



Minister for Children Brian Lenihan TD with four-year-old Cian McCarthy

Cocoon spreads its wings

IRISH-owned childcare provider Cocoon has officially opened its sixth centre in Blessington, Co Wicklow.

Founded by Robert Buckley and Barry Cunningham in 2002, Cocoon has continually expanded since opening its first Head Start centre in Kimmage. The

second branch was opened in Rathfarnham, followed by branches in Artane and Tallaght. Last year, Cocoon opened another centre at Millennium Park, Naas, and its flagship branch in Blessington in late 2005. Cocoon plans to have 15 centres nationwide by 2007 and 30 by 2010.

"Central to the development of childcare in Ireland has been an amazing commitment by a large number of people," said the Minister for Children, Brian Lenihan TD, at the launch of the Blessington facility. "Throughout the country, organisations such as Cocoon have come together to create services and provide facilities, which are proving to be great resources for local people."

One of Cocoon's most unique services for parents is its 'Watch Me Live' internet viewing, with which parents can monitor the progress and development of their children at any stage of the working day. The service gets approximately 3,000 hits per month. It also prides itself on its food, with freshly cooked meals and snacks served to children throughout the day. Nutritionist Emma Brown works with Cocoon to put together the menus and also acts as a consultant to the company on an ongoing basis. This means that parents can send her any dietary queries they may have.