



Club V

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309598
Inspection date	04 April 2006
Inspector	Pauline King
Setting Address	Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, London, SW19 2RD
Telephone number	020 8495 2201
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Registered person	Virgin Active Limited
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Crèche

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

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; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

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 the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

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 day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Virgin Active Club V Crèche opened in 2005. It operates within the club. There are three play rooms and two toilets within the crèche area. The group has access to a hall and two toilets within the leisure club. It is situated in a residential area in South Wimbledon, the London borough of Merton. A maximum of 40 children may attend the crèche at any one time. There are currently 228 children aged 0 to 8 years on roll attending different sessions. The crèche is open Monday to Friday 09:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 15:00 for 52 weeks a year. The crèche serves parents using the club facilities. The crèche supports a number of children who have English as an additional language.

There crèche employs five members of staff depending on the number of children attending at any one time. The manager and 50% of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment. Children wash their hands after visiting the toilet which helps prevent the spread of germs. Children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments. However baby bottles and feeder cups are not labelled and other babies and older children are able to access these. Snacks are provided by parents and given to children, however staff have no set times or routine during the session. Fresh drinking water is available, however not freely accessible to children.

A staff member is always in attendance that holds a current first aid certificate. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. Children move around confidently and in a variety of ways for example crawling or walking. Toys and equipment are in easy reach of children. Children are competent when using home corner and construction toys. Younger children exploring shapes and bricks picking them up and handing them to adults. They show good co-ordination when jumping and balancing. Children receive good support when learning new skills for example, rolling and throwing balls. They are confident when selecting and using small equipment such as scissors, glue sticks and paintbrushes.

All relevant information regarding diets, allergies and medication is gathered on the registration form. This ensures children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a well organised environment. Children use a wide range of good quality toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys and equipment are easily accessible to children offering them freedom of choice. This ensures that children are provided with suitable and stimulating opportunities at all times.

There are clear systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. There are risk assessments carried out, that enables staff to identify and address any potential hazards. However, an electric hover stored in the nappy changing room which is accessibly to children poses a hazard to their safety. There are clear fire evacuation procedures in place. Staff have a good understanding of Child Protection procedure and regularly update their knowledge through training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff encourage younger children to experiment with different toys and play materials. Children enjoy and learn from a range of activities that allow them to explore and investigate. For example using an ironing board and play food. Children are interested in the activities available and spend time concentrating on self-chosen activities. A good balance of adult and child initiated activities help children to make progress in all areas of learning. Good questioning and repeating children's responses encourages use of language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the world through activities that introduce them to other cultures. Children become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources, planned activities and they celebrate a variety of festivals. There are systems in place to support children who have special needs. Close liaison with parents ensures children's needs are well planned for and met. Children's behaviour is generally good and they play well together. They learn to share and take turns while playing.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff give daily feedback to parents about their child's day. This helps provide children with consistent care between home and the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Appropriate checks for suitability were carried out at registration.

Children feel at ease in the well organised setting. Staff show a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning. Suitable contingency plans are in place to cover absences to ensure children always have appropriate supervision. Clear procedures are in place for uncollected and lost children. This promotes children's welfare.

Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allow them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme. Staff are given the opportunity through this for professional development and the management actively encourage staff to attend training. The company evaluate practice constantly to ensure continual improvement in the outcomes for children. All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the setting is in place. This contributes to the welfare of the children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to Ofsted since registration. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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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(s):

- ensure cross infection from baby bottles and feeder cups are minimized and drinks are freely available to all children throughout the session
- ensure dangerous hazards and loose electrical leads are made safe or inaccessible to children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk