



Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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September News Bulletin/Mí Meán Fómhair 2011

Dates for you Diary

Hanen Programme
Information Session on
Wednesday, 7th
September at 6.30pm in
the Ramada Hotel,
Waterford.

Run a Muck, Tramore Play
Morning on the last
Tuesday of the month 27
September from 10 -
12am. €3 per child,
babies free.

€15,000 Childminding Tax
Exemption & PRSI
Information Session at
8pm Wednesday, 28th
September in WCCC
Office, Dungarvan.

New Publications

Children's First 2011—
National Guidance for the
Protection and Welfare of
Children. A briefing
session with Anne Purcell
HSE Children First
Officer will take place in
the Autumn at which
copies of the document
will be made available to
all services and child-
minders.

ECCE Guide to the Programme

Apart from the terms and conditions of the ECCE scheme, many procedures have been developed and refined since the introduction of the ECCE scheme in January 2010. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs have recently gathered all these procedures together in one location on the department website.

The title of the document is the ECCE Guide to the Programme and the Administrative Procedures for Service Providers and Parents and can be found via the following link:

<http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=/documents/childcare/GuidetotheProgrammeAdministrativeProceduresforServiceProvidersandParents.htm>

All services participating in the ECCE Scheme are advised to familiarise themselves with this important document and to contact WCCC office if you have any queries.

Invitation to Waterford Association of Childcare Professionals AGM

The Waterford Association of Childcare Professionals wish to invite all childcare and childminding professionals in Waterford City and County to its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 27th September, 7.30pm, Dunhill Enterprise Centre, Dunhill.**

Who are we?

We are an association of childcare professionals encompassing all early years' childcare workers in the City & County of Waterford. Further details on WACP on page 5.

Leisure Walks for all the Family

Bring your family, bring your friends - this Autumn, Waterford Sports Partnership has organised a series of leisure walks which will give people a chance to get out and get active whilst enjoying the beautiful Waterford countryside. Five walks have been organised as part of Walk Waterford. For all walks you will need suitable walking shoes (runners are ideal), warm clothing and a waterproof jacket. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Details on where the walks are and when are available from our office or contact Jane O'Dwyer, Walking Officer, Waterford Sports Partnership mobile 086 1985729 or email jodwyer@waterfordsportspartnership.ie

Information and Awareness raising on child protection for all Childcare Services, Childminders and School age services in Waterford City, Waterford County, Kilkenny and Wexford.

Funds from the DCYA has been approved for the delivery by Barnardos of information and awareness raising workshops on child protection in Waterford City and County, Kilkenny and Wexford. All services attending will receive a copy of the Barnardos publication, *A Child Protection Guide for Early Years and School Age Childcare Services (value €25)*. The one-day information workshops for services and childminders in County Waterford will take place on **Saturday, 22nd October** in Dungarvan and on **Saturday, 26th November** in Tramore. The objective is to raise awareness on the welfare, safety and protection of children. Having participated in the information workshop services are advised to attend the briefing session on the Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and to attend Keeping Safe Child Protection Training delivered by the HSE. **Details of times, venues etc will be available in the October News Bulletin.**

Empowering Parents Programme

The DESSA Empowering Parents Programme seeks to support parents to acquire the knowledge and skills to effectively advocate on behalf of their children with special needs. The programme takes place over 8 weeks, one evening a week for three hours and explores issues such as understanding of disability, barriers to inclusion, language used, legislation, and effective ways for parents to communicate with regards to their children's special needs.

Date: Monday 10, 17 & 24 October 2011

Location: St Bridget's FRC Lower Yellow Rd Waterford

Parenting - the invisible profession

"Effective Parenting of Self and Children" is a ten week parent mentoring programme which was developed by internationally renowned psychologist, Dr. Tony Humphreys. The programme believes that parenting is the invisible profession; there is no required training for it, even though the responsibilities are enormous and the challenges are ongoing.

