



## Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG 02DC 104
Inspection Date	5 + 6 June 2007
Childcare Inspector	Caroline Parsons
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Pebbles Crèche
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Canberra Crescent Pegasus Building 41844 Wildenrath
Type of Care	Full Day Care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The Secretary of State for Defence grants British Forces Early Years Service with accreditation 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 childcare.

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 day-care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Pebbles Crèche has been registered with British Forces Early Years Service since 2002 to provide full day care for 37 children aged between 1 year and 3 years, offering a range of sessions from 08:30 to 13:30, term time only. The Crèche is located in Wildenrath on a small military base and serves the needs of both British and multi-national families based in the surrounding area. Currently, there are 30 children on roll.

Pebbles Crèche operates from a shared single storey building, but has sole use of its premises, which consist of two large playrooms where the children are grouped according to age and an additional large room used for physical play. A small enclosed outside play area is accessible from the physical playroom. Other facilities include an office, a kitchen, toilets and nappy changing area.

The Crèche currently employs 2 full time staff including a supernumerary manager and 4 part-time and regular supply staff. The manager holds a level 3 qualification and two members of staff are working towards a level 2 qualification.

The nursery is co-ordinated by the Army Welfare Service

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## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is **good**. Children benefit from a healthy environment as staff achieve and maintain high standards; they are aware of the importance of good hygiene practice, particularly when preparing and handling food within the limited kitchen facilities. Children's health is further promoted as they are learning about their own good health and hygiene through daily routines at snack and lunch times and after toileting.

Children are cared for according to their own individual needs and not just as part of the daily routine, for example nappy changing takes place by asking each child 'shall we go and change your nappy now, are you ready?' thus allowing children to pause their play at a suitable interval, giving them choices and treating them with respect as individuals. Appropriate measures are taken to prevent the spread of infection, as staff ensure that disposable aprons and gloves are worn when dealing with children's personal care needs or handling food. There is a good relationship with parents, which allows staff to take appropriate measures when children are ill or unsettled.

Children are introduced daily to a variety of fresh and healthy options at snack time and they are offered a choice of either milk or water to drink. Children can also freely access drinks throughout the session as needed. Meal times are a very social affair and used to promote children's independence and encourage them to make their own choices. They learn about healthy living and staff use this opportunity to engage children in conversation and to encourage social skills and good manners. Children's dietary requirements are well met as staff work closely with parents; records clearly reflect children's needs and parental wishes.

Children are provided with opportunities for physical play on a daily basis with access to either the outdoor play area or a purposely designated indoor physical playroom, which allows children to develop their coordination and balance. Children can rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is **good**. Children's safety is promoted within the setting, as the premises are safe and secure and there are appropriate and effective systems in place; for example risk assessments are regularly conducted and include outings; children are protected from un-vetted adults, access to the premises is closely monitored, visitors use a bell system to gain entry and details of their visits are appropriately recorded. Children, parents and visitors are welcomed by staff who are friendly and approachable.

Children have safe and easy access to toys, resources and equipment, which are kept in a good state of repair and are age and stage appropriate, stimulating and appropriately stored. Children's safety is further promoted, as there is ample play space, which allows children to move freely within the playrooms which are clean, tidy and well-maintained by staff; there are effective cleaning rotas and daily safety checks in place for toys and equipment.

Children are kept safe, as staff remain vigilant and understand their roles and responsibilities and effectively follow the setting's policies and procedures. Children are closely supervised at all times and learn about possible dangers through activities such as role play and on outings; for example, the children attending the 'lunch club' are encouraged to follow the 'green cross code' whilst walking to the Crèche.

Children are protected from harm, as all members of staff have accessed relevant training and understand their role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

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

The provision is **good**. Children benefit from a range of balanced activities, which are well organised, age appropriate and based on the *Birth to three matters* framework.

Children are supported and encouraged by staff who know them well and who endeavour to meet children's individual needs; a keyworker system is in place and staff conduct regular observations of children's play and monitor their progress, which allows them to plan for children's next steps for their play, learning and development. Children are encouraged to make their own choices and develop independence, as they are provided with options throughout the session; for example snack time is planned as an activity where children can choose their own toast topping or sandwich filling and are encouraged to apply and spread it. Children are further included, as they set out the cups and plates each day, which helps develop social, emotional, physical and intellectual capabilities.

Children relate well to their peers and staff and are confident, settled and happy within the environment. They enjoy adult interaction and staff encourage, support and praise all children's individual achievements, thus developing their self-esteem. Children are engaged and interested in the activities provided which are developmentally appropriate and child orientated. Children express themselves freely, both verbally and through a variety of creative activities, which gives them the chance to explore and use their imagination. Children are making good progress, supported by staff who are positive in their approach and enthusiastic in their work. They appropriately interact with all children at their differing levels of understanding, expanding their play and developing language skills as appropriate.

Children attending the 'lunch club' are appropriately cared for and engage fully in their play, as planning has been extended to address their needs and to ensure they are offered age appropriate activities, which include a quiet relaxing period at the end of the day prior to home time.

Children show respect for others and they are distinguishing between right and wrong; they are encouraged to tidy up, which they do with great enthusiasm. Activities flow throughout the session and staff appear generally well organised; they are able to deal with unexpected problems; for example, when there was some confusion with a painting activity and the location of resources, staff remained in control, they engaged children and kept them occupied by inviting them to put their own aprons on and to choose paper. Children benefit from the warm and relaxed atmosphere within the setting, which helps them develop a sense of belonging; lots of smiles and laughter were observed throughout the session from children and staff.

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

The provision is **good**. Children settle well upon entering the setting, as staff work closely with parents to meet their child's individual care needs and ensure their wishes are respected. Children are treated with equal concern and consideration; they are given choices and make decisions for themselves. Anti-discriminatory practice is actively promoted.

Children learn about our diverse society through festivals and relevant activities which are incorporated into the planning and through the range of resources that are offered and accessible daily. Children are valued and praised and the setting reflects this by displaying the children's own artwork, which helps to build their confidence and self-esteem. Staff and volunteers are valued for their time and effort, and are thanked for their contribution at the end of the day.

Children with special educational needs and their parents are fully included and supported. The manager liaises with other educational or health care professionals and has sought training in areas such as sign language, to ensure the best care can be given in order to promote children's welfare and development. Children's social skills are promoted, as staff manage behaviour well using a positive approach in a consistent and developmentally appropriate manner, sensitive to children's individual feelings.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents speak very highly of the setting and particularly like the personal care offered by this small provision and the approachable manner of the management and staff team. Time is taken daily to keep parents informed of their child's development and opportunities are available for parents to speak at more length to keyworkers. Information is also shared via newsletters and detailed notice boards.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is **good**. Children benefit from a staff team who is keen, enthusiastic and motivated to promote good quality of care; individual training plans are in place and staff actively seek out training which will assist them to support the provision, for example, the manager recently accessed health and safety training in order to effectively complete risk assessments. Ratios are appropriately adhered to and extra staff are employed as needed, for example to assist with the 'lunch club'.

The organisation of space and resources meets children's needs effectively; documentation is clear, precisely detailed and well-maintained, ensuring safe management of the provision. Staff's and children's files are kept up-to-date with all necessary details and there are clear registration systems that independently and accurately records children's, staff's and visitors' arrival and departure times.

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 submit operational procedures for the safe conduct of outings and a risk assessment for the daily collection of children attending the 'lunch club'. This enforcement action has been fully met. Risk assessments have been conducted and a range of safety measures are now in place to ensure children's safety when being escorted to the 'lunch club'.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 day-care 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:

- Ensure positive steps are taken to improve the limited kitchen facilities.