



Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC104
Inspection Date	9 and 10 July 2009
Childcare Inspector	Patri Vint
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Neptune Nursery
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Canberra Crescent Pegasus building 41844 Wildenrath
Type of Care	Sessional 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?

Neptune Nursery has been registered with British Forces Early Years Service since 2002 to provide care for 37 children aged between one year and four years. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, term time only, from 09.00 to 12.00, with the option for children to attend a lunch club until 13.00 on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. At present there are 20 children on roll.

Neptune Nursery operates from a single storey building on Wildenrath military estate and serves the needs of the local community. The nursery consists of two large playrooms and an additional multi-purpose room used for large physical activities. A small enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The staff team currently consists of six members of staff including the manager who is supernumerary and holds a level 3 qualification, the deputy who holds a level 3 qualification, four key workers, three of whom are appropriately qualified or working towards recognised childcare qualifications. The provision is managed by the Army Welfare Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is **good**. Children stay healthy because practitioners follow appropriate procedures to ensure good standards of hygiene and minimise the potential spread of infection throughout the nursery; for example, staff implement good nappy changing procedures which are efficient in maintaining children's health. They promote good practice when preparing and handling food by wearing aprons and gloves, and by being vigilant in meticulously cleaning tables and food preparation surfaces, which effectively reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Children are protected from illness and infection as a policy is in place and shared with parents informing them about the setting's procedure for looking after sick children and exclusion periods. Children are well looked after if they have minor accidents as an adequate number of staff hold first-aid certificates and first aid boxes are positioned in every room, which enables staff to appropriately deal with injuries. Accident and medication records are in place and are accurately maintained.

Children are developing strong self-care skills and are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene through the daily routine, supported by staff who discuss the prevention of germs with the children and generally act as good role models. Easily accessible sinks, liquid soap, paper towels and disposable tissues help children to complete these tasks independently.

Children's individual health needs are considered as staff take heed of the information provided by parents regarding their child's specific health and dietary requirements. Children enjoy a good variety of nutritious snacks; menus are displayed a month in advance to ensure parents are kept informed. Children learn good social skills at meal times as they sit in small groups sharing conversation. Self-selection and independence is promoted with children encouraged to pour their own drinks and make choices about what they would like to eat. Fresh drinking water is available at all times including when children play outside to ensure they do not become dehydrated.

Children take part in a range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle, both outdoors and indoors. Their physical skills are suitably supported through the use of equipment such as a ball pit, climbing frame, bikes and through the provision of games, puzzles and mark making equipment that develop their fine manipulative skills.

Facilities for children to rest and sleep according to their needs are adequate for the number and age of children attending. Children are able to rest on cushions in the book area and a cot is available for younger children. Records are kept to accurately monitor children's sleep times and sleeping positions.

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

The provision is **good**. Children play in a safe and secure environment that is adequately organised to minimise risks of accidental injury. Staff conduct daily safety checks prior to children's arrival and risk assessments of the premises both inside and out are regularly carried out and displayed around the premises. Additionally children are regularly taken to an adjoining communal play area to enhance outdoor play; however staff must be fully aware that this is a public area and therefore vigilant in ensuring children are kept safe.

Space is well organised and used effectively to give children opportunities to be active and move freely between the different activities provided as well as to relax and rest in a

comfortable environment. Children are provided with a good range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources which are organised in low-level storage units, which encourages children of all ages to make independent choices. Children learn to care about the resources and help to put them away after play.

Children are beginning to consider their own safety as they regularly practise emergency evacuations and staff remind them to be careful on the large outdoor play equipment. Children's and visitors' attendance is closely monitored and times of arrival and departure are clearly marked. Staff are vigilant at using safety equipment such as cupboard locks and safety gates; staff receive induction training which supports them in implementing the setting's health and safety policies.

Children are protected as staff have a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. Although the setting does not have a designated member of staff responsible for safeguarding children issues, staff have attended training and are aware of whom to contact and how to report concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is **good**. Children are content and settled within the provision, supported by staff who are warm and caring and show genuine interest in what children say and do. Children's photographs and artwork displayed around the setting are easily identified by the children and give them a sense of security and belonging. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as staff praise children's efforts and achievements and support them to try more challenging activities.

Children are motivated and interested in the planned activities that develop their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities; for example, children showed great enthusiasm for a printing on t-shirts activity and asked lots of questions relating to how the machine worked. There is a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, with staff encouraging the children to take the lead and responding to their interests rather than directing them to the planned adult activities; for example, during outdoor play children elected to play with the bikes and cars rather than go on the planned 'bug hunt' as intended by staff, so staff responded by making more wheeled toys available. Children have ample opportunities to take part in creative activities such as collage and painting and experiment with natural resources, such as saw dust, sand and water. Children listen and join in with stories on a one-to-one basis and in groups and enjoy singing and action songs.

Staff have an emerging knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and have been active in attending training. Children belong to a key group, which has assisted in building warm relationships between staff, children and parents. Observations are conducted and acknowledge children's achievements and their current stage of development; however they are not currently used to plan for children's next steps for play and learning. Weekly planning is based on monthly topics and reflects practitioner's knowledge of their key children's likes and interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children benefit from being looked after by staff who have a good understanding of how to promote equal opportunity. All children and adults are treated with equal concern and children's individual needs are acknowledged and acted upon to ensure continuity of care between home and the nursery. Children learn about their own culture and the culture of others through the celebration of events and festivals,

such as Christmas, Easter, St Martin's Day and Chinese New Year. There are multi-cultural toys, books and resources reflecting positive images of diversity accessible to children.

Staff work closely with parents and outside agencies to support children with additional needs who are welcomed into the setting and have access to all facilities, activities and play opportunities provided; care plans are in place; however, staffing arrangements are not always effective in ensuring the consistency and continuity of care for children with special needs.

Children behaviour is good; they share and play co-operatively with little or no prompting. Children are encouraged to show good manners as staff act as positive role models demonstrating politeness by using 'please' and 'thank you' consistently. A behaviour management policy is in place and understood by staff; as a result children respond appropriately to any requests from staff and benefit from their gentle and consistent approach to behaviour management.

Children benefit from the close partnership the staff have with parents. Staff make an effort to involve parents into planned activities, such as Barnardo's Toddlethon, end of term party and Big Read Week in conjunction with the local library. Parents receive verbal feedback and a written report at the end of each day, highlighting how their child's care needs have been met. All parents interviewed during inspection praised the staff's friendliness and approachability and were reassured by the staff's genuine concern over their child's welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is **satisfactory**. There are effective procedures in place for the recruitment and vetting of all staff, which ensures that those who work directly with the children are suitable to do so and have relevant knowledge and skills. Staff work well together as a team and are supportive of each other; they are motivated to enhance their skills by attending regular training courses; however training action plans lack details to support continued professional development.

Staff deployment is generally effective and although contingency arrangements are in place to cover for staff absences, they are not always designed to meet the needs of individual children.

All required documentation is maintained and confidentially stored. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and implemented to promote the outcomes for children; however British Forces Early Years Service was not informed of some significant changes relating to opening hours and closure of the lunch club service to children from the local school.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Kitchen facilities have significantly improved in line with environmental health and food safety regulations.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to British Forces Early Years Service.

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 safety by ensuring children are effectively supervised and protected from hazards when taken to the communal outdoor play area
- ensure that BFEYS is informed of any significant changes
- review staffing arrangements to ensure all staff are aware of the needs of individual children, including children with special needs, to promote consistency and continuity of care.