

COUNTY LIMERICK CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010



COMMITTEE
COUNTY
LIMERICK
CHILDCARE

COISTE CHONTAE LUIMNIGH UM CHÚRAM LEANAÍ



County Limerick Childcare Committee, Lower Ground Floor, Croom Mills, Croom, Co. Limerick

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Funding For Childcare

At present, the Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) provides three types of funding for childcare. These schemes are administrated at local level by County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) who support childcare services in the delivery of these schemes.

For further information on these schemes contact CLCC on 061 600918, info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie



Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme (Free Pre-school Year)

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme provides eligible children with either

Free pre-school for 3 hours per day, 5 days per week for 38 weeks between September and June
Or
Free pre-school for 2hrs 15min per day, 5 days per week for 50 weeks between September and August.

To be eligible for the free pre-school in September 2010 a child must have been born between the 2nd February 2006 and the 30th June 2007.

Children born between the 2nd February 2007 and the 30th June 2008 will be eligible in September 2011. This scheme is not means tested.

Exceptions to the age range are limited to children with special needs, who have supporting documentation from the HSE/ child's consultant or children whose local primary school does not accept children under the age of 5years and 7months. A copy of the Primary School's admission policy is required in this instance.

Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme

The Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme aims to support parents/guardians in receipt of Social Welfare and/or Medical Cards to reduce their childcare costs. To avail of the CCS Scheme you must be attending a community childcare service, which is approved to operate the scheme.

County Limerick Childcare Committee have produced a leaflet- 'Reducing your Childcare Costs a Guide for Parents' which provides an overview of the scheme. This can be viewed on www.clcc.ie

Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) Scheme

The new Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) scheme came into effect on the 1st September 2010. The CETS Scheme will combine the existing childcare support payments for qualifying FÁS and VEC trainees/students into one capitation system providing free childcare places.

Parent's wishing to avail of a childcare place through the CETS Scheme should contact the FÁS/VEC office where they are under-taking training.

County Limerick VEC
061-442100
admin@limerickvec.ie

FÁS Training Centre Raheen
061 487900



Keeping Safe - Disability Awareness Training Module

County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) has secured dates for the delivery of the new module 6 of the Keeping Safe Training Programme, 'Keeping Safe Disability Awareness Training'. This module is designed as an add-on for groups who have already completed the Keeping Safe Child Protection Awareness Training.

It is relevant to all mainstream groups and organisations who work with children or young people, as well as services that work primarily with disabled children or young people.

The training will cover the following

- Child protection and disability - the legal context
- Attitudes to disabilities
- Medical and social models of disability
- Vulnerability issues

- Communication issues
- Intimate care issues
- Implications for inclusion

The Keeping Safe Disability Awareness Training is delivered by the HSE and participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

County Limerick Childcare Committee, as part of its on-going partnership with the HSE Mid West will present a Module workshop on Saturday 4th December 2010. For further information and to book a place, please refer to the CLCC Training Calendar Sept - Dec 2010. To obtain a copy of this, contact info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie

Newsletter Articles Autumn/Winter 2010

- Funding For Childcare
- Keeping Safe – Disability Awareness Training
- Launch of Fire Safety Folder
- Childminder's Grant Reminder
- Childminding Guide Launched
- GAA Skills Programme for Children with
- Motor Co-ordination Difficulties
- Dyspraxia and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD's) – A Course for Parents
- Special Educational Needs Information Evening
- Aistear – Free Copies for Childcare Services
- Recognising and Celebrating Diversity
- Staff Update
- Parent and Toddler Grants
- 'Beep Beep Day' for County Limerick
- Activities - Explore Water

Launch of Fire Safety Folder

As part of its commitment to the provision of information, advice and support to the childcare sector, County Limerick Childcare Committee facilitates regular network meetings for Childcare providers in County Limerick.

The most recent network event took place on the 18th May, at the CLCC offices in Croom where nearly 100 childcare providers gathered to share experiences and best practice. The network was also attended by Niall McMahon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer with Limerick County Fire and Rescue Service, who launched 'Fire Safety for Pre-school and Childcare Facilities'.

This publication was a joint initiative between County Limerick Childcare Committee and Limerick County Fire and Rescue Service as a means of supporting childcare services to implement fire safety guidelines.



Childminder's Grant Reminder

As part of the Quality Awareness Programme for Childminders the 'Childminding Development Grant (CMDG) is available for Childminders who have completed the National Voluntary Notification System or who have participated in the Quality Awareness Programme (QAP)

The grant is up to a maximum of €1,000 and can be used for equipment, toys and minor household adaptation.

For further information and an application form, contact Denise O'Shea, Childminding Advisory Officer for Limerick County and City. The CMAO is available to assist you in completing the application form which is submitted to County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) for assessment. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Please Note, where a childminder previously received a Development Grant under the EOCP Scheme during 2004-2007, this will not affect his/her ability to apply under the current NCIP Scheme (2008-2010). Childminders may also re-apply under the NCIP Scheme after 2 years or after a shorter period if their first NCIP grant was for less than the maximum amount.

For further information, please contact the Childminding Advisory Officer (CMAO), Denise O'Shea on 086 172488 0 or County Limerick Childcare Committee on 061 600918 or info@clcc.ie.

Childminding Guide Launched

The Limerick Childminding Network, a joint initiative of Limerick City and County Childcare Committees, is a forum for childminders to meet and access information, as well as planning for the development of childminding in Limerick. The network is facilitated by Denise O'Shea, Childminding Advisory Officer (CMAO) for Limerick and meets up to 4 times per year.

At its most recent event 'Guidelines on Planning a Childminding Business in your Home', the most recent publication from the Limerick Childminding Initiative was launched by television personality, Emma O'Driscoll.

Following the launch, Childminder's from Limerick City and County came together to share learning and experiences and to plan the Autumn training schedule at the 'Strawberries and Ice-cream' themed event.

Afterwards Patricia Murray, Chief Executive of Childminding Ireland, provided a briefing on Siolta, the National Quality Framework for the Childcare sector and its implementation in the context of childminding.

The event concluded with a presentation of certificates to Childminders, acknowledging their wonderful commitment to self development and quality service delivery.

To obtain a copy of 'Guidelines on Planning a Childminding Business in your Home' or other information on childminding, please contact Denise O'Shea on 061 314111.





GAA Skills Programme for Children with Motor Co-ordination Difficulties

Limerick City and County Local Sports Partnerships in conjunction with Limerick County Board are attempting to establish a club for children with Motor Co-ordination Difficulties which will support children in developing basic GAA skills.

If you would like to sign your child up to this club (a minimum of 20 children are required) or for further information, contact Liam McDonagh on 061 468542 or info@limerickcitysports.ie

Attention Parents - County Limerick Childcare Committee is delighted to promote the following events:

Dyspraxia and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD's) - A Course for Parents

The course which is being organised by the Dyspraxia Association of Ireland, Limerick Dyspraxia/DCD Support Group, aims to help parents understand

- Dyspraxia and other SLD's
- The Learning Process and the Learning Process with SLD
- Their child's learning style
- How to advocate for your child?
- Managing homework
- Managing the emotional side of SLD

The course will be presented by Dyslexia Awareness on Saturday the 2nd and 9th October at the Limerick Enterprise Development Park and will cost €45 per person.

For further information contact 086 237 8266 or limkdyspraxiadcd@gmail.com

Special Educational Needs Information Evening

County Limerick Childcare Committee, would like to advise all Parents, Childcare Professionals, Teachers and Special Needs Assistants that West Limerick Resources will be holding a Special Educational Needs Information Evening on the 7th October 2010.

The event will be held at the Desmond Complex in Newcastle West and will focus on providing information on services, voluntary support groups and materials aimed at children with Special Educational Needs.

The doors will open at 4pm from which people will be available at each stand to discuss their services and/or equipment with members of the public. The session will run until 8pm and entry is free.

All are welcome including children, who will be entertained by a puppet show and face painting.

For further information, please contact West Limerick Resources on 069 62222.



Recognising and Celebrating Diversity Through Play & Stories

County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) will provide a workshop on 'Recognising and Celebrating Diversity in the Early Years Childcare Service' as part of its commitment to promoting quality in Childcare.

The workshop aims to provide practical steps to developing socially inclusive games and activities that emphasise a child's sense of self and their surroundings.

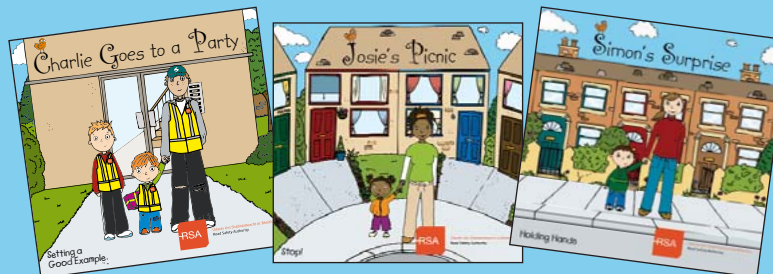
The workshop will provide:

- Curriculum Games and Activities for children 2-5 years
- Guidance on how to use these games and activities as evidence of
 - Aistear: 'Identity and Belonging' and 'Exploring and Thinking'
 - Siolta: Standard 6 'Play' and Standard 14 'Identity and Belonging'

The workshop will be run twice, on the 26th October and 9th November. For further information, see CLCC Training Calendar Sept - Dec 2010. To obtain a copy of this, contact info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie



National 'Beep Beep Day' for County Limerick



Following the delivery of two very successful 'Simon and Friends' Workshops in early September by County Limerick Childcare Committee, please see CLCC Training Calendar for additional date for Road Safety Authority, 'Simon and Friends' Workshop.

We are encouraging childcare services to participate on the Road Safety Authority's annual 'Beep Beep Day' on the 15th October 2010. To obtain a copy of this, contact info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie

'Simon and Friends' is a fun, educational road safety programme for children aged five and under, and is the newest addition to the RSA's (Road Safety Authority) child-centred road safety initiatives. The resource includes a colourful case with four illustrated storybooks, an audio CD with songs and recordings of the stories, as well as an accompanying guide for teachers. There are additional activities, games and songs to support the stories and communicate important road safety messages to children in an enjoyable way. Pre-schools can use the 'Simon and Friends' resources, together with child safety resources produced by the Road Safety Authority, for parents to run a road safety awareness day called a 'Beep Beep Day!' in their childcare facility.

If you wish to organise a Beep Beep Day in your service contact info@clcc.ie and we will forward you a poster.

Parent and Toddler Grants

Under the Parent and Toddler Initiative, County Limerick Childcare Committee awarded grants to 20 Parent and Toddler Groups in 2010. These grants will be used to purchase developmentally appropriate equipment, materials and books.

Parent and Toddler groups remain one of the primary locations where parents can meet each other and share their day, while children connect with each other often developing lifelong friends. Parent and Toddler groups, are open to all and are always eager for new ideas and opportunities.

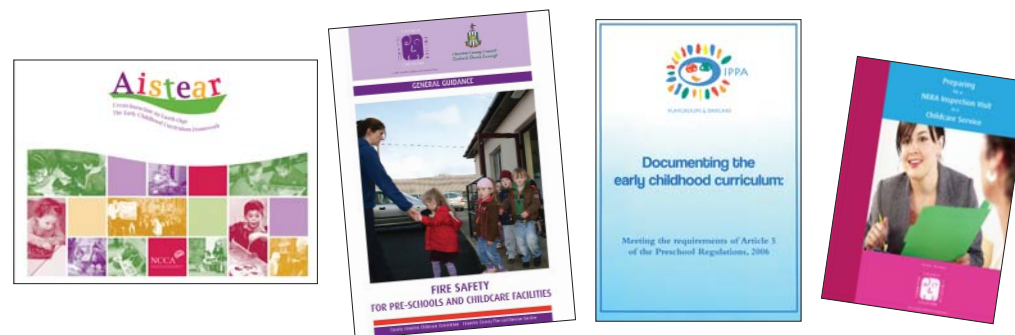
For further information on Parent and Toddler Groups please contact Sue McGlone on 061 483592.



Aistear

Creatchuraclam na Luath-Óige
The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

Free Copies for Childcare Services



As part of its on-going commitment to promoting quality in the early childhood care and education sector, County Limerick Childcare Committee would like to advise all childcare services in County Limerick as notified to the HSE, that the following resources are available for collection at County Limerick Childcare Committee office.

- Aistear - The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework
- Fire Safety for Pre-school's and Childcare Facilities, produced by Limerick County Fire and Rescue Service and County Limerick Childcare Committee
- Documenting the Early Childhood Curriculum - Meeting the Requirements of Article 5 of the Pre-school Regulations, 2006
- Preparing for a NERA Inspection.

Síolta Implementation in County Limerick

Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education, is currently being implemented on a pilot phase throughout the country, under the direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Engagement with Síolta at this stage is voluntary for childcare services, however, an awareness of Síolta and how it will enhance the quality of your service is required by Pobal, as part of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Verification process.

In County Limerick, Síolta is being implemented by Jean Currid, Síolta Co-ordinator, employed by Barnardos. Jean has recently delivered two information workshops to childcare services in County Limerick, with further workshops planned for the Autumn.

"My role as a Co-ordinator is to support a service through this process and to work through the 16 Standards. This support is individualised to the needs of the service, where desired outcomes are discussed

and action plans are agreed for each standard. There is a huge commitment of time required from a service but the outcome of being involved in the process is the knowledge and evidence that the service you are providing for a child is of the best quality possible."

Please see CLCC Training Calendar for details of the upcoming workshops. To obtain a copy of this, contact info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie

síolta

Activities - Explore Water

Materials

Clear Dish (top of a casserole dish)
Jug of water
Food colouring
Vegetable Oil
Popsicle Stick or similar

Method

- Assist child to pour water into clear dish
- Discuss the properties of water (colour/taste/smell/temperature)
- Ask child to chose a colour and assist them to add a drop to the water
- Encourage child to stir with finger or stick
- Discuss changes
- Assist child to add a drop of oil to the dish
- Discuss changes
- Point out to your child how one substance goes into the water, and one stays out

Source: www.independenthomeschooling.com

Alternatives

Use food flavouring (e.g. vanilla/lemon) instead of water.

Add other substances to plain water to explore how they react e.g. flour, paper, washing up liquid,

Take photos of the activity and use photographs to make a scrap book about water and experiments. Add a caption to each photograph, e.g. Mary added the blue food colouring to the water. The water turned blue. This book can be placed in the book corner for the children to look at or used as part of circle time to reflect on the activity.

Staff Update Congratulations Anne

The staff and committee of CLCC wish Anne Delaney and her family congratulations on the birth of baby Caoimhe.
Anne is currently on maternity leave and will be returning to County Limerick Childcare Committee in May 2011.

CLCC Training Calendar Sept-Dec 2010

Don't forget to book your training now.

To obtain a CLCC Training Calendar, contact info@clcc.ie or log onto www.clcc.ie



Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the County Limerick Childcare Committee
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