



CASE STUDY: WARM BABIES (1)

May 2008

Background

Katherine Tarr and her husband Mark have owned their home for approximately one year. The four bedroom house is just over 30 years old.

When they moved in there was no heat source, only plugs in the hallway.

Their baby, Niamh, is 10 months old and used to suffer from frequent colds.

Role of CEA

Katherine contacted CEA after her sister had her ceiling and floor insulated by the organisation as an alternative to using the fire.

Because she had a community services card and her house was over 30 years Katherine was eligible for the CEA Warm Babies Project.

After the baby was born CEA's Energy Assessor, Gary Robertson, measured up the house and the paperwork was completed. Approximately 5 months later, CEA installed a heat pump and topped up the insulation already in the ceiling.

Benefits of CEA Insulation and Heat Pump

This is the family's first winter with the new heating, but there are already signs of improvement.

Katherine says there was "instant warmth" after the insulation and heat pump were installed and that the heat pump is less expensive to use than the oil heaters they were using.

Niamh's colds have also decreased. This is particularly encouraging as Katherine is expecting another baby at Christmas.

Conclusion

Katherine recommends contacting CEA for advice on home heating, particularly those on a lower income. She believes people in this category may not consider adjusting the heating in their home if the options available were not subsidised.