



Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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April News Bulletin/

Nuacht litir
Aibréain.

Dates for you Diary

Healthy Eating for P&T groups and Childminders on 4th April at 8pm in Kiddies Kingdom in Kilmeaden.

Free Information Events

in Lismore on 1st April, Tramore on 8th April and Dungarvan on 15th April from 10am to 2pm.

National Childminding Week 9-15 April "Learning is Fun" .

Lots of activities and events planned.

Association of Childcare Professionals

(Waterford branch) will be launched on Wednesday, 13th April at 7.15pm in the Ramada Hotel, Waterford

High Scope Ireland Training Road Shows—

Supporting Children's Development from 0-6 years in three locations in Ireland to include the Silver Springs in Cork on 13th & 14th May from 9am to 4pm. Contact WCCC for more details.

Attention Childminders and Childcare Practitioners

The Association of Childcare Professionals (Waterford branch) will be launched on Wednesday, 13th April at 7.15pm in the Ramada Hotel, Cork Rd., Waterford. Guest Speakers include Dr. Mary Maloney, Mary I College, Limerick and Maria Quinn from ACP, Cork.

Professional Development Portfolio

Waterford County Childcare Committee (WCCC) has developed a Professional Development Portfolio for Childcare Practitioners to promote and support professional development in the childcare sector. The development of the Portfolio follows from research published in 2005 entitled "Professional Development in the Childcare Sector in Waterford City & County A Discussion Paper". A series of jointly hosted Professional Development Seminars have taken place since to raise awareness and stimulate further discussion on the relevant issues. Portfolio Building has been used in many areas (for eg Nursing) as a means to update individual's professional development.

The Portfolio aims to provide a useful tool in which the childcare practitioner can collate and document his/her professional development. The Portfolio is underpinned by the principles of life long learning and it is envisaged that the Portfolio may be used for the purpose of Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL). The development of the Portfolio is informed by the Model Framework for Education Training and Professional Development in the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector (Government of Ireland 2002). Waterford CCC organise mentoring workshops on an ongoing basis. Typically workshops run for a minimum of four sessions, spread out over several weeks to allow time for reflection and gathering of information. Group work is an essential element, but some one to one work is also required. Mentoring workshops are free to all childcare practitioners in the city & county. Please contact Andrew or Rosemarie at the office on 058 48024 for further information. Free information sessions will be held at two locations in April from 7.30 - 8.30pm.



Practitioners from Dunhill, Fenor & Tramore with their portfolios

Tuesday 19th April Ard Na Ghleanna Community Building, Tramore

Wednesday 20th April WCCC Offices, Emmet St, Dungarvan.

Mentoring is provided by WCCC, and is customised to each participating group. The training can be provided at a time and location suitable to each group. Elements of portfolio building include:

- Multiple Intelligence Theory
- Learning styles
- Personal audit of Skills, Knowledge and Attributes
- Career path and Learning Path.

Earth: The Apple Of Our Eye

Here's an interesting way of looking at the earth by cutting up an apple :

Slice an apple into quarters.

Set aside 3/4 - they represent the oceans of the world.

What fraction is left? (1/4) Slice this in half and set aside one piece.

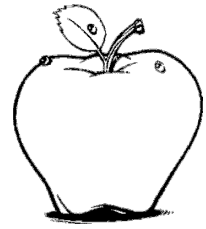
The portion set aside represents the land area that is inhospitable to people: the polar areas, deserts, swamps, high or rocky mountains.

What fraction is left? (1/8) This piece is the land area where people live, but not necessarily grow the food needed for life

Slice this piece into 4 - set aside 3

These 3 represent the areas too rocky, too wet, cold, steep or with too poor soil to produce food. They also represent cities, suburban sprawl, highways, shopping centres, schools, parks, factories and other places where we live but don't grow food.

Carefully peel the piece left over. This layer of skin represents the surface, the very thin skin of the earths crust upon which we all depend. Accessed from <http://www.homeschooling-ideas.com/index.html>



Seachtain na Gaeilge 5ú -17u Márta 2011.

Rith Seachtain na Gaeilge ón 5ú go 17ú Márta i mbliana. Bhí Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge ag céiliúire Seachtain na Gaeilge trí roinnt eachtraí ar fúd an chontae. Fuaireamar an-chuid áiseanna ó Fhorbairt Náionraí Teoranta agus scaipeamar iad mór thimpeall idir páistí, tuismitheoirí, feighlithe leanaí agus sholathaireoirí seirbhísí. Ghlac 26 daoine fásta agus 40 páistí sna eachtraí seo a leanas;

Scéalaíocht agus amhráin sa Play Loft,
Scéalaíocht sa Leabharlann, Maidin le ghrupa máthaireacha ó Ocean view, Trá Mhór agus cuairt ar trí seirbhísí cúraim leanaí ar fúd an chontae. Chomh maith le seo táimid fós ag tabhairt amach an leabhair álainn curtha amach le Máire Uí Bhroin, Stiúrthóir Náionra Choill Mhic Thomáisín "Tráthnóna sa Náionra".

