



# Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

## Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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### June News Bulletin/ Mí an Mheithimh Nuacht litir

#### Dates for you Diary

##### Arts & Crafts

Arts & Crafts in WCCC office on Friday 24th June at 10am.

**High Scope Information Seminar** on the Highscope approach will take place on Wednesday, 15th June at 7.30pm in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan followed by the **Equipment Swap for Childcare Providers**.

##### Run a Muck

Play Morning will be in Run a Muck on the last Tuesday of the month 28 June, from 10 - 12am. €3 per child with babies free.

##### National Play Day

(Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul.) To celebrate a fun and games event will take place in Lismore Park and Playground on Sunday 16th July.

### Hanen Programme 'Learning Language and Loving It'

The HSE Speech & Language Therapy Department will offer training in the 'Hanen approach', a proven evidence based approach to promote children's language, literacy and social skills to childcare services in Waterford City & County from September 2011. Both CCC's will promote and support childcare services who participate. The programme will be delivered to a team of staff through a whole service or whole room approach. An Expression of Interest Form and information leaflet on the Hanen approach has been sent to all service providers via email, if you did not receive a form please contact us, as completed forms will have to be submitted to WCCC by 24th June. Services that are interested in participating in the Hanen Training Programme will be initially invited to an information session in September 2011.

### Parents enrol your child now to avail of the free preschool year!

An estimated 97% of eligible children in Ireland availed of one year of free pre-school prior to entering primary school. The Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme (ECCE) provides for three hours of pre-school per day for 38 weeks of the year; or two hours fifteen minutes per day over 50 weeks of the year.

**All children born between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2007 and the 30th June 2008 are eligible for a free place from September 2011.**

There are two exceptions where a child may be accepted for the scheme at an older age.

The child has been assessed by the HSE as having special needs which will delay their entry to school; *Note: A child assessed as having special needs may avail of the 5 days of free preschool over a 2 year period e.g. 2 days per week in year one and 3 days per week in year two - discuss this option with your preschool service of choice.*

The child would be starting school at an older age due to the enrolment policy of the local primary school. *Note: Check enrolment policy with your local primary school.*

Parents should enrol their child in their preschool service of choice as soon as possible. Parent Declaration Forms will be available from Service Provider participating on the ECCE Free Pre School from September, 2011. The child's name, date of birth and the child's PPS number will be required to complete the form.

**Green-Schools** is an international environmental education programme & award scheme that promotes long-term, whole school and wider action for the environment. Pre-school services are invited to participate in this programme commencing in the Autumn. An expression of interest will be sent to all services and an information seminar will take place in mid October in Dungarvan (date to be confirmed).

### Kilbrien Parent & Toddler Group

Kilbrien Parent & Toddler group had an open day recently with a great turnout of 17 toddlers ages ranging from 17 weeks to 6 years olds.



The hall in Kilbrien has been transformed into a colourful play area, where parents, childminders and grandparents can enjoy time together while the toddlers enjoy the play activities.

The group were recipients of the Parent and Toddler Grant which assisted them with the purchase of new toys and equipment. The group meet every Wednesday morning from 10.30 to 12.30, which includes play, arts and crafts and guest speakers. So if you feel like a break from the house with your children please come along, there is a charge of €3 per adult to cover the cost of light refreshments.

### Simon & Friends

A number of service providers recently participated in a road safety awareness workshop provided by Waterford County Childcare Committee. Feedback from the event was that it was very informative and beneficial. Each service received a pack containing story books, a CD each teaching a different element of road safety, and child sized reflective jackets. Following the Simon & Friends Road Safety Training there has been requests to provide some information on Farm Safety. There are a number of different places to get some useful information including; [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie); [www.agriaware.ie](http://www.agriaware.ie); and watersafety information on [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie)

### 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, Department of Psychology University College Cork. 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 on-going.