The programme is delivered by Ann Marie Coughlan, a trained and experienced parent mentor. Topics include: All Parenting Starts with Self; Family Relationships & Feelings; All Children are Geniuses!; Helping Children to Become Responsible; Family Communications; Children's Challenging Behaviours; Parents Challenging Behaviours; A Different Kind of Discipline.

If you are interested in participating on the programme please contact Andrew on 058 48024. The programme is available to parents at an affordable cost.

Buntús start

Buntús Start is a comprehensive physical activity programme for children aged 2-5 years. It has been specifically designed for use in pre-school settings. The programme's main focus is to assist young children in the development of fundamental motor skills, manipulative skills, co-ordination and balancing skills as well as developing a positive attitude to physical activity.

Buntús start training is available to all staff members i.e. a full service approach is being adopted. The next training is scheduled for **20th October** with the follow up training on the **24th November** for the childcare services that have yet to avail of the training. The fee is €100 which includes training for all staff, the equipment bag and the resource cards. WCCC will be contacting the childcare services to invite you to attend this training.



University College Dublin School of Psychology are currently undertaking research on the transitions in early childhood care and education settings.

The purpose of the study is to develop a better understanding of children's experiences as they move to new stages of care and education within early years settings (for example the transition from the toddler room to the preschool room). UCD are currently launching a nationwide online survey on these transitions and are looking for service providers operating full day care settings to take part in the survey, which will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete.

An electronic Information Sheet about the Transitions Research is available from our office. The survey link is; <http://www.ucd.ie/psychology/TRP/index.html>

The results of the study could provide valuable insight on how best to support children as they make the transition to new stages of care/rooms in early childhood care and education and settings.

Making it all Add Up A Sustainability Resource for Childcare Providers

Many childcare services are faced with serious challenges, with sustainability being an issue now more than ever before. As well as contending with the very challenging economic environment and the implications for their business many providers are feeling that they are 'running just to stand still', having to cope with the circumstances along with new funding schemes and arrangements, quality and curriculum frameworks, workforce development, etc.

The main purpose of the resource is to assist services to face these challenges, to give contextual information to support facilities in evaluating sustainability in their facilities and to provide some practical mechanisms. This process will involve a level of frank self evaluation and will require providers to critically question what services they offer, how they operate, how much they cost, what can they afford to offer in terms of service provision etc.

The resource is an effort to offer a practical guide to addressing the elements that comprise 'sustainability' and is available in electronic format on request from our office.

Green-Schools Information Seminar

The Green Schools initiative is an international project designed to encourage and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. The idea was developed by FEE, the Foundation for Environmental Education, and is a recognised international award.

Green Schools is managed and co-operated by An Taisce and Waterford County Council, in partnership locally.

Green-Schools is a long-term programme, the award needs to be renewed every two years. The award is in the form of a Green Flag that can be flown outside the school or preschool or displayed in a foyer. Award winners will also receive a certificate, a logo to display on headed notepaper, and other publicity material. In all there are 7 further steps you need to follow to become a Green School.

A Green Schools Conference will be held on Tuesday 18th October 2011 at 6pm in [The Civic Offices, Dungarvan](#) where further information will be made available and opportunity provided for questions and answers.

Waterford County Childcare Committee in collaboration with An Taisce and Waterford County Council will encourage and support childcare services in County Waterford who wish to be involved in this exciting, worthwhile and internationally recognised programme.

A free copy (value €17) of *The Green Light Practical, Exciting & Energy Saving Projects for Young Children & Early Years Services* (NCNA 2010) is available to all services who attend the information seminar and complete an expression of interest to participate in the Green Schools Programme.

Phone Jacqui at 058 43601 for further information and to book your place!

Childminder's Insurance Information

As a childminder it is important that you have adequate insurance to cover childminding in the home.

Public liability is insurance against liability at law for accidental bodily injury to members of the public (including children in the childminders care) or accidental damage to their property arising out of, or in connection with, the childminding activities. Liability only applies where there is negligence on the part of the insured, if there is no negligence on the part of the insured, then no liability applies and insurance companies will make no

payment under the policy.

