



Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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October News Bulletin 2011/ Mí Deireadh Fómhair Nuacht litir 2011

Dates for you Diary

Men in Childcare Network
- Thursday, 6th October
at 7.30pm in Waterford
City Childcare Committee
Offices.

National Beep Beep Day -
Road safety awareness day
in Friday 14th October

National Parents Week
will take place from 17th
to 23rd October.

**Leisure Walks for
Families:** Sat 15th Oct—
The Dunes, Tramore at
11am. & The Towers,
Lismore on 29th October
@ 11am.

**Run a Muck, Tramore Play
Morning** on the last
Tuesday of the month
25th October from 10 -
12am. €3 per child,
babies free.

Early Childhood Ireland Regulation 5 Roadshow

This Roadshow will explain Regulation 5, Health, Welfare & Development of the child, it will bring you step by step through key requirements, it will provide you with clear examples of good practice and leave you with a helpful booklet to support you with the inspection process. This is a free event.

Date: **Tuesday, 11th October, 2011** Time: 7-9pm

Venue: Park Hotel, Dungarvan. Book your place on the Early Childhood Ireland Website www.ncna.ie

Information and Awareness raising on Child Protection for all Childcare Services, Childminders and School Age services.

This one-day information workshop for Childcare Services and Childminders in County Waterford will take place on **Saturday, 22nd October** in the Town Hall, Dungarvan and on **Saturday, 26th November** in Ard na Ghleanna, Tramore. Times for both events will be from 9.30am to 4pm. This is a free event.

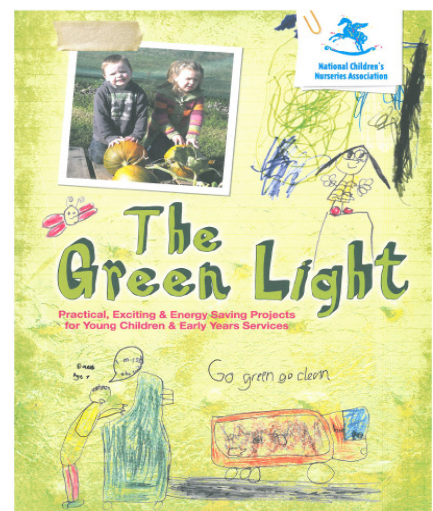
Funds from the DCYA has been approved for the delivery by Barnardos of these information and awareness raising workshops on child protection in Waterford City and County, Kilkenny and Wexford. All services attending will receive a free copy of the Barnardos publication, ***A Child Protection Guide for Early Years and School Age Childcare Services (value €25).***

Green-Schools Information Seminar

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 an opportunity will be 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.



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.

A full service approach is taken where all staff members are asked to participate in the training. The training will take place in two parts. (See below for details)

Following the first training session, each Centre will receive a Buntús Start bag which includes physical activity equipment and resource cards valued in excess of €240. The service pays a total of €100 for the training of all staff, the equipment bag and the resource cards.

Training Part 1: Thursday 20th October 2011 from 6-9.30pm

Training Part 2: Thursday 24th November 2011 from 7-9pm

Training venue: The Causeway Tennis Club, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Men in Childcare Network

Since 2006 Waterford CCC have worked to support the development of the Men in Childcare Network. The Network is made up primarily of men working or wanting to work, in the Early years sector. They have faced an uphill struggle, men as you are well aware have not traditionally worked in the sector. However, just as men now take on many more duties both with their children and in the home, the childcare sector is seen by many men as a natural career.

Men in Childcare Network has also been supportive of the work of the wider childcare sector. For example they have continually paid tribute to the development of the sector by women, they have supported the developments of policy to the betterment of the sector in submissions to the Workforce Development Plan and the Start Strong Consultation. Their members have given talks on childcare courses and at national childcare conferences. The Network has supported the emergence of the Association of Childcare Professionals in every county and have added their voice to the campaign for recognised pay scales for the sector.

WCCC is undertaking a survey among services in the county. The survey has been designed by Childcare Committees in association with the Men in Childcare Network. The survey is the first of its type and it seeks to create a baseline of data into the numbers of men actually working in the sector. It also seeks to capture opinions and experiences of you as childcare leaders in relation to men.

Networking event

Topic: Promoting Men in Childcare in Childcare services—A discussion based forum led by Mick Kenny and Damien Walshe and members of the MIC Network.

Date: Thursday 6th October Time: 7.30 to 9pm

Venue: Waterford City Childcare Committee Offices, 4b Manor Village, Cork Rd. Waterford City

Get Together with Other Childminders & Parents.

Get together with other childminders & parents and children in Kill Community Centre every Tuesday morning for a coffee morning in aid of the local school from 9.30 to 12noon, lots to play with, book fair for adults and children, contribution is €3 per adult, enjoy a cup of coffee and homemade cake.

