

Funding for Parent & Toddler Groups in North Tipperary

North Tipperary County Childcare Committee are delighted to announce that the following groups have received funding from the Katherine Howard Foundation (KHF). Congratulations to all involved.

Applicant Name	Address
Carrig Riverstown	Carrig Hall, Carrig, Co. Tipperary
Cloughjordan Caterpillar Club	Church of Ireland Hall, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary
Kilcommon	Community Hall, Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary
Nenagh	Town Hall, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Borrisokane	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Borrisoleigh	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Lorrha	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Nenagh	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Newport	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Portroe	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Rathcabbin	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Silvermines	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
NTCS – Toomevara	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Templemore	Community Playschool, Bank Street, Templemore, Co. Tipperary
Thurles	The Source Arts Centre, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Last Minute Minders.com

Lastminuteminders.com is dedicated to connecting Childcare Providers and Childcare Staff through the efficiency and simplicity of the internet.

Anyone who works in the childcare business knows that the Adult-Child ratios are not only a necessary tool for manageability but also a legal requirement and we agree that it's a good thing this exists. However, it also means that if a staff member calls in sick it can be a NIGHTMARE for Managers and Owners to find suitable cover.

Lastminuteminders.com allows employers to log on and get in immediate contact with staff available in their area willing to cover a few hours or a few days or a long term sick leave or a maternity leave or even stay with them forever!

Lastminuteminders.com is currently offering a 6 month free trial of their website. For more information on this and any other queries visit lastminuteminders.com or email them at info@lastminuteminders.com.

Community Childcare Subvention Scheme 2008 - 2010

The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) 2008 – 2010 is a support scheme for community based childcare services to provide quality childcare services at reduced rates to disadvantaged parents. The CCSS operates as part of the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) 2006 – 2010, which is administered by the Office of the Minister and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), working with Pobal and the City and County Childcare Committees.

Community-based (not-for-profit) childcare services can apply for entry to the CCSS through their local City or County Childcare Committee (CCC), which will undertake an initial quality and needs assessment. Each childcare service will be assessed on the basis of eligibility criteria.

The submission date for CCSS applications from community-based childcare services is Friday 26th September 2008.

For further details contact Edel or Helen on 067-44888

Transforming Ireland

The NCIP 2006-2010 is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013

The EOCP 2000-2006 is funded by the Irish Government and part-financed by the European Union Structural Funds under the National Development Plan 2000-2006



Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is accurate and up to date. North Tipperary County Childcare Committee will not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions contained therein.



north tipperary county
childcare
committee

Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

newsletter nuachtlitir

Issue 6 Eagrán 6 - 2008

children at the heart
of what we do
leanaí i gcroílár ár gcuid oibre



Chairperson's Foreword • Up-date on staff details • Farewell Jean and Welcome Geraldine • Become a member of the North Tipperary County Childcare Committee • Thank you and best wishes to Louise, Lisa and Karen • New Minister for Children and Youth Affairs - Mr. Barry Andrews T. D. • Parents Support Book • Childminding Initiative News • Childminder's Story • Charlene Duane, Lorrha • Childcare in Newport: Newport Community Pre-School, Chuckles Crèche and Montessori School, Caterpillars Childcare, Little Tots Academy Crèche and Montessori, Newport Kids Club • Men in Childcare • Training Update • Children's Corner: Diwali / Hindu / Sikh / Jain • Better Ireland Award for Templemore • Music in the Halls Funding for Parent & Toddler Groups in North Tipperary • lastminuteminders.com • Ireland's only childcare staff solutions website NCIP Grant submission dates • Community CCSS



Chairperson's Foreword Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh



Welcome to the 6th edition of the North Tipperary County Childcare Committee's Annual Newsletter. In this edition you can look forward to enjoying articles on new and existing childcare services, childminding news and the publication of a new Parents Support leaflet to name but a few.

In 2008 the committee and staff members have continued to provide support and expertise to the childcare sector, as well as to families in North Tipperary. Our co-ordinator and development workers have also been working very hard with both existing and new childcare services from across the county in processing funding applications and preparing for the implementation of the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) under the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP).

We hope you all enjoy our Newsletter and wish to thank all those who contributed the many articles in this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future.

Fionnuala Kenny

Chairperson
North Tipperary County Childcare Committee

Fáilte romhat chuig an 6ú eagrán de Nuachtlitir Bhliantúil Choiste Chúram Leanaí Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh.

San eagrán seo féadfaidh tú a bheith ag súil le taitneamh a bhaint as ailt faoi sheirbhísí nua cúram leanaí agus seirbhísí atá ann cheana féin, nuacht faoi fheighlíocht leanaí agus faoi fhoilsiú bhileoige nua faoi Thacaíocht do Thuismitheoirí agus a lán rudaí eile.

Lean an coiste agus baill na foirne orthu i rith 2008 ag cur tacaíochta agus saineolas ar fáil don earnáil cúram leanaí, agus do theaghlaigh i dTiobraid Árann Thuaidh. Lena chois sin bhí ár gcomhordaitheoir agus ár n-oibríthe forbartha ag obair go dian le seirbhísí cúram leanaí, idir chinn nua agus chinn atá ann le tamall, ó cheann ceann an chontae ag próiseáil iarratais ar mhaoiniú agus ag ullmhú le haghaidh cur i bhfeidhm na Scéime Fóirdheontais Pobail um Chúram Leanaí (CCSS) faoin Clár Náisiúnta Infheistíochta sa Chúram Leanaí (NCIP).

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as ár Nuachtlitir agus gabhaimid buíochas leo siúd go léir a chuir na hailt iomadúla ar fáil don eagrán seo. Tá súil againn leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair libh go léir amach anseo.

Fionnuala Kenny

Cathaoirleach
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

Become a member of the North Tipperary County Childcare Committee

As part of the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP) our committee was established along with 32 other County and City Childcare Committees. Each committee has a significant ability to have a strategic focus for childcare services in meeting the needs of families and communities at a local level.

The North Tipperary County Childcare Committee consists of a wide range of both voluntary and statutory agencies and the success of the committee to date is seen as a result of the combined effort and commitment of a number of agencies and individuals. The committee as a whole is strongly dedicated to ensuring that the needs of children, families and communities are met with quality services in North Tipperary.

We are currently looking for a person to represent childcare providers from the private sector and also a person to represent Parents / Carers with children in the 4 -12 year age group. If you are interested in fulfilling either of these roles, contact Aileen on 067-44857

Thank you Louise, Lisa and Karen!

We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Louise Joyce, Lisa Harty and Karen Scahill who worked with the North Tipperary County Childcare Committee over the last year on a temporary basis. They were a pleasure to work with and we would like to wish them well for the future.



New Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs

In May 2008 Mr. Barry Andrews T.D. was appointed as Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs.

In 2002 Minister Andrews was elected to Dáil Éireann and appointed as the Convener of the All Party Education and Science Committee.

The North Tipperary County Childcare Committee would like to congratulate Minister Andrews on his appointment and welcome him to the childcare sector where we will look forward to working with him in the future.



Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

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Farewell Jean, Welcome Geraldine!

We would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond and heartfelt farewell to Jean Connors who recently retired from her vital role as the administrator of the North Tipperary County Childcare Committee. Jean proved herself to be dedicated, hardworking and professional during her years with NTCCC and was an absolute pleasure to work along side. The committee and staff members would like to wish Jean the very best for the future.

It is also opportune to welcome our new administrator, Geraldine Quinn. Geraldine joined our team in May 2008 having previously worked with the North Tipperary County Council.



Jean Connors



Helen Dunleavy-Ryan, Edel Condon, Geraldine Quinn, Aileen Healy (seated)

Bring out the best in your Child, and enjoy being a Parent!

By Patricia Woulfe Keady

The experience of parenting in today's world can be so demanding that sometimes we forget what a rewarding and exciting challenge it could be. Modern life is busy and complex, so that now, more than ever, parents need resources and supports made available to them within their own community.

The Parent Support Project operates under the umbrella of North Tipperary Community Services (N.T.C.S.) and is based in Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh. The aim of the Project is to provide support to parents of children from birth to the teenage years. This mainly takes the form of parenting courses for small groups of parents. Talks and themed workshops are organised from time to time. These are run in a variety of centres of population throughout North Tipperary.

The Parenting Programmes are led by trained facilitators and usually run for two hours, one night per week, for six weeks. The courses are limited to around twelve participants and are open to anyone parenting or co-parenting a child e.g. grandparents, or carers. The atmosphere is friendly and informal and the night ends with a well-earned cup of tea.

The Parenting Courses offered by N.T.C.S. aims to:

- Empower parents to make their own decisions about parenting, in an environment where participants' wisdom and experience are respected and shared.
- Offer parents new and practical skills which promote a more positive and respectful parent-child relationship.
- Encourage parents to use these skills to show their children how to think and form values.
- Give parents the opportunity to experience the support of other parents.

Feedback from parents tends to be very positive with parents reporting better communication, conflict management and overall a more peaceful family atmosphere.

North Tipperary Community Services are very happy to be involved in the production of the **Parents Support Book**. This little book contains information on agencies where parents can find support about parenting. It is available free of charge and is presently being widely distributed throughout the community in locations accessible to the public e.g. libraries, G.P. Surgeries etc.



The Parenting Project would like to extend thanks to Kathryn McGrath the former Parenting Project Co-ordinator, for the great dedication and energy shown to the Project, and to wish her every success in the future.

We would also like to welcome our new Co-ordinator, Fiona Naughnane. Thanks also to the team of Facilitators who give their time and enthusiasm so generously to the Parenting Project.

If you would like further information on Parenting Courses or any of the above, please contact:
Fiona Naughnane -
Parenting Co-ordinator
Patricia Woulfe Keady -
Parent Support Worker
067-41924 / 067-31800

Childminding Initiative News

By Lisa McGeeney, Childminding Advisory Officer, HSE West



We are planning an action packed season this coming autumn beginning with a repeat of the popular Quality Awareness Programme (QAP) for childminders. This will commence on 24th September and will run for 5 consecutive Wednesday nights. This programme covers a variety of topics of interest to childminders or those considering childminding. The QAP is free of charge, with a certificate of attendance presented on completion of the course.

We will also be resuming the childminder coffee mornings in Jump n Gyms, Nenagh on the second Wednesday of every month starting on the 10th September. All childminders and the children they care for are very welcome to come along between 10.30 -11.30 am. The Childminding Advisory Officer will be there to discuss any queries you have about childminding. She will also operate the childminders toy library at each coffee morning.

We are also delighted to be able to recommence our childminders coffee mornings in Thurles. These will be held in the Community Space, in The Source, Thurles on the fourth Tuesday of every month between 10.30-11.30am and will start on Tuesday 30th September. There will be a play focus to each morning, i.e. music and movement, working with play dough, painting, to name a few. A programme for the Thurles coffee mornings will be available in September.

We look forward to welcoming all existing and new childminders to any of our events this autumn and throughout the year. For information on childminding look out for our stands and information packs that will be on display in the libraries throughout North Tipperary in the coming months. Information on childminding and upcoming events is also available by contacting the Childminding Advisory Officer for North Tipperary at: Annbrook, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. **T: 067-38300**

Contact details for Childminding Ireland: 9, Bulford Business Campus, Killoole, Wicklow. **T: 01-2878466 F: 01-2878465 E: info@childminding.ie W: www.childminding.ie**



Childminders Story

By Charlene Duane



My name is Charlene Duane and I run a Childminding and Pre-School Service called Little Feet.

My service is situated 2 miles outside Lorrha in an area called Bredagh. I offer a full time childminding service along with a part time and sessional pre-school service. I operate these services from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 6.00pm.

From a young age I was a babysitter for neighbour's children. I enjoyed minding and working with children so much that I decided to make a career out of it. Once I had completed a CACHE Diploma in Childcare and Education, I started my childminding service from my home back in 2006.

I fully understand the necessity for flexibility and therefore work with the times needed by the parents. In 2007 I increased my service to incorporate part time hours and in 2008 I commenced with a sessional pre-school service.

In the past I have been successful in applying for 2 Childminding Development Grants under the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP). The first grant was for the amount €630 and the second grant was for €1,000. These grants have been very beneficial to me as they have allowed me to make necessary changes to my premises and to purchase equipment in order to be fully compliant with the HSE Pre-school Regulations and to also ensure a quality service.

A happy and safe environment is important to both the children and to me. I have developed a safe and secure outdoor play area with a wide variety of equipment allowing each individual child to partake in activities to suit their age and level of development.

I have been in regular contact with Lisa McGeeney the HSE Childminding Advisory Officer as well as Helen Dunleavy-Ryan a Development Worker with North Tipperary County Childcare Committee. Both agencies can provide invaluable help and advice to all childminders and providers on issues such as regulations, funding, quality and operational matters.



Childcare in Newport

In this edition of North Tipperary County Childcare Committee's Newsletter we are delighted to be able to introduce the new and existing childcare services in Newport. If you would like any further details you can contact each service directly or simply call us where we will help you as much as possible.

Newport Community Pre-School By Nuala Ryan and Ann Lee

Newport Community Playschool was founded in the late 1970s by Mrs. Jessica Robinson. Its first home was in the Old Barracks, now O' Sullivan's Lounge. Soon after, Mrs. Maura Guilfoyle came on board and the Playschool moved to the Old Parochial House in Clonbealy and was joined by Mrs. Nuala Ryan. In the early 1980s the Playschool moved to the Community Centre and was joined by Mrs. Sadie O' Rourke. In the 1990s Mrs. Ann Lee joined the Playschool.

After the introduction of the 1996 Pre-School Regulations, the playschool approached the Convent Primary School and were delighted to get the use of a lovely, spacious classroom. The playschool currently operates from the school and was joined in 2007 by Mrs. Olive O' Gorman.

Since 1995 the playschool has been run by a committee of parents which changes annually. The committee deals with all organisational aspects of the playschool and also provides opportunities for the

children to go on outings. Recent trips include 'My Gym', Buttercup Farm and a Christmas Play at L.I.T. The Committee strives to continue with its primary purpose of providing young children in the area with an equal start in their education by providing Playschool at a price which is inclusive to all. Parents decide for themselves how many mornings they wish their children to attend, subject to availability. The Playschool complies with H.S.E. regulations.

Today Newport Community Playschool caters for up to forty children from Newport and the surrounding parishes, with a maximum of twenty children per day. The playschool offers a well-structured, play-centred routine suitable for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Activities include art and craft, story and rhyme, tactile play, jigsaw and puzzles and outdoor play.

For further details you can contact Nuala or Ann on 061-373000.



Caterpillars

By Grainne Harte

Our mission is to create a safe, fun friendly place for children to interact, learn and play with other children. Our overriding aim is to ensure each child feels relaxed, welcome, valued and respected.

Operating since January 2007, Caterpillars is based at Coole, just one mile from the town of Newport and in the beautiful open countryside. The service is situated on a very secure 1 acre site with a large indoor area measuring approx 1,400 sq. feet and is also equipped with CCTV cameras for added security. Parents have described the service offered as 'home away from home' and 'growing up in the country'.

Caterpillars Childcare has blended into the countryside and from the outside it's hard to believe the mecca that waits inside for the children. Each of the rooms has different functions, e.g. Montessori / Playschool, After School, Sleep Room etc. and each room is designed 'through the eyes of the child' in relation to colour, toys, layout and fun. The outdoor playgrounds offer a vast range of equipment, such as full size trampoline, slides, swings, climbing frame and play houses. We also offer an obstacle course and bouncy castle, leading us to believe that we are one of the very few childcare facilities in the country offering such a range of outdoor equipment promoting healthier activity and exercise amongst children.

The autumn, Easter and summer camps on offer at Caterpillars deliver an exceptional experience giving the children the opportunity to go swimming, pony riding, camping and to the cinema. All meals and activities are included in the price. The wheels are already in motion for the October mid term break camp which is promising to be bigger and better than ever. Unfortunately there are limited spaces so early booking is advisable.

What is truly different about Caterpillars is the team of people that work in the service everyday. Our team truly live the mission statement that puts children at the 'heart' of everything we do. The children are the soul of the operation and are always the number one priority. It is we who are lucky to have the opportunity to work and play with children who remind us every day of the values of love, truth and honesty.

Caterpillars Childcare is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.00pm, with the After School care operating from 2.00pm to 5.30pm.

For further details contact Grainne on 061-378270 or log onto www.caterpillarschildcare.com



Chuckles Montessori & After School Club

By Gill McGonigle and Trish McElligott

Chuckles Montessori and After School Club is an owner managed childcare centre where the welfare, care and the development of the child takes precedent over everything else we do. Our commitment is to provide a warm, friendly, happy environment, which is a 'home away from home' for every child who attends. Chuckles is a happy and relaxed atmosphere, with an open door policy operating at all times.

Chuckles Montessori and After School Club opened its doors for business in 2004 and has gone from strength to strength. The staff team is led by ourselves Gill and Trish and we have over 10 year's experience in working with children. Along with our team of wonderful staff Ursula and Eileen, we have developed an extremely close bond with all the children who have attended the service. We have also made some very good friends with the parents.

Chuckles offer a maximum of 40 places and are open Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 6.15pm for 50 weeks of the year.

At Chuckles we are flexible and have places for full and part time care. We also cater for National School In Service days and other school holidays.

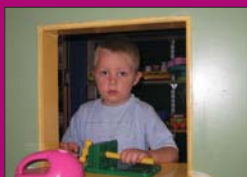
We recognise that every child has individual needs and therefore cater for each child's holistic development in a wide variety of ways. Chuckles offer services for Playschool, Montessori and After School age groups with weekly summer camps also available during the month of July.

Many extra curricular activities are available at Chuckles including Art and Craft classes with local Art Teacher Kerry Acheson, baking, computer work, jewellery making, exercise classes, hurling, fishing and much, much more.

Our After School Club provides ample opportunities for many varied activities for children aged 4 to 12 years. Delivery to and collection from Newport, Birdhill and Ballinahinch schools is available. Homework supervision is also provided.

Our service is HACCP compliant and we promote healthy eating habits by providing a varied menu of hot meals.

For further information on our service please contact Gill or Trish on 086-2584653 and 087-2788652 or log onto our website: www.chuckles.ie





Little Tots Academy is a purpose built, state of the art crèche catering for Babies, Wobblers, Toddlers, Playschool, Montessori and After School.

At Little Tots Academy we are dedicated to high quality childcare. We have created a happy, safe, stimulating environment for each group. Each age group has their own room specific to their age and stage of development.

The four children in our logo represent the diversity and equality we pride ourselves on.

Little Tots Academy is owned and managed by sisters Deirdre Moloney and Karen Deegan. We both live locally and are parents ourselves, therefore fully understanding the trials and tribulations of raising children today.

We have a wonderful team of qualified and experienced staff working with us to ensure each child receives the very best care.

Elaine Markham is our Leader in the Baby / Wobbler Room. Elaine has a diploma in Childcare and Education and has been working with children for the past 5 years which has given her a great understanding and knowledge of all age groups.

Karen Carey is our Montessori teacher and runs our After School Club. Karen has a CACHE and FETAC diploma in Childcare and Education and a St. Nicholas Montessori degree. Karen believes in reaching every child's potential and adapts her teachings to suit the children in her care while preparing them for primary level education.

Little Tots Academy provides all meals and snacks which are prepared in our restaurant style kitchen by a qualified chef.

Our service adheres to HSE regulations to ensure best practice in our facility.

We welcome visitors and Parents to our Crèche and will accommodate weekend or evening viewings. To arrange an appointment contact Karen and Deirdre on 061-373690 or Deirdre on 087-6523399. Our service can also be viewed by logging onto www.littletots.ie



Little Tots Academy

By Deirdre Moloney and Karen Deegan



Newport Kids Club

By Denise Connors and Caroline Roche

Caroline Roche and Denise Connors bring a wealth of knowledge of experience in the childcare industry to Newport. We are both qualified Montessori and Naionra teachers and have a combined range of childcare qualifications and experience of managing / running crèches. As working mothers we understand the demands and needs of working parents and the need for high quality, reliable childcare.

Newport Kids Club is situated in Clonbealy and opens from 7.15am - 6.45pm and on Saturday from 10-2pm and will provide a very high standard of childcare.

We have a purpose designed facility providing childcare in a friendly environment, with that all-important homely atmosphere where our primary concern at all times is the welfare of the child.

We provide the very best care and attention incorporating the following services: Babies, Toddlers, Pre-school, Naionra, After-school, Speech and Drama.

At Newport Kids Club Crèche and Naionra we have specific goals, we:

- Provide a caring, safe and stimulating environment for each child
- Help develop each child's interests and curiosity
- Provide for each child's physical, social, educational, cultural and emotional needs
- Help each child develop interactive skills
- Provide the environment for the children to acquire Irish through art and craft activities, songs, storytelling and free-play
- Provide a balanced diet for each child
- Observe, assess and record the progress of each child
- Encourage parental involvement and we always welcome two-way communication

New DVD release "The Face of Men in Irish Childcare"

The Men in Childcare (MIC) Network (Ireland) launched its new DVD, The Face of Men in Irish Childcare, in Cork recently as part of its effort to increase the representation of men in this very rewarding sector. The DVD hears from the men, their colleagues and parents on the positive impacts that men can make.

Chairman of the MIC Network, Mick Kenny, said one of the factors

responsible for the low number of men involved in the early years profession was the relative invisibility of the men doing this work. Mick explains: "The DVD is part of our effort to increase the visibility of men working in the early childhood care and education sector and to highlight the positive element that men can bring."

The DVD showcases the work of six men in different childcare settings and aims to raise awareness of the role that men can play in this sector. Two men are featured from Waterford, Rory Devine from St Josephs in Waterford City and Ciarán Ó Maolagáin at Naionra Gharbháin in Dungarvan. It was launched by Prof Frances Douglas, UCC, Ireland's first professor of Early Childhood Studies.

Mick, who is co-ordinator of the Urlingford Community Childcare Network, points out that many children in childcare have no contact with men between 8am and 5pm every day. He and his fellow network members believe children benefit from a gender-balanced care setting and that the inclusion of trained male childcare workers could undo a tremendous amount of negative stereotyping about men and their abilities to care for children. He had been working in childcare for 16 years, but didn't meet another man working in the sector until he attended a 'Men in Childcare' conference in Kilkenny in 2002 out of which the MIC Network was established.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this DVD at €10 including postage and packaging, please contact us on 067-44888.



Rory, Mick, Souleymane, Tim & Andrew

Training Update

We have now concluded the Spring / Summer training calendar. Those working in childcare and / or have an interest in childcare participated in several workshops during this period: Arts and Crafts, Manual Handling, Curriculum Development, Buntús Start Programme [North Tipperary Sports Partnership], Outdoor Play [IPPA]. We also had an information session on the Barnardos Garda Vetting Service.

We are also involved with a Marte Meo Programme provided by IPPA. Marte Meo is a communications programme aimed at improving adult: child interactions. The course consists of four full training days, addressing areas of practice in childcare, such as one to one situation, group situations and free play situations and particularly addressing supports for children with learning and behaviour problems. The workshops draw on videos that demonstrate the impact of

quality interactions in children's development and by analysing video clips from participants own services, helps them to identify their own effective strategies. This programme has started and will be completed in the autumn. Participating pre-school services will gain practical skills to improve communication with young children through reviewing pieces of actual video footage of their services.

Watch out for our new calendar which will be hot off the presses at the end of August!

We are hoping to provide a 2 day Paediatric First Aid Course in Thurles. We are also aiming to provide a 'Developing Inclusive Practice' workshop in Nenagh. This workshop will provide guidance on how to implement and promote measures to provide an environment that values

diversity and treats individuals with respect and dignity. If you are thinking of doing any of the FETAC childcare modules contact your local VEC or relevant adult training agency. We are also able to offer a Childcare Training Supplement towards the costs – however some criteria apply.

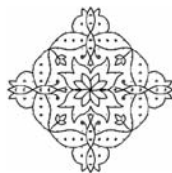
We are very excited that Fetac Level 6 Modules in Childcare are being provided on a part-time basis commencing in September in St Sheelán's College, Templemore.

As always, if you have any specific training needs or ideas please contact Edel at 067-44887 who will endeavour to meet your needs.

Diwali (Dee-var-lee) – the Hindu Festival of Lights



Diwas or Diyas (Dee-va's)



This is a Rangoli pattern

Diwali is probably the most well-known and celebrated of all the Indian festivals. It lasts for 5 days and starts on the fifteenth day of the Hindu month of Kartika. The word Diwali means "rows of lighted lamps" and this is why this festival is sometimes called the Festival of Lights.

It is common practice for Hindu people to light small oil lamps called Diwas or Diyas (Dee-va's) and place them around their home and gardens.

At this time it is important for Hindus to thoroughly clean their homes, open their windows and light diyas as a greeting to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Gifts are also exchanged and special festive meals are prepared.

This celebration is as important to Hindus as Christmas is to Christians. There are many different regions in India and this means there are many different versions of the Diwali festival. In northern India and elsewhere, Diwali celebrates the return of Rama from fourteen years in exile after he defeated Ravana. In Gujarat the festival honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. In Nepal, Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over King Narakaasura and in Bengal it is associated with the goddess Kali.

However, everywhere that Diwali is celebrated it signifies the renewal of life and that is why it is common to wear new clothes during the festival.

Diwali is also a Sikh festival which celebrates the release of the sixth guru, Hargobind. It is also celebrated by Jains and marks the attainment of Moksha or eternal bliss by the founder of Jainism, Lord Mahavira.

Hindus draw colourful patterns near the entrance to their homes called Rangoli, in order to encourage the goddess Lakshmi to enter.

Children from around the world celebrate different festivals according to their own religion. Here is a festival which some children and their families will celebrate in the month of October.

Music in the Halls

A love of music and song is something we can bestow on each and every child we know and by doing so can often lead to music becoming an important part in our children's lives. Some scientists believe that a baby can hear music and respond with movement whilst still in the womb. Music and song can influence us and make us feel and act in different ways. It can be enjoyed together and form bonds between children and their care givers, be it their parents or childcare workers. Try humming or whistling a child's favourite song or nursery rhyme and observe their response!

It is important to remember that in the same way that we all do not enjoy the same types of food; likewise not everybody has the same taste in music. However, what better way to introduce different genres of music than in a childcare setting or in the child's own home. So if you usually listen to popular music then try listening to classical music or some other genre like jazz, traditional, world or opera to name a few. Choose a genre of music for each day, clearly displaying a small notice in your setting that provides information on the chosen music and artist for that day. Play the chosen music in a communal area like a reception area or in the hallways.

This music will give a relaxed atmosphere and provide a talking point between the child and their parent(s) on entering the setting. A suggestion could be to tie this music in with topics and themes that are currently being focused on in the setting for example, during the celebration of Chanukah you may choose to play a recording of a Jewish Wedding Band or if the children are learning about Chinese New Year a relevant recording may be played. Other music or musical activities can be focused upon in the individual play rooms. However, a word of warning – be aware that some content of today's more popular music may not be child friendly or age appropriate, so pre-view your musical choices before playing them in your setting.

It is also very important to let children hear you sing. Being enthusiastic about singing will encourage the child to find their voice and sing a favourite of their own whatever their stage of development. Even if you consider yourself tone deaf, your singing will be pleasing to the child. A car trip is a great way to introduce singing together; likewise it is another pleasant way to introduce listening to different types of music.

Even if we do not realise it we all have musical instruments readily available to us. These can range from pots and pans and wooden spoons to the more harmonious rainmakers, triangles and tambourines. By letting the child freely express themselves through these mediums it will encourage the child's self confidence, listening skills and rhythm even if the product is slightly less than pleasing to the adult ear.

Encouraging music and song will also enhance the child's recognition and understanding of rhythm and beat. The child will begin to identify other non-musical beats in their everyday life. The beat of their footsteps as they walk, the beat of the clock that sits on Granny's mantelpiece and the beat of one another's hearts as they are encouraged to press their ear against their friends chest and listen.

We all have different skills and talents, so it is fair to say that not all children will be wonderful singers or have the same interest in music. But whatever level a child is at, music and song will be enjoyed by them if they are encouraged to participate with confidence and praise lavished on them for their efforts.

If you would like more information on this topic or help and advice on gathering a diverse music library for your childcare setting, contact Helen on 067-44886 who will be glad to help.



AIB Better Ireland Award

Templemore Community Pre-School Service is delighted to have won the AIB – Better Ireland Award. This was achieved by receiving the highest number of text votes in the local community and a lot of hard work by the Pre-School Staff, Parents, Committee Members and the public at large. Our sincere thanks is extended to all who generously supported us and to A.I.B. Templemore.

The pre-school service began in 1980 at the Convent of Mercy and we are delighted to be operating from the newly built premises at Bank Street. The pre-school offers 2 sessions daily with 20 places available per session and is operational for 48 weeks per year.

Our aim is to continue to provide a community based quality service which meets the needs of families in Templemore and surrounding areas. For further information you can contact Amanda Clavin on 0504 56854.