

# Club-V

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY276668
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Janette Elaina Lockwood
<b>Setting Address</b>	200 Rayleigh Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3YN
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<b>Registered person</b>	Virgin Active Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 crèche is one of a chain of crèches run by Virgin Active Ltd. It opened in 2004 and operates from two playrooms, a split-level soft play area and a studio in a recently built leisure centre. It is situated on a main road on the outskirts of Rayleigh. A maximum of 40 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open seven days a week all year round and children can attend for a maximum of two hours. From Monday to Friday the crèche is open from 09:00 until 18:00 for children up to the age of three years and from 09:00 until 19:00 for children aged between three and four years. Children over four-years-old can attend the crèche from 09:00 until 20:00. On Saturdays and Sundays the crèche is open from 09:00 until 17:00.

There are currently 1,272 children from 6 weeks to under eight years on roll. The crèche serves the members of the leisure centre. The setting supports a small number of children who have learning difficulties or disabilities.

The crèche employs 13 staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The setting is kept very clean and hygienic for children with strict daily cleaning routines for the premises and the equipment. As well as employed cleaning staff, childcare staff are vigilant ensuring they take steps to maintain the cleanliness throughout the day, for example, identifying toys and equipment to sterilise and wiping down tables. Staff provide children with their own cot sheets, blankets and bibs and ensure they do not share towels which helps to minimise the cross-infection between children.

The setting has recently introduced a 'no shoe' policy in the baby room to keep the carpets as free from germs as possible. This helps to minimise the spread of germs to children when crawling or playing on the floor.

There are effective procedures to make certain that children are cared for appropriately if they are ill or have an accident. Staff are trained in first aid and have regular in house refresher courses to keep them updated. Very clear and comprehensive records are kept if children have accidents and additional information is given to parents if accidents involve the face or head of a child.

Staff are highly aware of children's individual health needs and there are trained staff on the premises to administer emergency medication if necessary. If children are taken ill on the premises, they are separated from other children to prevent the spread of infection, monitored closely and kept comfortable until parents collect them.

As children only attend the crèche for up to two hours there is a 'no food' policy. An exception is made for babies whose parents can bring their own milk or food. Children bring their own drinks from home or are supplied with water so they do not become dehydrated.

Children have opportunities to learn about healthy eating through promotions by the crèche, for example, they take food diaries home to complete with their parents and talk about foods that are good for you.

The children's physical development plays a key role throughout the crèche as it is based in a large leisure centre. There are several exciting programmes throughout the day which are aimed at different age groups to encourage children's physical skills. A large studio is used so children have plenty of space in which to move and good quality equipment is available to support them, for example, space hoppers, bean bags and hoops.

Younger children benefit from becoming more confident in walking and begin to learn to move their bodies purposefully. For example, toddlers persevere in getting in and out of a toy car, co-ordinating when they open the door, how they step in and sit down before shutting the car door behind them. Their hand-eye co-ordination is encouraged through the use of interesting activity toys.

For all the children there is an inbuilt split level soft play area with exciting and challenging opportunities for children to climb up ropes, jump onto soft surfaces and explore how they can manipulate and co-ordinate their movements.

## **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

A wide range of good quality equipment is available for children to meet their learning and care needs. Babies can sit in soft 'doughnuts' or baby chairs or have plenty of space to lie or crawl on the floor reaching out for interesting toys to explore. Older children have access to computer games, or can sit at small tables and chairs for table top activities such as drawing or painting. The setting uses safety equipment such as door hinge covers, socket covers and gates to help maintain children's safety in the setting.

Children are kept very secure in the setting as parents have to pass through both a secure reception area in the leisure centre and then through a secure reception area in the crèche. There are regular effective risk assessments in place which highlight any hazards and staff are proactive in ensuring these are addressed effectively so children are kept safe.

Fire drills are carried out and recorded regularly with extra trained staff from the leisure centre making their way immediately to the crèche to help evacuate the children. If there were any emergencies, staff can access help by using panic buttons.

Staff are vigilant with children and help them to become aware of their own safety by talking to them about what they do and the effect it may have on others. There are systems in place to check sleeping babies regularly and children are supervised when using the toilet, depending on their independence. In addition, regular audits are carried out in relation to the accident record so any particular risks to children can be identified and eradicated, helping to maintain a high level of safety for children.

Children are safeguarded in the setting because staff are very well-trained in this subject, receiving both external and regular in-house training. This ensures they are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and the correct procedures to follow in the event of any concerns. Staff confidently demonstrate their understanding of safeguarding children and understand their responsibilities. The safeguarding procedures are comprehensive and up to date.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

The children mainly attend regularly as their parents use the leisure centre's facilities so staff are able to build up relationships with the children and get to know them well. Staff interact effectively with the children and in return the children are confident and settled, showing enthusiasm and motivation for the activities.

