

Club-V-Virgin Active

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343412
Inspection date	07 June 2007
Inspector	Pamela Bailey
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Club-V-Virgin Active is one of 40 crèche's run by Virgin Active Limited. It opened in 2006 and operates from one room in a purpose-built building. It is situated in Club-V-Virgin Active in Clapham, London Borough of Lambeth. A maximum of 20 children may attend the crèche for up to two hours sessions at any one time. The crèche is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:25 to 16:25 and Tuesday and Thursday from 09:25 to 12:25 all year round.

There are currently 175 children under five years on roll. The crèche caters for the children's parents who are members of Club-V-Virgin Active. The crèche employs four members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Babies and young children receive lots of warmth and affection. They have a healthy dependence on staff and confidently express feelings and needs verbally and non-verbally. They are beginning to develop own preferences and make choices for themselves. The staff positively interacts

with children giving lots of cuddles, smiles and acknowledging and valuing them as individuals. This supports their emotional well being and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences.

Babies and young children are learning to control their own body gaining physical skills appropriate to their stage of development. Staff use the Birth to three matters guidance to provide a range of physical play experiences for babies and young children. For example, they enjoy climbing over the soft foam mats, throwing the balls out of the ball pool and using a range of push and pull toys. Staff are on hand to encourage and support the children to develop their gross motor skills such as crawling, standing and learning to walk.

Staff follow babies and young children's individual routines for eating and sleeping. They monitor food and drink intake and nappy changes to ensure they remain healthy. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to their physical well-being.

Children play in a clean, well-maintained environment and there are some effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, staff follow good hygiene procedures for nappy changing, visitors receive protective covers for footwear and children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments. Young children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene practices when using the toilet. However, not supported enough to learn the importance of good personal hygiene such as washing their hands before eating.

Sufficient staff hold a current first aid certificate. Staff ensure that they record all information regarding children's health, obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and relevant documentation such as the accident records are well maintained. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Young children are developing healthy eating habits from a young age. They enjoy nutritious snacks such as fresh fruits and salad vegetables brought in by their parents. Babies and young children receive regular drinks and learn to feed themselves. This ensures they do not become thirsty and helps to develop their independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Babies and young children benefit from playing in a spacious and well-organised environment. Staff organise the indoor space effectively and soft furnishing allows them to crawl and learn to walk in a child friendly environment. Babies and young children use a wide range of good quality toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures. The security is good ensuring that children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult and prevents unwanted visitors gaining access. For example, there is a TV and intercom monitoring system in place and all visitors, staff and children are signed in and out. Staff carry out daily health and safety checks of the equipment and premises and regular risk assessments means that children can play, learn and explore without danger.

Effective child protection procedures promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the crèche. Staff have a very sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and know what

action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures staff quickly recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interest.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Babies and young children gain much from being together. They learn to communicate and develop good relationships. Staff use the Birth to three matters framework well to guide them in their practice. The staff's good planning supports topic work, clearly identifies learning aims and provide meaningful experiences from which children develop and learn. A good balance of adult and child initiated games help children make progress in all areas of learning.

Young children are learning and developing good communication skills as the staff sit with them at their level and is attentive to their needs by listening and responding to them. They are developing a healthy interest in books and enjoy sharing books with the staff. They learn the meaning of words through staff's expressive reading and by pointing to and naming familiar objects. They enjoy singing and joining in actions songs which also helps them to develop their coordination.

Babies and young children express their enjoyment both verbally and non-verbally as they explore and investigate different sound making equipment. For example, they watch with enthusiasm at what happens when they push or bang a button. Bounce up and down, sway their bodies in time to the music and laugh with delight at the different sounds and flashing lights.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, role play, painting, singing and dancing. They are able to express themselves creatively as they use different materials to make pictures and have opportunities to use small equipment such as glue sticks and paint brushes which help develop their finer motor skills. They are beginning to use their imagination and make sense of the world as they play in the house, go shopping with the trolley and use small world equipment such as cars and trains.

Staff have a clear understanding of how children learn and are skilled at introducing additional learning in children's play. For example, young children are beginning to learn to count and problem solve as they work out how many cars can fit into the transporters.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Babies and young children are valued and respected as individuals and have a sense of belonging. Babies needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine as discussed with parents and young children make themselves at home confidently deciding what to do and when to have a drink and their snack. They have time to relax as well as be active.

Young children talk happily about home life and things that are important to them. Well planned topics, activities, books and acknowledging different celebrations help children to gain an understanding of different cultures and the wider world. Although there are few resources that reflect diversity staff have a positive attitude to improving this. There are good systems in place to support children who speak English as an additional language and those with learning difficulties and or disabilities, although none currently attend.

Young children behave very well and benefit from lots of praise and encouragement. They learn important social skills such as sharing and taking turns as they play and take part in activities.

Relationships with parents are friendly. There are both formal and informal systems in place for staff and parents to share information. For example, staff gather all information before children are placed in the crèche and respect parent's wishes. They complete a daily care diary giving information about their child such as food intake and sleep. This ensure continuity of care and contributes to children's well-being. Parents are provided with sufficient information about the complaints procedures and staff have a sound understanding of the requirements for recording complaints made by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive good support from a staff group that enjoy their company and know them well helping them feel secure and confident. The layout of the premises ensures children are able to move around freely and play safely. Staff deployment is effective and ensures children are well supervised at all times.

Effective recruitment ensures that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. The induction programme and good team work make sure all staff work together well to safeguard children's welfare and promote children's enjoyment and achievement. Staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework which helps them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme and show a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning. Staff are actively encouraged to undertake ongoing training and have attended food hygiene, first aid and child protection training.

All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the crèche is in place and in line with current regulations. For example, the child protection policy, lost child policy and uncollected child policy. Records such as the attendance register are well maintained, accurate and up to date. A good partnership with parents contributes considerably to children's well-being while at the crèche.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.

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 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):

- improve hand washing procedures for young children
- improve the range of resources that reflect diversity

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk