



## Inspection Report For Early Years Provision

Unique Reference Number	BFG02DC182
Inspection Date	16 October 2007
Childcare Inspector	Caroline Parsons
Registered Provision -Setting Name <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Teddy Tots Crèche
Registered Provision -Setting Address <i>Suppressed if childminder</i>	Villa Venere Parco Mazzola Lago Patria Naples Italy
Type of Care	Sessional 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?

Originally established in 1996 and previously registered with SSAFA Forces Help, Teddy Tots Crèche was registered with British Forces Early Years Service in September 2006 to provide sessional care for 20 children aged from 6 months to under 4 years and serves the needs of British, NATO and local families based in the surrounding area of Lago Patria.

Teddy Tots Crèche operates from 08.30 to 12:20 daily, Monday to Friday, term time only with most children attending on a part-time basis. Presently, there is no demand for children to attend full-time. There are currently 17 children on roll.

Teddy Tots Crèche has sole use of a main playroom, baby room, creative playroom and a fully enclosed outdoor play area. The setting also has separate kitchen facilities, children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. Staff have access to toilets, laundry and office facilities upstairs which are shared with the Health Visitor.

There are currently three full-time members of staff, one part-time and three regular supply staff. The manager is a qualified nurse; the deputy and one keyworker are in the process of completing a level 3 qualification in childcare and education. The staff team have attended a variety of training workshops including: child protection, Birth to three matters, first aid, speech and language and imaginative play. All work directly with the children.

The setting is supported by the UKNSU Italy and 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 being cared for in a healthy environment where staff promote the good health of children. There are clear policies and procedures in place which highlight the steps taken to prevent the spread of infection; staff ensure that gloves are worn at all times when caring for children's intimate needs, changing mats are wiped prior to and after each use and soiled nappies and used gloves hygienically disposed of. Appropriate measures are taken by staff when children are ill, these are all discussed with parents at enrolment.

Children learn about good personal hygiene through the daily routine, such as hand washing before eating and after visiting the toilet. Children's independence is effectively promoted with good support and guidance by staff. For example, children are encouraged to wipe their nose and cover their mouth when coughing; they are provided with child-sized sinks and toilet facilities and younger children are well supported whilst potty training. There is a good general awareness of appropriate hygiene practice by all members of staff.

Children are well cared for according to their individual needs and routines which are respected at all times; for example, nappy changing takes place in accordance with children's individual needs and not as part of the setting's routine.

Children's dietary needs are met because staff work closely with parents and are aware of any special dietary requirements, preferences or food allergies children may have. Individual records clearly reflect parental wishes and children's needs.

Children have opportunities to learn about healthy living. They are introduced to a variety of fresh, healthy and nutritious snacks, all of which are stored, prepared and hygienically served. Children are given choices and are involved in the preparation of snacks, thus developing independence. Snack time is a flexible and social occasion where good manners are encouraged and praised, with lots of interaction between staff and children. Children are provided with drinks in adequate quantities at regular intervals throughout the day; drinks are accessible independently by the children.

Children enjoy a wide range of play activities daily both indoors within the soft play area and outdoors where they have the opportunity to develop their physical skills when playing with the bikes, cars or using the climbing frames. Children have also opportunities to relax according to their individual needs, with the provision of a quiet soft seating area or cots for sleep.

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

The provision is **satisfactory**. Children, parents and visitors are warmly welcomed by staff who have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. Children are protected from un-vetted adults, as effective measures are in place; the premises are kept secure and access is carefully monitored, entry is by key or bell only, a book is used to record all visitors and only parents or other authorised adult can sign their child in and out of the premises.

Children's safety is further promoted, as staff are aware of health and safety requirements and understand their roles and responsibilities in this area; the main play room is well organised with ample play space for children to be able to move freely around; rooms are clean, tidy and well-maintained; there is effective staff deployment and high staffing levels are maintained including during snack preparation or whilst toileting needs are being addressed. Children have safe and independent access to toys, resources and play materials which are age appropriate, stimulating, in a good state of repair and appropriately stored.

