

Club-V-Virgin Active

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY343416
Inspection date 10 July 2007
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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 a chain of crèche's run by Virgin Active Limited. It opened under Virgin Active in 2006 and operates from Holmes Place activity centre in Bromley.

A maximum of 33 children may attend the crèche at any one time.

The crèche is open each week day morning 09:00 to 12:00, Monday and Friday afternoon 13:00 to 16:00, Wednesday afternoon closed and Tuesday and Thursday 13:00 to 17:00. The crèche is also open on Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 12:30.

There are currently approx 800 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Only children of the parents who hold the centre's membership can attend.

The crèche supports children with learning difficulties.

The crèche employs 15 staff. Of these, six hold a relevant qualification, with one staff member currently working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's hygiene is promoted well through effectively implemented practices. Children's nappies are changed in a separate area where nappies are disposed of efficiently and staff have gloves and aprons available to protect children from cross infection. Children's dummies that are dropped on the floor are quickly washed and returned to children. Children play in a clean and well maintained environment due to the staff's effective cleaning routines to ensure that even very young children play on clean equipment and floors. Cot bedding is changed after each use and the cot itself is disinfected between each use.

Good procedures are in place to record and monitor children's ongoing health needs. Accidents are thoroughly recorded and shared with parents to promote consistent care. An effective system is in place to ensure parents administer children's medication whilst in the care of the crèche.

Children's individual feeding needs are catered for well within the setting. The crèche does not supply or provide snacks or food for the children in its care due to the short amount of time children spend in the crèche. However, babies bottles are stored and warmed appropriately to ensure young children can receive their feeds at the requested times. The staff endorse children's individual routines by holding discussions with parents about when to feed them and in what position. All children have access to their drinks which are supplied by parents. Older children decide when to help themselves to drinks. Staff have spare cups and jugs of water available for any children who do not bring a drink with them.

Children's physical skills are enhanced due to the many opportunities for them to take part in exercise and movement activities within both crèche rooms. Younger children have independent access to soft play equipment throughout their time in the crèche, learning to climb, jump and wriggle in the ball pool, stimulating the movements of their limbs. Room is made available for them to roll, crawl and toddle to encourage the natural progression of movement. Older children access large soft play shapes, encouraging them to lift, balance, roll and jump. Staff organise structured activities including songs and movement to extend children's confidence and skills further.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a very safe and secure environment. Both rooms used for the crèche facility use very effective security measures to ensure children do not leave the premises unattended and that unauthorised people cannot enter the crèche area. Daily checks are carried out to ensure the environment and equipment are safe for children's play. Staff are quick to assess changes that need to be made due to children's changing abilities such as raising the entrance gate to ensure children cannot climb up or hurt themselves.

Equipment and resources are well maintained to promote children's safe play. All selected activities are accessible to children at their level either at floor or table height to promote independent play. Careful thought has been given to the layout of activities to ensure adequate space is available to allow children to play freely.

Effective collection procedures are in place to ensure authorised people collect the children from the crèche. Staff are vigilant and will challenge any unknown person asking to collect children.

Children are developing a good sense of safety. They receive clear and sensitive explanations from staff, directed at the appropriate age groups. Younger children are given eye contact and removed from situations that have an impact on their own or other child's safety, such as jumping into the ball pool whilst someone else is in there. Older children receive clear and precise explanations about the impact their actions have on other children such as stacking large hard cubes on top of each other and knocking them down.

Children's welfare is promoted well due to the staff's confidence and knowledge of safeguarding procedures. Children are protected from harm because the staff have attended good levels of training and have access to robust child protection procedures and contact numbers to gain additional support.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very busy and occupied within both rooms of the crèche. Staff interact closely and positively to ensure children are interested in their play. Babies respond well to the staff with gurgles, chuckles and eye contact, where as the older children respond with laughter and cuddles. Children's play is informally planned in both rooms with lists of activities and resources to use. However, a system is not in place to promote younger children ongoing development such as the Birth to three matters framework. The activities are rotated throughout the week to ensure children have familiar but varied equipment to stimulate their play. Staff record mainly the babies activities to share with the parents, including details of their routine care such as sleeping times, feeds and nappy changes. Older children confidently request further resources that are not accessible to extend their play and interest. Staff are very aware of children's preferences, using the booking in system effectively to prepare activities specifically to meet children's preferences and interest. This aids settling in times for new children and familiarisation for long standing children. When settling in, children are encouraged to bring comfort toys to ease this sometimes difficult task. Staff reassure children with cuddles and reminders that their parents will not be long, making sure that they always have access to their comfort toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individuality is reflected positively in the care that they receive from the staff. Children's details are used appropriately to met the children's needs. Children have access to some resources that reflect positive images of today's society, helping them to understand about diversity.

Children with learning difficulties or/and disabilities are supported well. They receive positive motivation and stimulation from all staff who regularly discuss children's progress with parents to provide consistency.

Children receive plentiful praise and positive recognition for their achievements. They understand the rules of the crèche and listen to staff carefully when these are explained. Children learn to

negotiate in their play due to the staff clear explanations and suggestions to take turns and share the equipment with others.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Although staff engage in professional relationships with parents to ensure children's needs are met, parents do not have access to necessary information about the crèche's responsibility to offer minimum standards of care. The crèche does have a fully comprehensive set of policies and procedures that reflect the National Standards but these are not freely accessible to parents, particularly their complaints procedure, to enable parents to contact the regulatory body if they have concerns about the care of their children. Parents are familiar with regular staff but do not have access to information about the staff, such as their qualifications.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by staff who hold relevant levels of qualifications and experiences of child care. Most staff have relevant clearances to care for children unsupervised. Robust procedures are in place to ensure staff who have not received their clearances are well supervised by senior staff. The crèche has good recruitment procedures in place to ensure suitable staff are employed to work with the children.

The staffing of the crèche and the routine for the children are well organised with high regard for the correct ratios of staff to children, in line with the National Standards. This is due to the effective booking in system and good communication between the crèche staff and centre administrative staff. Children's settling in times are carefully planned to ensure children settle quickly and calmly and parents receive high levels of sensitive reassurance. Children are very confident due to the familiar staffing surroundings and routines. Their attendance is recorded accurately to show exactly who is in the care of the crèche at any given time. The staff hold regular staff meetings to discuss changes in practice to deliver a high quality of child care.

Children's records are kept highly confidential to promote their welfare. Documentation is stored securely and safely within the crèche premises to ensure that only authorised persons have access to their details.

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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that requires 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):

- Make crèche information such as policies, procedures and staff information accessible to parents at all times
- develop systems to promote children ongoing development such as the Birth to three matters framework

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