The programme is delivered by a parent mentor trained under the auspices of Dr. Humphreys. Topics include: All Parenting Starts with Self; Family Relationships & Feelings; All Children are Geniuses!; Helping Children to Become Response-able; Family Communications; Children's Challenging Behaviours; Parents Challenging Behaviours; A Different Kind of Discipline. Parents are invited to contact Waterford County Childcare Committee for further information.

### Tip Sheets for Parents on Play

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has published tip sheets for parents:

Playing with your Baby (birth to 18 months)

Playing with our Toddler (12th to 3 yrs) &

Playing with Your Young Child (2 1/2 to 6yrs). Copies are available from our office or can be viewed and downloaded on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

### White Strand Open Day

White Strand Family and Community Centre open day took place recently. There was a great response from the local community who came along to see the building and give their opinion on the services that may be offered from the centre. The children had great fun on the day and drawing on a graffiti wall they expressed their views as to what they would like to see in the centre. Following the open day, a number of focus group meetings



also took place to give opportunity to the local community to express their views on the development of services within the new centre which is expected to open for community use early in 2012. The Consultation Report will be available at the end of June.

For further information please contact Chris at Waterford County Childcare Committee (058) 48024

## Childminding Ireland New Membership category

Childminding Ireland are introducing a new membership category called Voluntary / Statutorily Notified Membership which will make their professional insurance package more affordable. The new membership will be available to all Voluntary Notified and HSE Notified Childminders at a reduced cost of €20 (previously €55 for full membership)

The benefits of this category:

1. Access to *Childminding Ireland* insurance packages.
2. Use of *Childminding Ireland's* parent matching service if you wish.
3. Quarterly newsletter.

This form of membership excludes voting rights in the organisation.

Please contact Childminding Ireland on 01 2878466 or [www.childminding.ie](http://www.childminding.ie)

## Start Your Own Business Course

Preparation is the single most important thing you can do to ensure your childcare business can develop and continue to be sustainable.

This course will be delivered in the WCCC Office in Dungarvan in September / October and will provide essential information on running a business. Key issues covered in the course will include entrepreneurship, legal issues including insurance, tax requirements, registering a business, PRSI etc, developing a business plan; marketing strategies, researching the market, finance & estimating business costs; sources & uses of funding; basic bookkeeping; customer service & IT skills. The course will cost €30 per person and is ideally suited to childminders and childcare providers. Please call the office to find out more information or to enrol on the course.

## Teddy Bears Picnic & Train Trip for Voluntary Notified & HSE Notified Childminders

The annual Teddy Bears Picnic & Trip on the Suir Valley Railway will take place on Tuesday 16 August. This is a special trip for Voluntary Notified & HSE Notified Childminders and the parents and children they work with. It is a lovely opportunity to do something together with the parents and has been the highlight of the childminding year for many in the past! We will run two trains one at 10 and another at 11am. The trip last about 45 minutes and we will have a snack & drink for the children (and teddies!) afterwards. This trip is fully subsidised by Waterford City & County Childcare Committees in recognition of childminding as a profession. Booking is essential please call us on 058 48024 and indicate which time would suit you best.

## Transforming Ireland

Funded by the Irish Government  
under the National Development Plan 2007-2013



## Childminders Equipment Swap

We had a wonderful selection of toys and equipment available at our equipment Swap last week. The Childminders left loaded down with a huge quantity of toys; from which I'm sure the children will get great enjoyment. We have a car seat available if anyone needs it let me know Rosemarie (058) 48024

## Equipment Swap for Service Providers

Equipment Swaps are a great and economical way to refresh toys and the children love the excitement of the change of materials to play with. If you would like to get involved start setting aside any items which you would like to donate to the swap. All toys and equipment should be clean and in good condition. Tape the lids on boxes of jigsaws or any toy with parts to keep the pieces together.

Usually items are brought along to become part of a group of general swap items and the participants can then choose other items to bring home. Only participants who bring items on the night can participate in the Equipment Swap.

The Equipment Swap will take place after the High Scope Information meeting on Wednesday 15th June in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan. Please call the office if you would like more information.