Children are kept safe, as risk assessments and daily safety checks are conducted both indoors and

out, although daily safety checks are not documented and risk assessments are not regularly reviewed to ensure children's safety. Children move safely around the premises and learn about possible dangers through play activities and explanations by staff. For example children are aware not to run within the setting as floor surfaces are tiled, and although anti-slip strips have been fitted, staff remain vigilant while routinely explaining the risks and reinforcing safe practice to the children.

Children are well protected from harm; staff have attended relevant child protection training and understand their role and responsibilities in this area; they are aware of the appropriate procedures to follow should they have a concern. All members of staff recognise that children's safety is their first priority.

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

The provision is **good**. Children benefit from a balanced range of play activities which are well organised, age appropriate and based on the approach set out in the *Birth to three matters* framework. Regular staff meetings are held to discuss children's individual developmental needs and plan activities; staff have a good understanding of how to support children's learning through planned activities, although written plans remain basic and could be further developed. Children's individual needs and interests are considered and met, as staff incorporate information gained through observations and record keeping to plan children's next steps for play and learning.

Children are well supported by caring and enthusiastic staff who encourage them to make their own decisions and choices; for example during an art activity, children were encouraged to express themselves and were free to choose, investigate and experiment with different colours, brushes or their hands, which greatly increased their sense of enjoyment. During water play, children were provided with small watering cans and encouraged to help filling up the trough, thus developing children's growing confidence and self-esteem; staff use these opportunities to extend children's learning through good use of questions, praise and interaction.

Children relate well to staff and their peers resulting in positive relationships and friendships being formed. Children make good progress, as staff positively encourage and support them to join in and try different activities which are planned and organised to provide children with choices, opportunities to explore, use their imagination and develop language. Children's interests are valued, as staff effectively respond to what children say and do, they offer praise and encouragement and interact with children at their differing levels of understanding.

Children are beginning to distinguish between right and wrong and show respect for others. They are encouraged to tidy away toys after play and invited to do things for themselves. Children are engrossed and enthusiastic in their play and clearly enjoy the time spent at the setting.

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

The provision is **good**. Children are treated with equal concern and are fully included, which helps them develop a sense of belonging. New children quickly settle in well, as staff work closely with parents to ensure that their children's individual care needs are met and home routines are followed. Where English is not the first language, staff endeavour to learn basic words of the child's home language, thus offering reassurance and continuity of care. Children experience and learn about our diverse society through the toys and activities that are offered and the different cultural festivals that are celebrated.

Children's needs are well met, as staff conduct regular observations and keep records of children's development. Children are valued and any concerns are discussed with parents on how best to meet their child's individual needs, in conjunction with other professionals as necessary.

Children are beginning to learn about good behaviour, as staff consistently implement good behaviour strategies, always with a positive and calm approach and respecting each child's different

level of understanding; staff are sensitive to children's feelings, give lots of praise and encouragement and act as good role models.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents speak very highly of the setting and its staff especially with the recent introduction of the daily diary system. Information is shared through keyworkers' meetings, newsletters, notice boards and daily contact with the staff when parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is **satisfactory**. Children and parents benefit from a very good induction process that helps children settle in quickly. Effective induction training for staff provides them with a good knowledge and understanding of the setting's policies and procedures.

Children benefit from a staff team who are keen and enthusiastic and who are encouraged by the newly appointed manager to develop their skills and knowledge through various training sessions. Appraisals and training action plans address any additional requirements. Effective vetting procedures are in place.

Children's learning is supported by appropriate play activities, suitable resources and staff who genuinely enjoy being with children. Generous staffing ratios allow for flexibility within the provision and effective measures are in place to deputise in the absence of the manager; all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Relevant and required documentation is in place, but at times was difficult to locate. Some documentation lacks the necessary details or needs to be developed, such as the written activity plans and the registration system. Children's files are completed and kept up to date with contact and personal details; individual staff files are kept and contain relevant detailed information. Notice boards located in the entrance hall provide parents with a guide on how the provision operates.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

N/A

### **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:

- improve the procedures for monitoring and reviewing risk assessments to incorporate daily safety checks
- ensure the system used for registering children clearly shows when they are present on the premises
- ensure all records and documentation are readily accessible for inspection by the Early Years Childcare Inspector.