

# News release

13 July 2009

## **Relocation Relocation for Children's Centre and Nursery**

A Hetton nursery and Sunderland Children's Centre have officially opened their doors giving families state-of-the-art facilities following a £5.3million rebuild.

Hetton Lyons Nursery School and Sunderland Children's Centre Hetton were formally opened during a commemorative ceremony with the nursery's Chair of Governors, Shirley Sharp.

Following the ceremony a special fun day featuring magicians, face painters, children's entertainment and a family dance group helped mark the day.

The redevelopment of the site at Four Lane Ends has seen the nursery move into a new building, while Sunderland Children's Centre Hetton has relocated from its original base on Front Street. The new settings will now offer enhanced facilities in a modern and family orientated setting.

The new facilities will allow families to access a range of services at the nursery and Children's Centre including childcare, family learning, toddler groups and family dance sessions as well as regular Children's Centre activities - from Baby Massage and Baby Days to Messy Play. An on-going redevelopment project will see the site's outdoor space transformed into an exciting educational experience.

Councillor Pat Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services within Sunderland City Council, said: "The new Children's Centre and nursery will provide families with fantastic new facilities as well as an improved space to enjoy. The buildings have been designed with learning and development in mind and so now, offer the children a wealth of resources to help stimulate their young minds. The redevelopment of this site really is wonderful news for Sunderland and the city's families."

Hetton Lyons Nursery School was first opened in 1974, while Sunderland Children's Centre Hetton has been based within Hetton House, Front Street since 2004. Alongside the newly

built Children's Centre and nursery, pupils from Hetton Lyons Primary School are also enjoying the advantages of their new school.

Sunderland's 17 Children's Centres bring together early education, childcare, health services, parenting support, and help for parents looking to find work or training to help provide every child from across the city with the best possible start in life.

Hetton Lyons Nursery School works along parents and their children to develop family creativity, literacy and numeracy skills as well as family nurturing. The nursery, which received an Outstanding Grade from OFSTED, offers childcare facilities for all children aged from birth to 10 years.