

Clapham Children's Centre, Bedfordshire

Project Value: £130,000

Client: Bedfordshire County Council

Problem:

The Early Years & Extended Services team at Bedfordshire County Council needed to deliver Sure Start Children's Services in Clapham and the surrounding area, and for a number of reasons ideally wanted to share a school site. The School also wanted additional facilities to enable them to expand their popular breakfast club and after school care. Although sharing the same site as the school, it was important for security reasons that the Children's Centre had its own public access.

Solution:

A design was proposed that combined use of part of the existing building with a newly constructed extension. As part of the scheme, the Children's Centre would have a direct independent access. The project met the brief to provide flexible space: large folding doors enabled the space to be divided. This allowed for the new building to be used for a range of activities such as drop-in sessions, parenting groups and clinics. The facilities included baby-change units and sinks, plenty of storage and also space for children to play whilst their parents met together. A safe external play area also formed part of the scheme.

Result:

The finished project is in keeping with the existing school building – an important consideration as the site is in the picturesque village of Clapham, and within view of an ancient church tower. Following a careful tendering process, the well co-ordinated construction process was completed on time and within budget. The School and Children's Centre staff are delighted with the finished building.



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