Always inform parents of any incident/accident involving their child both minor and major. It is advisable to record all incidents /accidents and request that parents sign your record of the event. Incidents or accidents which may give rise to a claim must be notified to your insurance company immediately. Always check the extent of your own insurance cover before participating in organised events with minded children to ensure you are sufficiently insured and ratios of children/childminder are correct.

Many home insurance policies may be extended to cover childminding. Check the extent of the insurance policy, the number of children it will cover and if your garden area is insured. This policy would not normally extend to outings. Childminders should always declare their occupation as a childminder (ie running a childminding business) on the home insurance proposal form to ensure they are covered in the event of a childminding claim. If you are transporting minded children in your car, you should notify your motor insurance company that you are childminding. If you are involved in a road traffic accident, any claim will be made under the motor insurance policy of the person who is negligent. Children must never be left unsupervised in a car and must use recommended car seats at all times. Members of Childminding Ireland can avail of a group insurance package with Kidd Insurance. To avail of the insurance scheme you must become a member of Childminding Ireland.

From September 2011 there will be a new Childminding Ireland membership category for Notified & Voluntary Notified Childminders for a reduced fee of €20. (Formally €55) This reduced fee will also apply to existing members who are notified / voluntary notified when renewing their membership. Please contact Rosemarie for the necessary forms to avail of the reduced rate. For a full range of insurance options and a more comprehensive explanation of terms please contact Rosemarie Cusack on 058 48024

How to make your Peek-a-boo Apple Craft:

What you'll need:

- Red, brown and green craft foam / paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Large lollypop stick
- Green, red & brown paint
- Black marker
- Cellotape

1. The lollypop stick will be the worm! Paint the stick green. If you are working with younger children or kids that don't like to get their hands messy, tape the popsicle stick down onto a piece of newspaper for them so it won't move around and then let them paint. It makes the process much easier! Set the stick aside to dry.



2. Draw the outline of the apple or go to the website www.allkidsnetwork.com to print off the peek-a-boo apple template and cut out the pieces.
3. Cut a small slit near the top of the apple that is just large enough for the stick to pop through it.
4. Glue the stem and the leaf to the apple body.
5. Draw your worm's face onto the stick.
6. Push the stick through the slit in the apple and then turn the apple over. Cut a small piece of craft foam and tape it so that it goes over the stick. Don't make it too tight against the stick, the only purpose of this is to keep the stick from flapping around on the back of the apple.

Check out loads of ideas for arts & crafts on www.allkidsnetwork.com (as above)

www.crayola.com

www.dltk-kids.com (ideas on fingerprint painting)

Waterford Association of Childcare Professionals

Where we came from?

The Association was formed as a result of several years of awareness raising about professional development in Waterford City & County. In late 2009 several service providers of the Professional Development Steering Group from Waterford County Childcare Committee attended an information session in Cork hosted by the Cork ACP. This highlighted the need for a representational group to lobby on behalf of Childcare Professionals. As a result a public meeting was held and the outcome was a representative council of Waterford City and County childcare professionals was established in January 2010. The Association has been active since in developing structures and a strategic plan for the Association in collaboration with branches of the Association in Wexford and Cork. The Waterford Association of Childcare Professionals was officially launched in April this year. It is hoped in the near future that there will be a branch in every City and County and that a National Association will be established to represent and advocate on behalf of all childcare professionals—we invite you to join the Association and be part of building a strong and united voice of childcare professionals.

Why we set up

This is an organisation which was set up to allow all early years childcare workers have an independent voice.

A voice for the worker and only the worker, regardless of your position within an early year's facility.

Aims

To define a professional identity for people working in the early years and school aged childcare sector.

To progress the body to which workers can affiliate.

To advocate for the rights of its members to equitable pay and working conditions.

To promote, develop and support the continuing professional development of childcare professionals.

