships with the staff and their peers and this contributes to their sense of belonging and increases children's sense of trust. There is an effective settling-in procedure for new children, which caters for their individual needs and personalities.

Children's individual progress is monitored effectively and records of observations are used to plan children's next steps of learning and development. Planning is however flexible to take into account children's individual needs and interests. Staff show pride and satisfaction from watching children develop their skills; progress and significant achievements are shared with parents on a daily basis.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **good**. All children and their families are welcomed, valued, respected and fully included within the nursery. Children benefit from being looked after by staff who display care and warmth towards them, showing interest and commitment to their development and learning. Staff demonstrate a sound awareness of inclusion procedures and of ensuring children with additional needs are fully included in all activities; staff recognise each child as an individual and work closely with parents to meet their 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 are well behaved because staff adopt a consistent and positive approach to behaviour management, appropriate to each child's level of understanding and maturity. Staff act as good role models for the children who are encouraged to say 'please and thank you', tidy up after play and are consistently praised for their efforts, ensuring that they develop confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit as good partnership with parents contributes greatly to children's wellbeing. Staff work well with parents to gain information about their children before they start attending, through the use of an 'All about me' booklet where significant events and specific requirements are discussed and recorded. Additionally, open days, newsletters, notices and verbal discussions all keep parents fully informed about the setting's philosophy. Photographic displays give parents insight into the varied activities undertaken by their children.

Children's development is appropriately recorded in individual profiles which include photographs showing their development through the Early Years Foundation Stage. Parents spoken with on the day of inspection praised the setting and are happy with the care provided and the progress their children are making emotionally and academically.

Organisation

The organisation is **good**. Children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff members who work well as a team to improve the quality of the provision. Children benefit from an organised and comfortable environment where space is appropriately organised to enable children to have quiet, restful periods as well as more active and energetic play. Children are protected from harm as suitable recruitment and vetting arrangements are in place; the majority of staff are vetted and there are systems in place to ensure non vetted staff are never left unsupervised with children. Newly appointed staff go through a supportive induction process which informs them about the way the setting works and how they fit in; a handbook is available for all new staff outlining their roles and responsibilities and regular staff appraisals are conducted to identify staff training needs and ensure the policies and procedures are consistently applied. Staff are committed to update their knowledge and skills and have attended a variety of appropriate in-service training courses.

Staff are deployed well to ensure appropriate levels of care and supervision. Children are kept safe as adult to child ratios are maintained to ensure that children receive good levels of support. All required documentation is in place, readily available for inspection and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. The registration certificate is clearly displayed on the notice board.

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 provision was asked to take positive steps to protect children from the risk of cross infection. This has been addressed and effective procedures are now consistently applied to promote children's health. The provision was also asked to ensure that at least 50% of staff caring for babies received training in this area. Staff have taken heed of this as the majority of staff now hold qualifications in childcare appropriate to their position and new members of staff have experience in caring for babies.

Complaints since the last inspection

N/A

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 recommendation:

- promote safety by ensuring the outdoor play area is made secure and children are not able to leave it unsupervised.