Staff plan effective activities such as the physical play sessions so that children are learning much more than physical skills. For example, as they take part in obstacle courses or learn to follow instructions, they are given challenges in finding numbers or learning about money and colours. All the sessions last for 25 minutes so children do not become bored with the activities and staff are skilled at introducing new challenges to them if their interest wanes. In addition staff rotate between the rooms so they get to know all the children and work with different age groups keeping them fresh and motivated.

There are plenty of interesting messy and creative activities planned for the children aged over two years so they can explore their own ideas and use their senses. However, there are fewer

opportunities for the children aged under two years to access this type of activity and use their senses and creativity to their full potential.

Children over two years can sing familiar songs and use musical instruments taking an active part in a group time. They learn to take turns at games, beginning to understand simple rules and play with others. Children have opportunities for free play and enjoy using the home corner and domestic equipment to act out real and imagined situations.

Children over five years have access to suitable play equipment and can choose a short session with computer games or to go into the soft play area. There are gigantic board games such as 'snakes and ladders' they can take part in with their peers or with staff, giving them opportunities to explain simple rules to younger children and guide them through the game.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Staff are aware of children's cultures and backgrounds by asking parents to supply relevant information if they want to, helping them to care for children appropriately. Children learn about people's similarities and differences through displays and resources that reflect our multicultural society in a positive manner. The planning includes a range of interesting festivals to learn about and celebrate aspects of such as Eid-al Adha and Independence day. Staff are committed to making sure the resources are reflective of diversity, including disability and there are plans to increase these resources in the very near future so children can learn about others more effectively.

The staff recognise and respect that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities and have effective systems in place to guarantee that they are welcomed and supported successfully. There are analysis forms for parents to complete with staff to find out how children may be supported and a daily report is completed for parents so they are aware of how their child has settled in the session. These measures ensure that children are respected as individuals and encouraged to enjoy and achieve in their own way.

The behaviour policy is clear and covers all aspects. Every opportunity is taken to reward and reinforce acceptable behaviour and children are made aware of the limits. Staff understand the importance of working together with parents on particular strategies and are confident to speak to parents about their child's behaviour if necessary. In this way consistency can be achieved and children behave well, understanding the importance of their behaviour and its affect on others.

Staff have built a good partnership with parents and continue to do so with new parents. They give them regular opportunities to make comments on comment cards and listen to their views. Parents have chances everyday to chat to staff about their children and staff complete daily session logs for babies so parents know about important issues such as their nappy changes, feeds and sleeping.

There is an updated complaints procedure which includes a log of all complaints explaining the history of the complaint, action taken and solution. Parents are given a chance to contact Ofsted if they are not happy with any aspect of the setting.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

There is a clear sense of purpose in this setting and staff are highly valued following robust arrangements for the recruitment and vetting of staff. The priority given to staff development and training is very good with regular in-house training to back up external training. Staffing levels are good and the large majority of staff hold early years qualifications and have relevant experience. The crèche has a clear management structure and new staff receive good induction procedures which are well established.

The setting monitors its performance by continually checking that staff are aware of policies and procedures and good practice. A 'mystery shopper' is picked from parents every month and asked to give feedback on the service they have received, using a set formula.

The commitment shown by staff together with the crèche programmes helps the setting achieve their aims – 'to challenge and develop each child both individually and socially'. Overall, children's needs are met.

Records are very well-kept and policies and procedures are continually reviewed to reflect current legislation and good childcare practices. The staff use the documents well to support the care of the children and to comply with regulations.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection to improve the standards of care, the pre-school was required to: make sure Ofsted are notified of significant changes or events; make sure hazards to children on the premises are minimised; establish a system to make sure all staff are aware of safeguarding issues and are able to implement the policies and procedures in absence of the designated person; update records, policies and procedures in line with the National Standards with reference to standards 7,8,12,13 and ensure all accident records are consistently signed.

The management team have reviewed their system of notifying Ofsted of significant changes and events. They have made sure that hazards to children on the premises are minimised and established a system to make sure all staff are aware of safeguarding issues and are able to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated person. All the records, policies and procedures are now in line with the National Standards and the accident records are consistently signed. As a result of the changes to the organisation children can enjoy and achieve in a safe and healthy environment.

## **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:

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### 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):

- provide opportunities for children under two years to explore their senses and use creative materials

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)