

# Club-V@Low Level Station

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY343135
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Alison Edwards

<b>Setting Address</b>	Virgin Active, Low Level Station, Great North Close, London Road, Nottingham, NG2 3AE
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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 registered in 2007. It is operated by Virgin Active Ltd and provides creche services to members of the Virgin Active Health Club in Nottingham. The creche is based in a self-contained ground floor area with its own toilet and kitchen facilities. Children also use Studio 2 for specific activity and movement sessions provided through the Blast programme (for school-aged children) during school holidays and after school, and through the Funky Monkey mover and adventure sessions for pre-school aged children. A maximum of 20 children aged between six weeks and under eight years may attend at any one time. Older children also attend other separate activities within the Club V programme. Club V creche operates within the hours of 09:00 to 18:00 daily throughout the year except for the Christmas period. Children may attend for up to two hours and the club require parents to remain on the premises at all times. There are currently approximately 200 children on roll attending a variety of sessions. Six regular staff are employed to work with children under eight. Three of these staff hold recognised early years qualifications at Level 3 and two hold qualifications at Level 2.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and well-maintained premises, so helping to promote their health and well-being. Staff implement good hygiene procedures to minimise risks of cross-infection, for example cleaning baby toys on a daily basis and ensuring that areas used for children's snacks are cleaned before use. Child-height toilets and hand basins help children develop independence in self-care tasks such as washing their hands. Agreed procedures are in place to ensure good hygiene practices are implemented within nappy-changing routines such as the use of disposable gloves and aprons and the cleaning of changing mats between each individual use. Effective arrangements are in place to ensure staff are able to deal with minor accidents effectively because a staff member with current paediatric first aid training is always present and because first aid supplies are readily accessible. Prior written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment is obtained, so enabling staff to act promptly in children's best interests in the event of a more serious accident or sudden illness.

The physical development of babies and younger children is well-promoted. Staff spend time playing with them, encouraging their interest in how their bodies work. For example, a staff member encourages a younger baby to reach for and grasp rattles and activity toys, or seats a baby comfortably in a low rocking chair to enable him to experience a different posture and play with the moving items on the toy bar. A wide range of padded floor mats, activity gyms and soft play items, including a ball pool, are readily accessible, enabling younger children to safely develop their growing mobility and dexterity. For example, they roll and sit safely, they begin to climb on low padded steps, or they manipulate cause and effect toys. Toddlers and older children enjoy handling messy and creative materials such as playdough or collage materials, so helping to develop their hand-eye coordination. Children of pre-school age are able to participate in adult-led 'mover' or 'adventure' sessions at specific times where they develop their physical coordination by moving to music or by climbing and crawling over different equipment in obstacle courses. School-aged children are encouraged to be physically active in specific adult-led sessions including traditional movement games or skills for specific sports such as football.

Parents are asked to provide any snacks needed by their children during their two hour stay within the creche, so helping to ensure these are suited to individual needs and preferences. Fridge storage and bottle-warming facilities enable staff to provide babies with bottle-feeds prepared and labelled at home, so helping to ensure they are suitably nourished. Fresh drinking water is available to children within the creche and parents are also able to supply individually labelled drinks, so helping to ensure children take sufficient fluids.

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

The provision is good.

A purpose-designed modern creche room helps provide a bright and welcoming environment enabling a variety of activities to be safely provided in clearly designated areas. For example, a full height folding partition enables staff to divide the room to provide a separate area for non-mobile babies and younger toddlers if needed, whilst a low partition creates a defined vinyl-floored area where children enjoy messy or creative activities, and a quiet corner for children to use computer games for short periods. Clean and well-maintained cloakroom facilities, including safely-railed nappy changing surfaces, low toilets and hand basins, potties and toilet

seats are provided for children's sole use within the creche unit. These arrangements help promote children's safety and growing independence within their daily hygiene routines. Use of a buzzer system and high lock at the main entrance to the creche unit helps minimise the risks of children leaving the area unsupervised or of unauthorised adults gaining access.

Furnishings and play materials, mainly very recently purchased and of good quality, are well-suited to the needs of younger children. For example, a well-designed arm chair enables staff to safely and comfortably cuddle or feed babies or toddlers, whilst a low safety mirror and wide range of activity mats, and play gyms, encourage babies and toddlers to begin to safely explore their environment. A well-organised rack of dressing up clothes suited to pre-school children, together with a play kitchen and plastic utensils safely encourage simple pretend play by slightly older children.