Why Join

A lot of changes have taken place in childcare in the past ten years. For example, the Equal Opportunities Childcare and the National Childcare Investment Capital Programmes resulting in new purpose built childcare facilities. The Free Preschool ECCE, Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) and Childcare Education & Training (CETS) Schemes have been introduced. Many childcare workers have gained nationally recognised qualifications including FETAC Level 5 & 6: Early childhood degrees, Montessori Diplomas and degrees etc. Many childcare workers are participating in Siolta and Aistear the national frameworks for quality and early learning. All of these developments are leading to the development of childcare as a profession. National and International research shows that the training and professional development of childcare workers is one of the most important factors in providing high quality childcare which is most advantageous to children.

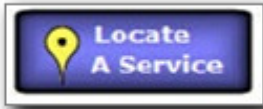
Storytelling Southeast—Waterford.

This new five day festival will explore how stories are told today through music, theatre, film, literature, art and storytelling. This special event will engage audiences of all ages through a widely acclaimed line-up of acts and performances coming to Dungarvan to celebrate the richness of our local and international culture. Mindful of the important usage of storytelling as an educational tool, Storytelling Southeast has specifically chosen a range of performances for pupils in both Primary and Secondary school. For primary schools there will be events in the Town Hall Theatre and also the option to have a storyteller visit the school. Full programme for the event is available on www.storytellingsoutheast.com

NCIP Publicity Guidelines - Very Important Changes

Community Based Groups and Private Providers (approved capital funding) under the National Childcare Investment Programme are no longer contractually required to adhere to NDP Publicity Guidelines/display NDP logo and text references on their publicity material.

Please note NCIP beneficiaries who previously received capital (EU) grant assistance under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP), must continue to display the EU Publicity Posters and/or commemorative plaques, until otherwise advised by Pobal. Publicity queries should be directed to Siobhan Laffey Pobal at: slaffey@pobal.ie or ph: 01 5117261.



The location of all childcare services, notified and voluntary notified childminders, parent and toddler groups, county council services, sport facilities, community services and county amenities can be found through an easy to use web mapping portal at www.waterfordcoco.ie.

Lámh-a-Song is a DVD of 15 popular nursery rhymes for young children sung and signed using Lámh Signs. The DVD and Booklet are available to purchase for €16.50 from Lámh Development Office (059) 9139651 or www.lamh.org

Fire Safety

Fire Safety training delivered by Ember Fire Safety will take place on Monday, 19th September in Le Cheile, Mitchel St., Dungarvan. The course is designed to train individuals on the types of fire they may experience in the workplace and the use of extinguishers. It is a requirement of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (General Applications) regulations that employers train their employees on how to use fire extinguishers in the work place and to evacuate the building. Cost €25 per person.

Occupational First Aid.

With training programmes commencing in September, we would like to remind all holders of Occupational First Aid Certificates that they have to be updated every 2 years i.e. from the date on the certificate that you received from the trainer (not the FETAC cert). For example if the date on the OFA certificate is 20th November, 2009, the certificate has to be updated within 90 days from 20th November, 2011. WCCC encourage services to stagger staff training to ensure that at least one staff member will hold current First Aid certification at all times. It is a requirement for insurance that at least one staff member has an updated certificate in Occupational First Aid at all times.

John Doyle will deliver a **Refresher First Aid Course** in WCCC office, 9 Emmet St., on **Saturday, 5th November**. Due to demand it is expected that only one member of staff from each service can be accommodated on this course.

(John Doyle also delivers Refresher First Aid in Waterford City, for this course you can contact John on 086 8305475.)

If you require full training in FETAC Level 5 Occupational First Aid please contact Mary Upton VEC, (058) 51407. (Priority will be given to BTEI students).

Coláiste Chathail Naofa' Dungarvan evening programme also offers FETAC Level 5 Occupational First Aid delivered over 13wks. Costs €190. Tel No: 058 41195.

Waterford City Childcare Committee will host the delivery of full FETAC Level 5 Occupational First Aid on Saturdays 12th, 19th and 26th November in Waterford City. Cost is €150. To book a place please contact (051) 860444.