Seachtain na Gaeilge ran from 5th to the 17th of March this year. Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd. celebrated with numerous events held around the county for example stories and songs at the Play Loft, Dungarvan, Storytime trí ghaeilge in Dungarvan library, stories and songs workshop for mothers at Ocean View, Tramore and a visit to 3 services across the county disseminating the wonderful resources that WCCC received from Forbairt Náionraí Teoranta. 26 adults and 40 children participated at these events. We are continuing to disseminate the wonderful book recently published by Maire Uí Bhroin Stiúrthóir Náionra Choill Mhic Thomáisín "Tráthnóna sa Náionra".

Free Information Events hosted by the VEC and Waterford Leader Partnership are taking place where you have an opportunities to explore

Education & Training, Benefits & Entitlements, Money Management, Enterprise & Employment, Health & Access etc in
Lismore House Hotel on Friday 1st April from 10am to 2pm
Grand Hotel, Tramore on Friday, 7th April from 10am to 2pm
Lawlor's Hotel, Dungarvan on Friday, 14th April from 10am to 2pm

Rhymes and Art Workshops with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership

Kids' Own an arts organization and children's publishing house, is working with The Waterford County Library Service to create opportunities for parents and their pre school children to play, share rhymes and make art together. The art work and rhymes will be included in a new book which will be published later this year celebrating the rhymes of County Waterford. The book will include the names of all participants and a free copy of the book will also be provided.

The workshops will last for an hour and a half and parents are asked to commit to 2 workshops. Throughout the workshops the parents and children will work with an artist and writer to make their own art work and play using rhyme. We are looking for one parent and one child aged 3-4, max 6 parents and 6 children. Parent and child will be expected to attend both days at their preferred time. (1 Parent and 1 child) and parents can alternate if required. There are 2 separate workshops which will run from 11am-12.30 and 2pm-3.30pm on both days. Dates for Tramore Library are:

Thurs 7th & Fri 8th April &

Thurs 14th & Fri 15th April

To get further information or to book a place please contact Tracy at Tramore Library on 051 381479

Trip to Parson's Green

On Saturday, 23rd April from 11am-3pm Childminders and Parent & Toddler Groups are invited to a trip to Parson's Green in Clogheen, Co Tipperary. The cost for the day is €5 to include 2 adults & 2 children. The trip is organised by Siobhan Hubbard (Tots in the Park P&T group)

Contact Siobhan on 058 52807 or 085 1237910

Arts & Crafts for Childminders

Recently two childminders Barbara & Mareike hosted an Art & Crafts morning where childminders had an opportunity to do Cress Eggs and Hyacinth. WCCC invites other childminders to share their art & craft ideas please!! We can purchase any supplies needed and

Rosemarie will be there to give you a hand... basically all we need is your inspiration, and it can be a very simple idea, so give us a hand!

Cress Eggs ...so simple just put some cotton wool into an egg shell, add eyes, nose & mouth and pour a little water over, sprinkle on some cress seeds, then watch



National Childminding Week 9-15 April "Learning is Fun"

This year's theme is 'Learning is fun in a childminding setting', Parents, Parent & Toddler Groups and Childminders are welcome to attend any of these events:

Please contact Rosemarie on 058 48024 to book a place.

- Physical Activity Programme for Childminders, 8pm Monday 11 April Kilmeaden. Cost €10
- Information evening on Garda Vetting, 7pm Tuesday 12 April Waterford City. Free of charge.
- Easter Egg Hunt, 10am Wed 13th April at the Peoples Park, Waterford. Free of charge.
- Easter Egg Hunt, 10am Thurs 14th April in Glenshelane Woods Cappoquin. Free of charge.
- Childminder & Child Make & Do Morning 10am Fri 15th April in WCCC Office, Dungarvan.
- Social Night for Childminders in Kilcohan Dog Racing on Saturday, 16th. Cost TBC

Childminding Ireland are holding a National Art and Photography Competition. There are three age categories: 3 - 5 years, 6 - 10years and 11 - 14 years.

Entries should be sent before 22nd April to *Childminding Ireland*, 9 Bulford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow or email siobhan@childminding.ie.

The closing date for entries is Childminders Day, Friday the 22nd of April, 2011.

