



Children's Centres moving forward!

February 2007

for families in Oxfordshire

What are Children's Centres?

Children's centres in Oxfordshire are '**one stop shops**' providing information for all parents and carers of young children and offering a range of services to support families. Services vary according to needs in the area but may include **health services** like ante-natal classes, **early education** for 3 and 4 year olds, **childcare** for babies through to 5 year olds and **advice and support for parents and families**.

Where are we now?

- 13 centres designated, map inside.
- Children's centres drawing up development plans.
- Short term posts in place supporting development of health, social work and speech and language services across children's centres.
- Plans for developing premises underway.
- Children's centre co-ordinators appointed in 8 new centres.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Children's Centres
for families in Oxfordshire

Children's Centres moving forward



Oxford



Banbury



Status Key

 **Full Service**

Full service centres will have childcare and early education as part of their core offer.

 **Graduated**

Graduated centres may not have childcare and early education places on site and will sometimes be a gateway to services rather than providing them.

 **Designated**

Designation is awarded when the government agrees that the children's centre is delivering some core services and has plans in place to deliver the full range of services.

Oxford City

1. **Rosehill-Littlemore** 
Sure Start Children's Centre
Patricia Scott 01865 716739
- Leys Children's Centres
Jenny Martin 01865 772951
2. **Cuddesdon Corner** 
Mikko Enticknap 01865 773263
3. **Windale Primary School**
Sara Collingwood 01865 777796
4. **Pegasus Primary School**
Jill Hudson 01865 777175
5. **The Roundabout Centre**
Vicky Hatch 01865 764952
6. **Slade & Headington Children's Centre**
Suzanne Harness 01865 750670
The Slade Nursery School
Maggie Neil 01865 750670
Headington Quarry Foundation Stage School
Sue Vermes 01865 762345
7. **Cowley Children's Centre**
Larkrise (daycare)
Mark Chesterton 01865 721476
Florence Park Family Centre
Norma Thompson 01865 777286

8. **East Oxford Children's Centre**
Karen Walker 01865 245768
Comper Foundation Stage School
East Oxford School
Trish Sangwine 01865 245768
Donnington Doorstep Family Centre
Anna Thorne 01865 727721

9. **Grandpont Nursery School and Children's Centre**
Elaine M Smith
Mercedes Cumberbatch 01865 242900

10. **North Oxford Children's Centre**
Darrell Wood 01865 558944
Helly Barker 07919 546921

11. **Marston/Northway Children's Centre**
Shilpa Bhatt 01865 761560

12. **Elms Road School & Children's Centre**
Alison Brockliss 01865 243955



South Oxfordshire

13. **South Didcot Children's Centre** 
Sharon Griffiths 01235 511444

14. **Berinsfield Children's Centre** 
Lin Williams 01865 341310

15. **Children's Centre at Stephen Freeman, Didcot** 
Ruth Bennie 01235 814718

Vale area

16. **Faringdon Children's Centre** 
Mike Robinson 01367 242432

17. **South Abingdon Children's Centre**
Sandra Pearce 01235 555524
Sutton Courtenay Family Centre
Felicity Dick 07717 473406

18. **North Abingdon Children's Centre**
Linda Konieczny 01235 520543

North Oxfordshire West

19. **The ACE Centre, Chipping Norton** 
Sue Clempson 01608 644440

20. **Witney Children's Centre** 
Yolanda Hampshire 01993 774721

21. **Carterton Children's Centre**
Wendy Atkinson 01993 842372
Springboard Family Project
Doreen Kennard 01993 841740

Cherwell

22. **The Sunshine Centre, Banbury** 
Jill Edge 01295 276769

23. **East Street Centre, Banbury** 
Lesley Bourne 01295 266763

24. **North Banbury Children's Centre** 
Kathy Goodey 01295 271841

Bicester Children's Centres

25. **BUFF at Brookside School**
Gwen Badland 01869 249604

26. **BUFFERS at Glory Farm School** 
Gwen Badland 01869 320553

27. **Britannia Road Children's Centre, Banbury** 
Pete Welply 01295 264068

28. **Kaleidoscope Children's Centre, Kidlington** 
Sue Laverty 01865 372591

29. **Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre** 
Clare Dodwell 01865 456722



Children's centres offer services in line with the five outcomes in 'Every Child Matters'. Here are some examples;

Stay Safe

On the Leys, the outreach worker visits families referred to the children's centre to support them coming to the centre for the first time and signpost them to other relevant services when needed. One parent introduced to the centre attended a parenting course and is now doing an introductory childcare course. Another parent said *"...I felt isolated... it was great to come here... everyone is so friendly..."*

Achieve Economic Well-being

Slade & Headington and Roundabout Children Centres working together with support workers and Job Centre Plus staff have enabled Natalie, a long-term unemployed single parent, to overcome barriers and return to permanent employment.

Natalie said *"I am happier, much more confident, financially better off and most importantly, my son is enjoying himself at the nursery."*

Be Healthy

In Witney, a children's centre worker and local health visitor ran a healthy eating course. This involved participants visiting the supermarket to choose ingredients, cooking a meal and taking home recipe cards. Comment from a parent *"It has given me the confidence to cook different meals for my family instead of just giving them pizza and chips."*

Enjoy and Achieve

Britannia Road Children's Centre worked with a freelance 'sing and sign' trainer to run a group offering parents fun early ways of communicating with their babies. The songs and signs are repetitive and can be continued at home so that partners can join in. Describing her daughter, one mum commented *"She's signing all the time and it really has brought her speech on..."*

Make a Positive Contribution

Comments from Faringdon parents who recently did parenting courses at the children's centre *"...made me as a Dad have a better relationship with the children", "...sense that we weren't being judged"*. The children's centre and primary school are now training staff to deliver the family links parenting programme.

The children's centre programme was officially launched on 9 November at our celebration event. Children, parents and staff from children's centres wrote wishes for our wishing tree.

If you have any queries about the county-wide children's centre initiative, please call 01235 549331 or email childrenscentres@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire
Children's
Information
Service



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Email: enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk



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