

Club-V-Virgin Active

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343418
Inspection date	13 May 2008
Inspector	Anne Jeanette Faithfull
Setting Address	Holmes Place Wokingham Health Club, 1 The Plaza, Denmark Street, WOKINGHAM, Berkshire, RG40 2LD
Telephone number	01189 120500
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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 is run by Virgin Active. It is situated in Virgin Active Health Club in Wokingham, Berkshire and opened in 2006. The crèche has its own room and can use other areas of the health club if required. The crèche is open six days a week for parents/carers using the club facilities, parents must remain on site. Opening hours are Monday 09:00 to 12:30 then 14:00 to 17:30, Tuesday 09:00 to 12:30, Wednesday 09:00 to 13:30 then 14:00 to 17:30, Thursday 09:00 to 12:30, Friday 09:00 to 12:30 then 14:00 to 17:30, Saturday 09:00 to 12:00. A maximum stay for a child in any one day is up to two hours. The crèche is registered to provide care for a maximum of 35 children aged from birth to eight years old. Children do not usually attend until they are six weeks old. The number of children on roll varies. The crèche supports children with learning disabilities/difficulties and those who speak English as an additional language. There is a total of five staff who work on a part-time basis and of these three hold an appropriate childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The environment is very clean and well maintained, good measures are in place to promote good hygiene routines. Nappy changing routines promote good health and hygiene. Tissues are readily available for the children to use if required, this ensures children's independent skills are promoted. Sensible hygiene routines ensure the toys and environment are clean and suitable for the children's use. Most staff hold first aid qualifications; this ensures they are able to deal with an accident efficiently. Systems are in place if children are ill or have infectious conditions to ensure the health and well being of all present in the crèche.

Children experience good opportunities to develop their physical skills in the well planned indoor environment. They readily enjoy playing on the large soft play apparatus, where they can use the ball pool or climb on the equipment. There is no outside play area, so staff arrange for the children to have the use of various other resources daily to promote their physical skills for example, staff ensure enough space is available for the children to use large play cars they can push and ride in.

Parents provide the drinks for their children which are readily available, so the children do not become de-hydrated and staff use themes such as healthy living to promote children's understanding of healthy eating and exercise. Staff are aware of how to heat up baby milk appropriately and systems in place including a sheet parents complete to inform the staff of when the babies' next sleep and feed is due. Parents also verbally exchange this information with staff when they arrive at the crèche to ensure the children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. They benefit from the layout of the environment, which enables them to move freely and safely around. Toys and resources are of good quality as they are only purchased from reputable suppliers as part of the company's policy and procedures. All toys and equipment used are checked and cleaned on a regular basis, to ensure they remain safe for children to use. Children develop very good independence as they freely select suitable play resources, from labelled boxes situated around the room. The room is divided up appropriately so if required small babies can be cared for in an area away from the older more boisterous children. The attendance sheet used provides the staff with a clear picture of the ages of all children attending and secure systems are in place for parents to enter the crèche to drop off or collect their child.

Staff encourage the children to begin to think about safety for themselves, for example, reminding the children to be careful in the ball pool and not to cover a child's head when they are role playing going to sleep. Staff practise the emergency evacuation procedure with the children on a regular basis so they are aware of the steps to take in an emergency. However, the dates, time taken to evacuate and any concerns raised during the evacuation are not recorded. Staff are very diligent when strapping young babies into bouncy chairs and ensure the babies are safe and secure.

Children are safeguarded from harm and well protected as staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. Most staff have recently completed safeguarding children training with

the local authority. All of the required child protection procedures, policies and contact numbers are in place, to secure children's well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and most readily leave their parents or carer. Younger children and babies enjoy the hugs and cuddles they receive from the staff. The staff use their experience and knowledge of child development to provide a wide range of activities and experiences for the children which helps to promote their learning and development. They deploy themselves well to enable them to provide good care and support to the children. Staff plan a variety of activities and experiences for the children based around the monthly theme which at inspection was transport. The children have drawn their faces and made a giant bus and then stick their faces onto the bus, other themes have been about pirates where the children have made masks and come to the crèche dressed up as pirates.

Children thoroughly enjoy imaginative play and dress up as a princess and snow white. They cook sausages for dinner in the playhouse and enjoy role play such as being a mother and putting her children to bed. Staff readily support the children's interest and offer ideas and encouragement when appropriate. Staff nurture babies' early communication skills as they give lots of eye contact, listen to their babbles and then respond in gentle tones; reinforcing early speech patterns. Staff are aware the babies enjoy playing with the musical resources and ensure they are readily available for the babies to listen to and within easy reach further promoting their early development. Staff extend older children's language by asking appropriate questions, for example, when reading a book with the children asking 'what happens' next to the butterfly in the story.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a sense of self-esteem and confidence, they are valued as individuals, and their needs are met well by the caring staff team. Staff know each individual child well and talk to them about their siblings and events in their lives. Children, who come at the same time each week, greet each other warmly and immediately go off to play in the soft play activity centre together. This gives children the opportunity to feel settled and form friendships. Children are well behaved. They share and take turns in their play and negotiate with each other who is going to ride in the pedal car next. Effective behaviour strategies are in place such as, chill out time and all strategies used are appropriate to the stage of development and understanding of the child. Parents are informed on the parents' notice board of the behaviour strategies in place. Children are actively encouraged and praised as they play enabling them to build their self esteem.

Staff provide a range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. This includes celebrating children's birthdays and different festivals. Parents are very pleased with the crèche and comment positively about the service, the caring staff and the range of activities the children undertake.

The parents' notice board informs them of some of the policies and procedures in place as well as any special event days. Staff talk to the parents, when they leave their child or when they

return to pick their child up and daily sheets are in place for the babies who attend the crèche, these inform the parents of any nappy changes, sleep and feed their child has had.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The company offers good support to the manager and staff working in the crèche. They ensure there are good vetting procedures in place to ensure children are well protected and staff are suitability qualified. An effective appraisal system is in place and each member of staff has a training log which identifies future training needs. There is a range of very comprehensive policies and procedures in place. These help to ensure the on-going safety, care and welfare of the children and staff in the crèche.

The manager ensures ratios are maintained to promote children's care. All staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, they work well together as a team and they organise space, time and resources well to effectively meet children's needs in the crèche. Children's and the staff who usually work with the children times of attendance are recorded daily. However, other sports centre staff who come to the crèche to help do not record their times of attendance. All documentation is well organised and stored securely to maintain confidentiality. The setting meets the needs of the range of the 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):

- record the times and dates of the fire drill and any concerns or action taken
- ensure all staff times of attendance are recorded

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