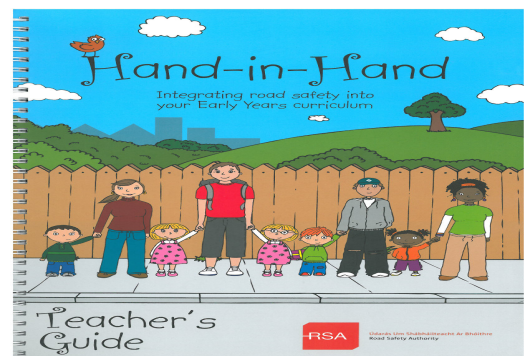
Childcare Equipment Sale & Swap

Start collecting any unused childcare equipment or toys as we will be organising an equipment swap and sale in the next few weeks. Items required include buggies, high chairs, cots, car seats, booster seats etc and all manner of toys especially jigsaws (with all the pieces!) ride on toys, building blocks, dolls etc. Equipment and toys should be in good condition and clean and can be either swapped or sold on the day.

Parent / Childminder & Child Mornings in Kill Community Centre from 9.30 - 12 every Friday morning. Come along for a friendly chat & play with the children. €3 per adult, no charge for the children, Contact Mareike on 087 4133522

Simon & Friends

The Road Safety Authority has developed a pack which can be used in childcare services through the county called 'Simon and Friends'. The aim of the resource is to promote road safety to children aged five and under in a preschool setting. The series centres on four characters who promote age appropriate road safety messages to children.



Each book is beautifully illustrated. At the end of each story there are a number of extension activities which preschool providers can use to prompt other learning experiences with the children. Stories are also recorded onto a CD Rom which can be played to children in their early year's environment. The CD also contains a number of road safety songs and an interactive computer game targeted at the under 5's. The pack also contains an accompanying teacher's guide called 'Hand in Hand' which includes information about integrating road safety into the Early Years Environment and suggested activities, games and songs which support the 'Simon and Friends' stories. The Teachers Guide, Storybooks and CD are all enclosed in a colourful case. The programme can help childcare services reach Standard 9 'Health and Welfare' of the Síolta Programme.

Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme (ECCE)

Children with Special Needs & the ECCE

As you may be aware, children with special needs who had benefited from the first "short" year of the ECCE, were allowed in exceptional cases to access a second, "full" year in September 2010.

However a second pre-school year is **not available** under the ECCE in subsequent years, including the September 2011 year. Parents of children with special needs can still choose to apply to avail of the scheme on a **pro rata payment** over 2 years i.e spreading the pre-school year over two years, generally on the basis of 2 days in the 1st year and 3 days in the 2nd year.

Other options include:

1 full year during the year the child qualifies by age or 1 full year if the child applies under the **exemption from the upper age limit**. In this instance the upper age limit of 4 years 6 months is waived where children have been assessed as being developmentally delayed or where they have a physical, sensory or mental condition which will result in them starting school at a later than normal age.

All applications for children with special needs must be approved by the OMCYA in advance so applications must be received prior to the commencement of the scheme in September 2011.

Applications should be addressed to Mary Guiry, the Childcare Directorate, OMCYA, Hawkins House, Dublin 2 with a copy of the HSE assessment / report of their child or a letter from a treating consultant as evidence of developmental delay and/or disability. They should also include a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.

In February 2010, the OMCYA requested the Office of Disability and Mental Health, the body with responsibility for support services for pre-school children with special needs, to set up a working group to review the existing arrangements.

Many thanks for your cooperation and prompt replies to the recent call for re entry applications to the ECCE scheme. The information was submitted to OMCYA on March 25th.

There has been no change in the age eligibility for this years scheme. Eligible children will have been born between 2nd Feb 2007 - 30th June 2008. There is an exception to this where a child is making a claim relating to a special need. Despite the earlier schedule of applications, recent clarification from OMCYA suggests that Parental Declaration Forms will not be available until late August or early September.

Payment schedule for the ECCE Scheme

38 / 41 week services -

To date your service has been paid for 27 weeks in relation to the ECCE scheme up to and including Friday 1st April, 2011.

The next payment will be lodged into your bank account on or before Friday 8th April for the balance of 11 weeks for the last term of this scheme.

50 week services -

To date your service has been paid for 30 weeks in relation to the ECCE scheme up to and including Friday 1st April, 2011.

The next payment will be lodged into your bank account on or before Friday 8th April for 12 weeks, up to and including Friday 1st July, 2011.

The final payment of 8 weeks will then be lodged into your bank account on or before Friday 8th July, 2011 for the last term of this scheme, which is payment up to and including Friday 26th August, 2011.

Barnardos Big Toddle

The DANONE BIG TODDLE FOR BARNARDOS invites toddler groups from junior schools, crèches, Montessori's and families to do a simple sponsored toddle. Register now for the Barnardos Big Toddle to take place between 1st May and 30th June www.barnardos.ie/bigtoddle

Cuidiu Waterford's third annual fundraising **Nearly New Sale** of baby, toddler and kids items including nursery equipment and toys takes place from 1pm to 3pm on Sunday 10th April in the Woodlands Hotel, Dunmore East Rd., Waterford. For further information please contact Vivienne 086 8038780.

Transforming Ireland

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