

Earlham Early Years Centre Opens!

Earlham Early Years Centre welcomed the Rt. Hon Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills at its official opening. The opening of this new Centre marks a fantastic achievement for Norfolk County Council in its work developing services for families and young children.

Earlham Early Years Centre is based on the Larkman Estate in Norwich. It's £1.4m programme of capital works including the new building, which has nearly doubled the size of the original centre, has been funded by the Department for Education and Skills' Early Excellence programme and the NELM Development Trust.

Earlham Early Years Centre has been developed by Norfolk County Council to offer extended services for families and children in the local area. By linking with key partner organisations in a joined up approach to service provision Earlham Early Years Centre has been able to link together new initiatives such as a childminding training and support network, parent classes and a toy library and outreach support service. Also in the development pipeline is a base for children's health services.

Felicity Thomas, head of the Centre comments, " the new and refurbished buildings provide a wonderful basis on which we can continue to grow the range of services available to our local community."

The work at Earlham Early Years Centre compliments and is shared with other providers of early education all around the county. Alec Byrne, Cabinet Member for Education agrees, "Earlham is very much a leading light in the field of early education and the work that goes on here is not only important for Norfolk but is nationally recognised. I am delighted that Norfolk as a county is yet again at the forefront of good early educational practice."

