

# News release

22 September 2008

## Sunderland Celebrates Children's Centre Opening

As Sunderland City Council continues to help every child living in the City to reach their full potential, families from across Sunderland are set to benefit as the latest Children's Centre was officially launched on Saturday.



To mark the official opening of Sunderland Children's Centre Millfield this weekend, families enjoyed a day of family fun at the new centre. Throughout the day families were entertained with African drumming workshops, a magician and balloon modeller, as well as Children's Centre activities and face painting. Parents also had an opportunity to learn more about Sunderland Children's Centres and the support that they provide.

The new Millfield centre, located at Diamond Hall Infant School and Millfield Community Nursery, will work alongside Sunderland's existing Children's Centres to offer a city wide network of services designed for families with children aged from birth to five years. Through Sunderland Children's Centres parents are able to access a range of services and activities that help to provide support and advice on a number of issues regularly faced by families including finance, health matters and early education.

Dad of one, Jonathan Juan, said: "The opening of Sunderland Children's Centre Millfield will help benefit a lot of families living in the area. The Children's Centres offer a great place for parents to meet up and support one another, while the children get the chance to make new friends and play."

Councillor Pat Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services within Sunderland City Council, added: "The support which Sunderland Children's Centres provide to parents and young children is extremely important. Raising a young family is often a testing time for many families and it is vital that they have access to help and advice at a time when they need it the most.

“The opening of Sunderland Children’s Centre Millfield is wonderful news for the City,” Cllr Smith continued.

Sunderland 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 with the best possible start in life.