

News release

11 November 2008

Sunderland Club Improves Family Time for Dads and Kids

Fathers and their children from across the City enjoyed a day of family fun during a special event designed to promote the importance of spending time together as a family.

Sunderland Children's Centres' Dads and Kids Clubs spent the day 'Down at the Farm' in Houghton working together in a variety of activities including scarecrow making and pumpkin carving.

The families were also able to explore the farm, learning more about typical farmyard animals as well as more exotic species

like raccoons, tortoises and wallabies as part of the Sunderland Children's Centres' aim to help provide every child with the best start in life.

Although fathers and male carers are invited to attend all Sunderland Children's Centre activities, the Dads and Kids Clubs are designed especially for them. Dads and Kids provides quality time for fathers to spend with their children, while giving them the chance to get involved with their child's learning and development in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Alongside creating fun learning opportunities for fathers and children to enjoy together, the clubs also offer opportunities for training as well as paternal support. Dad of three, Darren Newby, commented: "Many dads don't get the chance to spend much time with their children as they work during the week. Through Dads and Kids we are able to visit lots of different places and take part in all sorts of activities together. Since attending the club I'm now able to spend more time with my kids and we definitely feel a lot closer to each other."

Councillor Pat Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services within Sunderland City Council, added: "Sunderland Dads and Kids Clubs give all male carers the chance to spend valuable time with their children. The clubs allow them to really connect while participating in enjoyable



and educational activities. As well as improving bonds between parent and child, Dads and Kids helps youngsters to interact with other children no matter what their background. ”

Dads and Kids runs every week at Sunderland Children’s Centres located across the city, offering a range of activities including arts and crafts, sports, storytelling and toys and games.

If you would like anymore information on Dads and Kids Clubs in your area please contact the Families Information Service on 0191 520 5505.