Play in the Hall in Kill Community Centre every Thursday from 4-5pm (3-5pm during holiday periods) - all are welcome for an informal play and a good run around, inside or in the yard, weather permitting. Cost is €1 per child (€2 for the 2 hours) for hall hire - maximum charge per family is €5. For further information please call Mareike on 087 4133522

Road Safety Awareness Training November 2011

The Road Safety Authority has developed a pack which can be used in childcare services throughout the county called 'Simon and Friends'. The pack consists of four books and a CD with stories and songs conveying the road safety messages. The aim of the resource is to promote road safety to children aged five and under in a pre-school setting. Participating services will also receive high visibility jackets for all of the children in the service. During the workshop there is an informal and interactive approach to the Simon & Friends resources that can be implemented immediately into the programme of activities of your service or your parent & toddler group.

To date 4 workshops have been attended by 77 childcare practitioners, childminders and parent & toddler groups with 1023 children benefitting from the training.

The next 3 workshops taking place in November are open to all Childcare Services, Childminders and members of Parent & Toddler groups. A Simon & Friends resources pack and a teacher's guide will be given to each service/ group on the night and also high-visibility jackets for each of the children in their care. Training schedule for the month of November is as follows:

Date:	Time:	Venue
Tuesday 8 th November	7.30-9pm	Cappoquin Community Centre, Twig Bog,
Wednesday 16 th November	7.30-9pm	The Park Hotel,
Tuesday 22 nd November	7.30-9pm	Ard an Ghleanna Community Building Ard an Ghleanna, Tramore, Co. Waterford

National Beep Beep Day 14th October 2011

Road safety awareness day is on Friday 14th October, Waterford County Childcare Committee is asking you our trained providers to use the 'Simon and Friends' resources that you received at the training session that you attended in March or May of this year. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to encourage parental involvement on this day.

You can focus on any of the road safety themes:

- Holding Hands
- Stop
- Looking & Listening
- Setting a good example

You, the staff team and the children can promote road safety to parents before, during and after the event.

The high-visibility jackets I'm sure will be very useful and a great attraction on the day - you may also be using these on a regular basis already!

Resources available for parents:

- 'Child Safety in Cars' information booklet
- Irish Road Safety Week (10th - 14th October 2011) Poster
- NO CHILD CAR SEAT NO EXCUSE information leaflet
- GET IT ON - NO SEATBELT NO EXCUSE - information leaflet
- Going to School - A parent's guide to getting children to school safely

..... and finally the Simon & Friends Road safety awareness resource can be linked to almost all of the Síolta standards.

Fire Safety—10 Useful Tips!

Following Fire Safety Training recently, Pat Sheridan, Ember Fire Safety, who delivered the programme compiled 10 useful tips on ways to prevent fires:

1. Check your Smoke Detectors regularly.
2. Unplug or Switch Off all unnecessary Electrical Appliances at the end of the day.
3. Close all Doors at night.
4. Do Not leave Burning Candles unattended.
5. Unplug your Mobile Phone Charger after use.
6. Do Not Activate Electrical Appliances i.e Washing Machine, Dishwasher unless you are present.
7. Do Not Overload Electrical Sockets.
8. Never leave Deep Fat Fryer, Chip Baskets, Grills or Frying Pans unattended.
9. Have Faulty Electrical Appliances repaired or replaced immediately.
10. Have a suitable Fire Extinguisher and Fire Blanket in your Home.

Waterford County Childcare Committee may deliver another Fire Safety Training this year if you are interested please contact WCCC on 058 48024.

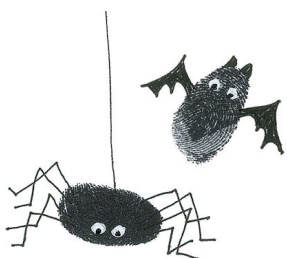
Celebrate Parent's Week

Parent line invites you and your organisations to participate in Parent Week which takes place from 17th to 23rd October, 2011. To participate your group can do whatever suits you whether it to meet up for a cup of coffee, attend a conference/exhibition/training anything that highlights the very important role that parents play in society and the valuable work you do.

Parent line: 1890 927 277

Reminder of Training in October

Business Course—Book Keeping Part 1 Thursday, 13th Oct and Part 2 Thursday 27th Oct from 7 to 10pm in WCCC Office, Emmet St., Dungarvan.



To make these unique spiders,, just help your child press their thumb onto a nontoxic rubber stamp pad (black for spiders and bats, orange for pumpkins) or paint will do, then they can press their thumb onto a piece of heavy paper or card. Add

small dots of white acrylic paint for the bat and spider eyes, www.familyfun.go.com

New Safety Belt Requirements for the Organised Transport of Children on Buses

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) have advised bus owners and drivers that as of 31st October 2011 it will be a legal requirement that buses involved in the organised transport of children be fitted with appropriate and fit for purpose safety belts or restraint systems. This new requirement is also of importance to individuals and organisations involved in hiring or contracting bus services for children.

This applies to the transportation of a group of 3 or more children where transporting the children is the primary reason for the journey. This includes school transport bus services, school trips or organised outings such as sporting or social events, etc. It does not include the transport of children on bus services offered to the general public (i.e. scheduled urban or inter-urban bus services). Buses involved in the Department of Education's School Transport Scheme have been required to be fitted with safety belts since January 2007.

For more information on these new requirements please visit [safety belts on buses webpage](#) or contact the Road Safety Authority at **096-25014** or at vehiclestandards@rsa.ie.