



Club V

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233961
Inspection date	06 December 2006
Inspector	Helen Maria Steven
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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 situated within Virgin Active Life Centre. The premises are located in a residential area of Acton and serve the local community for sport and leisure activities.

Club V is open to members of Virgin Active Life Centre. The opening hours are 09:00 - 20:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 - 17:00 during the weekend.

The crèche accommodates a maximum of 74 children aged six weeks to seven years, consisting of nine children under two years, 10 children two - three years and 55 children aged three - seven years. Up to 12 children aged eight to 15 years can also attend. There are currently 1853 children on roll.

Children stay for a maximum of two hours; during the two hour session children are divided into specific age groups and older children move round the different activities on offer in Club.

Club V currently employ 26 staff including the manager and deputy manager. The majority of whom hold suitable qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well as practitioners implement effective hygiene procedures to minimise the risk of cross infection within the provision. For example sheets are changed after every use and children who are infectious or absent from school due to illness do not attend. Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices, for example they wash their hands after using the toilet. There are staff trained in first aid; this means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Parents work in partnership with the crèche staff to provide healthy and nutritious snacks for the children. Staff record children's dietary needs, although this is not readily available with the current filing system, parents' inform staff of children's needs as they arrive. Drinking water is always available and children can access their cups when they identify that they are thirsty.

Children are developing a positive attitude to physical exercise as a high emphasis is placed on this. They relish climbing on the large equipment, jumping around in the ball pool, dancing and participating in organised games, all of which develop their large motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move safely around the child friendly environment. Generally staff have organised resources well to enable children to make good use of the safe and suitable equipment, making their own choices from the selection available.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the staff give them gentle reminders, such as to sit down when drinking. Regular risk assessments are completed on the building and play areas so that children remain safe. These are meticulously updated and have included specific activities, for example, when a visitor came to show the children reptiles. Fire drills are conducted and recorded regularly and staff have a good awareness of how to evacuate in an emergency. Effective procedures are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. For example, there is always a staff member on the reception desk.

Children are well protected because practitioners have a clear understanding of their role with regard to child protection issues and know how to implement local procedures. Staff attend ongoing training to ensure their knowledge is updated.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche, most arrive happy and confident and quickly settle into the routine, making their own choices about their play choosing from a range of accessible resources. Staff have a high regard for the well-being of all children, giving good levels of individual support especially when children are settling in. The children have developed relationships with the staff and benefit from the development of having consistent staff in the baby room. Babies receive lots of cuddles and enjoy one to one time with staff members who give them good eye contact when talking to them. This increases their sense of well-being. Children display a sense of achievement when they successfully scale the climbing frame and slide. Staff are on hand to offer support, praise and encouragement.

Children enjoy their activities and interact well with staff and their peers, building positive relationships with them. On arrival children run to their favourite staff member and are welcomed with a big hug. The routine of the day enables the children to move as a group between different areas of the crèche, enjoying different activities. However the lack of forward planning for table top activities limits the variety of resources set out, for example in the 'planet paint' room for construction activities are set out at the same time. Babies have the opportunity to play with a good range of resources. Activities that enable them to explore different textures and natural materials are not consistently available and therefore some children do not have the opportunity to partake in this experience.

Children are able to participate in imaginative and creative play such as the dressing up clothes. The club has different themes each month and staff have developed activity guidance for ideas to entertain the children. Staff take opportunities to encourage children's learning and development, for example, playing a physical game that promotes colour recognition. Older children also have the opportunity to undertake a good range of activities including sports and ball games. They also enjoy the computers and play stations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff pay particular attention to supporting children who are settling in to the crèche to enable them to become fully involved in the activities. The staff team reflects the local community which supports children to develop positive images of themselves and others. However there are limited resources that promote diversity. Staff are able to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and they clearly understand that some children may need additional support to achieve their potential.

Children's behaviour is good, they know what is expected of them and are developing their understanding about what is right and wrong. They are given praise when they display good behaviour, which encourages them to continue. Children are encouraged to take turns and share. Staff work as a team to support each other ensuring that children benefit from consistent messages.

Children benefit from the positive partnership that the staff have developed with the parents. They exchange information and staff follow the home routine wherever possible so that most children settle well. Staff keep parents well informed about their child's time in the crèche. This helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention.

Children benefit from a very friendly professional relationship between practitioners and parents. Communication is further enhanced by an effective white board system where parents take responsibility for recording information regarding their children's needs. Crèche staff value parents' input and welcome comments and suggestions in order to improve their service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the crèche. Induction training ensures staff understand the company policies and also the National Standards. The deployment of staff is good, they ensure that ratios are consistently met, which is essential as the numbers of children and ages of children are constantly changing due to the nature of the service on offer. Most staff work part-time, however managers are developing their rotas to provide a more established staff team specifically in the baby room. This is to enable children to settle as they establish bonds with familiar adults. Staff are supported by management through regular meetings and appraisal. Staff and managers are friendly, welcoming and work well as a team. The management is committed to the improvement and development of their staff and they are encouraged to update and extend their knowledge through training, thus benefiting the children. The majority of the staff team have undertaken a qualification in childcare and the recruitment and vetting procedures are robust to ensure that children are cared for by suitable adults. As a result the needs of the range of children who attend are met.

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures are in place to promote the well-being of the children. The manager has organised the documentation well, for example by filing information in relation to the National Standards. This enables staff to be able to access information in her absence. However the manual system for filing the individual children's details for everyone on roll is not as effective. The computer system used for booking ensures that the crèche always meets the required staff child ratios and stores basic information on every child on roll.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop the child protection policy to ensure it complied with current guidance and included procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer. They were also asked to build on toys and resources that reflect positive images of different cultures, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Since the last inspection the organisation has developed their child protection policy to ensure that it includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a

member of staff or volunteer. There is still only a limited range of reflective resources which offer children positive images of themselves and others.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- develop a system to ensure that a variety of resources are set out or accessible to the children
- ensure that children's individual details forms are readily available

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