

Children's Centres Core Offer

Early education integrated with day care

- Early education integrated with day care for babies and children until they reach school age
- Day care suitable for working parents – a minimum of 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day
- Nursery places will be open to all, not just families in the immediate area, to provide the best educational outcomes for all children (admission and fee policies will be determined locally)
- Support for childminders, who may also offer linked care
- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families.

Family support and parental outreach

- Visits to all children in the catchment area within two months of birth
- Access to specialist services
- Parenting support and information as well as specific support for families in need and 'hard to reach' families
- Providing information and advice on parenting skills at significant transition points for the family (eg pre birth, early days, setting into childcare)
- Increasing parents' understanding of their child's development
- Increasing the involvement of fathers.

Child and family health services

- Ante-natal advice and support for parents
- Information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety
- Identification, support and care for those suffering from maternal depression
- Speech and language and other specialist support
- Smoking cessation interventions.

Links with schools and Children's Information Services (CIS)

- Links to local schools, extended schools and out of school activities
- Information to parents/carers about CIS.

Links with Jobcentre Plus

- Linking in with local arrangements (eg via the local authority's service level agreement) for collaboration with Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership managers

Encouragement and support for parents and carers who wish to consider training and employment.

Phase 3 Centres

In areas where there are few deprived families, limited support needs and good quality pre-existing early years services, children's centres will not duplicate existing service provision. Instead they will signpost parents to existing services in the area. The centre's role will be mainly to co-ordinate existing integrated to ensure that all families receive an appropriate level of support. These services will include outreach services as necessary.

The minimum level of service provided will include

- information on childcare and early years provision
- information and support to access wider services
- information and advice to parents
- support to childminders
- drop in sessions for parents and children such as stay and play sessions
- links to Jobcentre Plus and health services

The precise range of services offered will reflect local need and demand