

# Contact Centres Across Devon

An Information Day was held on 8th June to discuss the role of Children's Centres as a source of Information, Advice and Guidance.

The great advantage of Children's Centres is that children and families can 'drop-in' for a face-to-face conversation which can be more satisfactory than a telephone call or search on the Internet. In addition Children's Centres will be able to collect details of local children's services and work with the providers to keep the information up to date.

There was general agreement that central co-ordination could organise training for staff and

events where they could share best practice.

Ian Merrett, Manager of DISC, who organised the Information Day on behalf of the Children's Trust, said, "Information and advice will be a key support service of Children's Centres. We look forward to working with them to create a network of 'Contact Centres' across Devon. There is no doubt well informed parents make better choices for their children".

A copy of the Information Day Report can be obtained on [www.devon.gov.uk/reportctcc.pdf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/reportctcc.pdf) or call DISC on 0800 056 36 66.

# See Your Child Whilst You Are At Work

Munchkins Day Nursery opened earlier this year, providing day care for children aged eight weeks to five years. It has become the first in the city of Exeter to offer a unique service to its parents.

It has installed a NurseryCam facility, with cameras based in all the main play areas. Parents can have the enjoyment and peace of mind of logging onto their computer at home or while at work to view their little ones busy at play. It is a very open policy that allows parents to still be a part of their child's day. Parents can feel reassured that their child has settled well and is happy in the nursery environment.



# Could You Be A Respite Foster Carer?

Family Breaks NCH Devon seeks to enable families to continue caring for their child at home while providing family members with a chance to recharge their batteries.

Are you able to provide an overnight stay or weekend break to a child or young person who may have physical or behavioural disabilities, or both? You may be single, married or living with a partner, either in your own home or in rented accommodation. You may have brought up your own children or you may work with children. All NCH carers go through an assessment process and checks, which contributes to ensuring the safety of children in our care.

We provide a 24-hour helpline, ongoing support and appropriate training to help you meet the individual needs of the children you foster. We also offer payment of up to £62 for 24-hour care, plus mileage and expenses.

For more information call on 01271 373275

# Stories Told During National Parents' Week

Everyone has something to say about parenting. Whether it's newspaper columnists, TV programme makers, advertisers, the government or one of the many family professionals whose help we seek.

It can be difficult to find out the facts and decide what's best for each family. Parents' Week, (October 19th - 26th) has been organised by the National Family and Parenting Institute to look at parents' real stories.

The organisers want to encourage parents to come forward and share their experiences of family life. It is hoped this will ensure the needs of families are recognised by government and business and that Britain becomes more family friendly.

The Exeter Parent and Family Issues Forum is arranging a Parenting Fair at St Stephen's Church from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th October. To take part, call 01363 777 696 or e-mail [lyeo@supanet.com](mailto:lyeo@supanet.com)



For more information about national events call 020 7424 3460 or log on to [www.nfpi.org](http://www.nfpi.org)