



north tipperary county  
**childcare**  
committee

Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh



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

# newsletter nuachtlitir

Issue 8 Eagrán 8 - 2010



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# Welcome to the 8th edition of North Tipperary County Childcare Committee Newsletter

2010 is proving to be a good if demanding year for childcare providers. The introduction of the Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme in January has been a positive experience for the majority of childcare providers, parents and children in North Tipperary. I have to acknowledge the increased administrative workload for everybody and wish to thank you all for your patience and co-operation in responding to the various pieces of correspondence from this office. However it is hoped that as we all become more familiar with the scheme it will all become more streamlined and efficient. Childcare providers welcome the regular payments from the OMCYA which is something to

be celebrated in recessionary times. Also to be celebrated is the fact that society will benefit from this government's recognition of quality early childhood education. It is important to keep children at the centre of this scheme and remember that at the core of our work is our effort to give children solid foundations on which to build their lives.

We are delighted to announce news of our forthcoming Parents Seminar on Saturday 13th November at the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh. The guest speaker will be Sue Palmer author of the book "Toxic Childhood" which deals with how the modern world is damaging our children and what we can do about it.

The seminar will be of interest to Parents, Teachers, Childcare Providers, Montessori Teachers and anyone who works with young children. We are fortunate to be able to offer this seminar for €5 per person and places will be allocated on a first come basis. This promises to be an exciting seminar and I would encourage as many as possible to attend. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

The current programme NCIP 2007/2010 will be complete at the end of December 2010. A proposal for the follow on programme has been submitted to government and a positive outcome is expected.

Kind Regards

*Aileen Healy Co-ordinator*

Contact us / Déan teagmháil linn

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## