



Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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March News Bulletin/ Nuacht litir Mí Márta 2011

Dates for you Diary

Rhymes and art
workshops with Kids'

Own Publishing

Partnership Cappoquin
Library 9th & 10th &
24th & 25th March.

Healthy Eating for P&T
groups and childminders
in Kiddies Kingdom,
Kilmeaden on 4th April.

OMEP Conference 2011
on Sat 2nd April in Cork.

Theme: Childhood
Unfolding.

New Publication

The Benefits of Pre
School for your Child &
Making The Move to Pri-
mary School. Available
to download on
www.waterfordcoco.ie

Parent & Toddler Group Grants

Grants are now available through Waterford County Childcare Committee for Parent & Toddler Groups in the County. Applications forms are now available and have been circulated to Parent & Toddler Groups, if you did not receive a form please contact WCCC immediately as the closing date for receipt of applications is **11th March, 2011**. If you are already running a P&T group, thinking about setting up one or if you require a list of the P&T Groups in your area.—please contact Jean, on 058 48024.

Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme (ECCE) Childcare Education & Training Support (CETS) Scheme and Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme 2011

Application forms for services currently participating in the ECCE, CETS and CCS schemes have been disseminated by email to all services. Deadline for completed forms is Friday 11 March 2011. Terms and conditions for each scheme are available from www.omcya.ie

Contracts currently in place for ECCE and CCS services will not expire until August 2012. Both the OMCYA and the services contracted have the option to terminate the arrangement from the end of August 2011 subject to provision of at least 3 months notice. If your services is not currently participating in the CETS scheme but wishes to apply for entry to the scheme please contact Andrew Doherty at 058 43601.

The Application Form for new ECCE entrants is also available upon request from our office and should be completed and returned to Waterford County Childcare Committee by Friday 1 April 2011.

A new Guidance Note on the rules and procedures of the ECCE scheme will be available shortly. Completed application forms should be returned to Waterford County Childcare Committee, 9 Emmet St, Dungarvan.

Email and Text

As a result of recent budget cuts we are working to communicate with everyone by e-mail. This is to reduce stationery and postage costs so that we can maintain budgets in other areas such as training subsidies, Síolta etc. For this to work we need your co-operation and would ask you to please read the following:

- Please check for emails from WCCC regularly and expect to receive an email message every week.
- If you have not received any messages from WCCC please contact us to help locate and resolve any problems.
- Please check to see if any e-mails have gone to spam.
- Make sure to inform us of any change in e-mail address details immediately.
- You will receive a text message regarding messages that we need a prompt response to ie deadlines etc.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 5ú - 17ú Márta 2011

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ag rith ón 5ú go 17ú de Mhí Mhárta i mbliana. Déan gach iarracht do chúpla focail a úsáid i rith an ama seo. Seachtain na Gaeilge is running from the 5th to 17th March. Please make an effort to use your cúpla focail during and after this time. The following is the list of events that WCCC are organising for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Eachtra/ Event	Cathain/ When?	Cén áit/ Where?	Cén duine/ Who can attend?	Cé mhéad/ How much?
Ceardlann trí gaeilge Workshop through Irish le Máire Uí Bhroin	Tuesday 8 th March Dé Máirt 8ú Marta	The Youth Café, Kilmacthomas	Gach éinne - open to all; parents, childminders, childcare practitioners.	€10 materials given on the night
Scéalaíocht agus rannta Story-telling and songs le Jacqui de Siún	Dé hAoine 11ú Marta ag 10-12 nóin Friday 11 th March 10-12noon	Play loft, Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan	Tuismitheoirí, Feighlithe Leanaí agus páistí/ Childminders, parents and children	€4 an pháiste/ €4 per child (Faoi bhun a haon soar in aisce/under 1yr are free)
Scéalaíocht agus rannta Story-telling and songs le Jacqui de Siún	Dé Céadaoin 16ú Márta @ 10.30 -11.30	Ocean View Tramore	Tuismitheoirí,/ Parents	Saor in aisce/free

Other events for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2011 will be held at [Dungarvan Library](#):

[Dé Máirt 8ú Márta/ Tuesday 8th March](#)

Bingo as Gaeilge for 4th Class from St. Marys N.S Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

[Dé Céadaoin 9ú Márta/ Wednesday, 9th March](#)

Book Reading and discussion session at 7pm by Catherine Foley. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. Catherine's new book will be on sale on the night courtesy of Readers Choice.

[Dé hAoine 11ú Marta/ Friday 11th March](#)

Bingo as Gaeilge for 4th Class from Scoile Mhuire N.S. , Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

[Dé Satharn 12ú Márta/ Saturday 12th March](#)

Story time as Gaeilge at 11 am hosted by Jacqui de Siún.

In the past WCCC have given out resources through Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge to all the Childminders, Childcare Services and Parent & Toddler groups in Co. Waterford. This year a copy of **Tráthnóna sa Naíonra** will make its way to each of these groups. This is a wonderful publication by one of our local practitioners, Máire Uí Bhroin, Stiurthóir of Naíonra Choill Mhic Thomáisín.

Tráthnóna sa Naíonra

This booklet contains photographs of children playing taken at Naíonra Choill Mhic Thomáisín with simple phrases in Irish, English, Chinese and Polish to acknowledge some of the many languages spoken daily in Ireland today. It came into being when staff at the Naíonra could not source an Irish language book with real photographs of pre-school children involved in activities such as paint, water, sand and playdough based in Ireland- so therefore decided to print their own. The booklet has a total of twenty-five photographs, taken both inside and outside, of young children involved in the usual activities that are common to pre-schools-building, climbing, sweeping, digging, making bubbles, painting, role-playing and so on. The children who are featured in the booklet were in the afternoon group last year and returned to An Naíonra to play together again on the night of the launch. The booklet is on sale for **5euro** as part of Naíonra Choill Mhic Thomáisín's ongoing fundraising efforts. Contact An Naíonra @ 051-294818.

Directory of Childcare Services

We have started to implement some of the recommendations of the recently launched *Evaluation of the Impact of the National Childminding Initiative on the Quality of Childminding in Waterford City & County*. A key recommendation of the report was greater coordination of events and information sharing between the two CCC's. From March an updated Directory of Childcare Services (DoS) will be sent to Waterford City so that any parent who lives in the county, but who contacts the city for a list of childminders can have the widest possible choice of childminders available to them. If there are any changes to your working hours or contact details please contact Rosemarie to keep the DoS updated.

Childminders working in the Parent's Home

We will facilitate childminders who work in the parent's home and who wish to be listed on the Directory of Childcare Services to do so following completion of the appropriate part of the voluntary notification process. Any Childminder who is interested in this can contact me for more information.

Childminding Grants

There has been a great uptake of the Childminding Development Grants in the county. Unfortunately there is no further funding available for 2011. We are hopeful that funding will be resumed in 2012. Due to budget restrictions WCCC can no longer pay for membership to Childminding Ireland.

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

A full range of events is planned for the week including:

- 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 Glenshalene 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 - 10 years 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.

Training and Networking

All Childminders whether working in their own home or parents home are welcome to attend network & training events. Childminding events will be organised in such a way that childminders from either City & County are welcome to attend whichever event suits best.

Parent & Toddler Groups

Parent & Toddler Groups are a fantastic way to meet other parents and children. As events are held in your own local area it is a convenient and cost effective way to interact with others. For a full list of Parent & Toddler groups please contact the office.

If you are already part of a Parent & Toddler group I am happy to attend one of your meetings to go through the supports we offer childminders working in your own or the parent's homes.

Healthy Eating for P&T groups and Childminders

8pm Kiddies Kingdom, Kilmeaden on 4th April. Keep this date in your diary for an opportunity to get all your nutrition questions answered. Free training

Childminding Relief Service

When you are childminding on your own it can be very difficult to organise your service if you need to take some time off. We will help you to liaise with local childminders to set up a childminding relief service. This can work especially well if children and childminders meet regularly eg at network events. With parent's consent it can mean there is an unbroken care routine in place for children with minimum disruption for parents. Please let me know if you are interested in finding out more information on this or would like to meet other childminders in your area who would be available to share the care of minded children.



Modeligo Parent & Toddler Group

Every Friday morning at 10.30am - 12pm Modeligo Parent & Toddler Group meet up in the Community Hall. The group has been running since March 2003 and have attracted members from Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Lismore, Villierstown, Tourneena as well as from the Modeligo area. Our members include mums, grandparents, aunts, childminders and a few brave dads.

We have a large hall for the children to play in and have a good selection of toys including a kitchen, a tool bench, many ride on vehicles and slides. When the weather is good we have a safe outside space to play in. The children love the craft corner where they make tremendous "works of art" and make a lovely mess with the Play Doh! For those who like "quieter play" we have a selection of jigsaws and books.

So far this year we have held a Cheerios Breakfast charity morning, and a Healthy Eating Training morning where the adults learnt about healthy meals and everyone sampled a huge range of fruit & veg and healthy snacks. The highlight so far this year was a trip to the Fire Station in Dungarvan. Fire Fighter Pat showed the children and adults around the fire station and the children were able to try on the helmets and play in the Fire Engines. The children loved the flashing lights but weren't too keen on the sirens!

Every year we hold Halloween, Christmas, Easter and Summer parties for the children where the children enjoy party games, party food and dancing.

This year we plan to arrange Paediatric First Aid training for the adults and activity mornings for the children. Modeligo Parent & Toddler is a great place for adults to meet. Many local members and those who have moved into the area from across Ireland and abroad have established great and lasting friendships through the group.

Reminder re Training

As you are aware staff from WCCC visited your premise recently and included in the visit was a questionnaire to identify training that you might need in 2011. We would advise that you look regularly at our website and our monthly training calendars to see when training is available. Occupational First Aid Certificates must be updated every 2 years and within 90 days of expiry date on the certificate. Primary Food Hygiene certificates must be updated every 5 years. Note: The next Refresher Occupational First Aid is on the 12th March, places are limited. The Primary Food Hygiene course which is being delivered over 3 nights will commence on the 14th March. Please contact WCCC if you are interested.



Members of the Association of Childcare Professionals Waterford with colleagues from across the county at a recent seminar in Dunhill

Association of Childcare Professionals (ACP) Waterford

Since February 2010 a voluntary group of childcare workers from Waterford City & County have worked to create the structure and systems of the Association of Childcare Professionals - Waterford branch. Made up of 20 people from a variety of services and occupations the first step was an election of a representative Council working on five key areas: Growth & Development, Communications, Accreditation, Membership and Finance.

The Association is now ready to be launched and the event will be held The Ramada Hotel, Wednesday 13th April, 7.30pm. Guest speakers Mary Maloney, Mary I college Limerick and Marian Quinn from ACP -Cork.

Transforming Ireland

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