Good adult:child ratios are maintained and staff are vigilant in their supervision of children, so helping to promote their safety and security. A systematic induction programme, including reference to detailed written safety policies, help ensure that staff are familiar with procedures for maintaining children's safety on a day to day basis and are able to identify appropriate steps to be taken in the event of emergencies such as a fire or a child being lost.

A detailed child protection policy, mainly closely linked to current local and national guidance, helps to support an on-going programme of training for all child care staff. Consequently, staff are helped to recognise possible indicators of abuse and their paramount responsibility to act to protect children's welfare in the event of any child protection concerns. However, as yet some staff are not yet fully confident of the specific procedures to be followed in order to best safeguard children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children across the age range are usually very settled and relaxed within the friendly and welcoming environment. They are confident in their dealings with adults, for example, when a younger baby readily gives eye-contact and smiles to the adult picking him up when he wakes from a nap, or when an older child greets a staff member by name and tells her about arrangements for his forthcoming move away from the area. Staff spend time actively talking and playing with children, for example, as an adult encourages a pre-school aged child to identify the different kinds of animals in a story he has chosen, or as adults introduce children to the use of paint-soaked sponge pads to make hand prints. Children are often busy and happy in their activities, for example as a toddler laughs as he handles lumps and rolls of playdough, or as older children enthusiastically play electronic games. Younger children are well supported in their play and development through use of toys and play materials, such as a ball pool, chunky construction sets, simple jigsaw puzzles or plastic play people and vehicles. However, there are currently fewer well-chosen play materials and activities to fully stimulate older children's interest and engagement.

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

The provision is good.

Staff are calm and caring in their dealings with children, so helping them to develop confidence in their relationships and enjoyment in their activities. For example, a staff member gives sensitive and individual attention to a younger baby, responding promptly with smiles and eye

contact when he wakes, holding him comfortably during bottle-feeding and helping him explore rattles and cause and effect toys. Older children begin to learn how to act appropriately and with growing independence. For example, staff encourage them to use waterproof overalls to keep themselves clean and dry when painting, or help them to handle books carefully. Staff provide a good role model to children, for example by saying 'please' and 'thank you' to them, and by listening carefully and with interest to them. They are familiar with use of positive strategies, such as praise and consistency, to encourage children's desired behaviour. They arrange to make use of relevant local training to help develop their confidence in managing any incidents of more difficult or challenging behaviour.

Children make ready use of a selection of resources reflecting individual and cultural diversity, such as dolls with different skin tones or dressing up clothes reflecting different cultures. Staff respond to their interest by talking and playing with them, for example by helping them find the items belonging to a set of Punjabi dressing-up clothes. Clear policies are in place to underpin staff's awareness of equal opportunities issues. Staff recognise the value of careful liaison with parents and other relevant professionals, and of any relevant training, to help support any children with identified disabilities or learning needs.

Prospective parents receive useful information about arrangements for their children's care through a concise leaflet giving information on activities and booking arrangements and also through use of well-organised notice boards explaining the policies and procedures underpinning children's care. In addition, they are able to spend time in the creche talking to childcare staff about typical routines and care practices. Parents are asked to provide detailed written information about children's personal and contact details, and about individual health and care needs, in order to enable staff to ensure that these are met. Informal discussion on arrival or collection enables parents and staff to share relevant information about children's routines, experiences and activities, so helping adults work in partnership with each other to support children's needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and settled in the bright and welcoming environment where they enjoy playing with a variety of good quality toys and play materials generally suited to their stage of development and interests. Staff spend time talking and playing with children on an individual or small group basis, so helping to develop their confidence and relationships. Contingency staffing arrangements are effective in ensuring that good adult:child ratios are maintained at all times, for example in the event of unexpected staff absence. Systematic recruitment and clearance procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of those caring for children. A good proportion of staff hold relevant early years qualifications, helping to ensure they have a good awareness of effective childcare practice. Comprehensive policies are in place to underpin the management of children's care, and staff generally show a sound awareness of how to implement these, for example with regard to the management of children's behaviour. Clearly defined procedures are in place regarding the systematic maintenance of required records relating to children's safety and well-being such as accident reports. Overall children's needs are met.

## **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 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):

- review arrangements to improve staff familiarity with the procedures to be followed in the event of any child protection concerns
- develop the provision and availability of resources appropriate to the needs and interests of school-aged children attending the creche.

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)