

NEW SURESTART CHILDCARE CENTRES

Children's centres are crucial to the implementation of the Government's Ten Year Strategy for Childcare: "Choice for parents, the best start for children". The Government's aim is to have a children's centre in every community to provide integrated services for children 0-5 years and their families. Services will include health services, family support, parental outreach and employment advice and some centres will also provide childcare and early learning. The Government is committed to delivering a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community by 2010.

The Children's Centre programme is based on the concept that providing integrated education care, family support, health services and support with employment are key factors in determining good outcomes for children and their parents. This integrated approach should help outcomes for children with SEN through improved communication between professionals. It should also save some of the travelling currently necessary from one service or specialist to another that so many families currently have to do.

For more details go to

www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/settings/surestartchildrenscentres