



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC155
Inspection Date	28 January 2009
Childcare Inspector	Laurie Ferris
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Meadow Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Bertholdsweg 31787 Hameln
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 meets the National Standards for under 8s daycare and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Meadow Nursery occupies a large purpose built military building, located opposite Weser School which caters for the local military community. The nursery has sole use of premises which consist of five activity rooms, two separate nappy changing areas, two kitchens, a snack room, an office, and separate toilet facilities for children and adults. The setting has access to two large secure outdoor areas with play equipment and both grassed and hard surface areas.

The setting serves the needs of British Service families and civilian employees attached to the military community. It is open Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 15.00, term time only. The nursery is registered for 46 children from 3 months to under 5 years of age. The children are grouped according to age.

The manager is supernumerary and has a level three qualification. There are nine practitioners working directly with the children, one of whom is fully qualified. The setting employs a cleaner 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 follow stringent procedures to keep the premises clean, for example, meticulously disinfecting an area which had been spoiled. Additionally all toys, play materials and equipment are regularly sterilised.

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. Additionally, children are well looked after when they are ill or have a minor accident because the setting implements a clear sick child policy and appropriate procedures are in place for the administration of medication. All accidents and incidents occurring on the premises are accurately recorded and parents sign to acknowledge the entry. Furthermore, there is appropriate first aid equipment in place and an adequate number of staff are first aid trained.

Children's healthy growth and development are promoted as children 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. Meal times are sociable and friendly occasions, as staff sit and chat with the children. Children's dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies are taken into consideration and details are listed in the kitchen to alert staff when storing, selecting and preparing food.

Children learn the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They have daily opportunities for playing in the fresh air. Children develop balance and co-ordination through playing on the slides and riding wheeled toys. Additionally, children are provided with adequate facilities for rest and sleep suitable to their individual needs.

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

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children are cared for in safe 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 are kept safe from unwanted visitors because access to the premises is closely monitored and registration documents ensure visitors are noted. Children are beginning to learn about fire safety and the procedures for the evacuation of the premises in an emergency, as fire drills are conducted regularly; fire fighting equipment is appropriately checked. Children's safety is considered; safety devices are in place, such as safety barriers, to ensure children cannot leave the playrooms unsupervised; staff carry out regular risk assessments and conduct daily safety checks of the premises, which include equipment and materials; for example broken toys are repaired or discarded; however, records do not indicate that the outdoor play areas are 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 has 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 and ask open-ended questions. For example, children doing a collage activity are encouraged to explore different materials and describe what they are making.

Children show interest in the activities provided and are encouraged to take initiative. A child wished to paint with his feet encouraged by the practitioner who placed large sheets of paper on the floor to facilitate the activity. Children showed real delight and excitement while making big and small steps. Children are encouraged to express their imagination and creativity through planned activities; they learn to move their body to music and enjoy singing action rhymes. Younger children enjoy a range of sensory experiences, such as exploring textures and sounds. They are responded to with affection and extra support is given to children who need it.

Children benefit from being looked after by staff who are effectively deployed to promote care, learning and play. Children's enjoyment and achievement are promoted; activities are planned using the *Early Years Foundation Stage* framework and staff record observations of what children do; however, valuable opportunities are missed because observations taken of older children's play are not always used to plan the next steps for their learning and development and to provide for their individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children are cared for by staff who are committed to equality of opportunity to provide for all children's needs. Children's awareness and understanding of the wider community is promoted through play materials reflecting positive images of diversity and activities celebrating religious or cultural festivals, for example Christmas and Chinese New Year. This approach helps children develop self-esteem and respect for others, and encourages them to understand and value similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Staff demonstrate an awareness of inclusion practice and are pro-active in identifying needs and the appropriate steps to take to meet children's individual needs, including children with disabilities or learning difficulties. Although currently there are no children with special needs attending the setting, staff would work closely with parents, however, they are not aware of other relevant parties who could provide guidance and support in partnership with parents.

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 sound partnership with parents contributes 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. Parents are happy with the care given to their children and the running of the setting. They receive lots of information on a daily basis along with written progress sheets and regular newsletters.

Organisation

The organisation is **satisfactory**. Children benefit from attending a provision where space and resources are effectively organised 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 welfare and safety are promoted because staff are effectively deployed and demonstrate an understanding of their role and responsibilities. Children benefit from

appropriately maintained adult: child ratios and group sizes which support their care, learning and play. There is presently no named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager, however, recruitment for this post is currently being undertaken and contingency measures are in place.

Appropriate induction training of newly appointed members of staff support them in developing understanding of their role and responsibilities. Currently, less than half of the staff hold an appropriate qualification and an action plan has been devised which outlines how qualification shortfalls will be met. A qualification programme is available and three members of staff are due to access the course in the near future. Additionally, the continuing training needs of staff are identified and addressed through in-service training.

Documentation required for the safe management of the setting is in place and appropriately kept. The setting is aware to inform British Forces Early Years Service of any significant changes. However, the previous inspection report has not been made available to parents as recommended.

Improvements since the last inspection

Several actions were raised at the last quality inspection, which have mostly been addressed. Fresh drinking water is now available to children at all times. Staff are suitably deployed within the premises to promote children's welfare and development. A training action plan has been devised which outlines how the training and qualification requirements will be met. Children's enjoyment and achievement are generally promoted: activities are planned using the EYFS framework and younger children's individual needs and development are supported in all areas of learning.

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 **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:

- make a copy of inspection reports available to the parents of all the children in your care
- develop records of safety checks to include the outdoor play areas
- improve outcomes for children by ensuring staff observe and record what all children do and use observations to plan the next steps for children's play, learning and development
- ensure there is a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager.