



Club V - Virgin Active

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY314071
Inspection date	24 March 2006
Inspector	Jima Fotopoulou
Setting Address	New Writtle Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0RR
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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 one of the crèches run by Virgin Active Limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from three rooms in a purpose-built leisure complex. It is situated near the centre of Chelmsford, Essex.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.00 to 18.00, Tuesday and Thursday from 09:00 till 16:00 and weekends from 09.00 to 14.00 all year round.

There are currently 650 children aged from birth to under 8 years on roll. Children

come from both the local and wider catchment area. The crèche currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs nine staff . There are seven members of the staff, including the manager who hold appropriate early years qualifications. There is one member of staff who is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about personal hygiene due to the staff's good hygiene procedures which include washing hands after using the toilet or before having snacks. There are visual clues in the toilets in order to help younger children become aware of good hygiene procedures. The staff have effective procedures in place for nappy changing such as wearing gloves and using aprons in order to ensure younger children's health and well-being and help prevent cross infection. Toilet and nappy changing facilities are appropriate and well-maintained and ensure children's health.

All required documentation is in place to ensure that children are protected from illness such as a sick child policy which is shared with the parents and information about any specific allergies or medical conditions. Practitioners have obtained all required parental consents to ensure that children are protected in their care. All members of staff have received recent first aid training to ensure that they can respond appropriately in case of an emergency. Practitioners have a first aid box always available in the setting which is checked and updated regularly in order to ensure children's health.

Children are provided with drinks throughout the sessions to ensure that no child remains thirsty. Practitioners liaise effectively with parents regarding feeds and snacks in order to ensure that all children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. Practitioners have received training in Food Hygiene to ensure that appropriate food handling techniques are applied in order to protect children from contaminations.

Children have access to a wide range of toys and equipment which helps them develop confidence in their physical skills. There is a large soft-play area for older children where they can engage in physical play. Younger children have access to safe and age-appropriate resources such as construction bricks, a slide and a smaller soft-play area which helps them be active and develop both gross and fine motor skills. Children are able to rest or sleep according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a safe, welcoming and child-centred environment which allows them

to move freely and access toys and resources in safety. Practitioners are vigilant and supervise children at all times to ensure that they are safe within the setting. Daily risk assessments ensure that both the premises and the resources are suitable for children to use and any identified hazards are minimised. Children enjoy free access to safe, well-maintained and age-appropriate toys and equipment; toys are appropriately stored in child height which means that their independence is actively fostered.

Children learn about fire safety as practitioners practise fire drills with them to ensure that children are aware of the appropriate actions to take in case of a fire. All required fire safety equipment is in place and they are checked regularly to ensure that they remain in good working condition. The setting's security and registration systems ensure that children are safely delivered to and from the crèche and that no child can leave the premises unsupervised. All required policies and procedures are in place to ensure that staff can respond appropriately such as policies for lost and uncollected children.

Children are well cared for by staff who have a good knowledge of child protection issues. Practitioners recognise signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and they are aware of current procedures to follow in case of child protection concerns. Children are well protected from unvetted people as practitioners release children only to their parents or people nominated by them. There are robust systems in place to ensure children's safety for example, practitioners request to see identification documents before releasing children to a person other than the parent.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settle well into the crèche. They have a sense of belonging as the staff form positive relationships with them. The crèche operates a settling-in period which helps children feel secure and confident.

Children are provided with a wide range of activities which they find interesting and enjoyable such as playing with small world equipment or construction bricks. Staff support children well in their play as they sit at their level and play with them. Children are able to choose toys and resources freely and their choices are respected which helps them develop positive self-esteem and independence. Children enjoy activities such as music and movement, listening to nursery rhymes and reading books which contribute to the development of their language and physical skills. Practitioners help children distinguish between right and wrong as they encourage them to share resources and take turns while playing. This helps children form positive relationships with each other and feel valued within the setting.

Younger children have access to a wide range of suitable and age-appropriate toys such as musical toys, cuddly and baby toys and push along toys which help them develop their skills. Practitioners use intonation to capture the children's interest and respond appropriately to their facial expressions and bubbling which helps younger children develop their emerging language and communication skills. Practitioners are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework which means that younger children

benefit from recent developments in childcare.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect which helps them feel good about themselves. Practitioners have a good understanding of equal opportunities and a positive attitude towards diversity which ensures that all children are included in the life of the setting. Children learn about diversity through activities such as celebrating different festivals and through a wide range of multicultural resources such as dressing up materials, books and puzzles. Practitioners have an equal opportunities policy in place which is shared with the parents to ensure that they are fully informed about the setting.

Children behave well due to the practitioners' effective ways of managing children's behaviour such as discussion, explanation and distraction. Good behaviour is promoted through praise and encouragement. The setting has a behaviour management policy in place which is shared with the parents in order to support its practice.

Parents are well informed as practitioners exchange verbal information on a daily basis. Additionally, parents get information through a notice board where a selection of policies and procedures are displayed such as the sick child policy. Parents have access to all policies and procedures and they are invited to become aware of these through a folder which is always available to them. Although, there is a complaints procedure, it does not reflect recent changes in the legislation and there are no systems in place to record any complaints.

Practitioners have all the required parental consents in place in order to form good working relationships with the parents and keep complete child records to ensure that children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. This ensures that individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in the crèche and benefit from a warm, welcoming and well-organised environment. The range and quality of activities and resources are good for all children and promotes their learning and play.

All required documentation, apart from systems to record complaints, is in place and used effectively to provide for children's welfare, care and learning. To ensure children's safety, the setting ensures that all persons with access to children are suitably vetted. There are robust procedures for checking the suitability of new members of staff which means that children are well protected.

Practitioners have a good understanding of the needs of young children. They are aware of recent developments in childcare which means that the setting promotes

good outcomes for younger children. Parents and children's privacy is respected and maintained due to the practitioners' good understanding of confidentiality issues and good storage arrangements.

Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the 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.

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):

- ensure that the complaints procedure is updated in light of recent legislation and devise systems to record any complaints

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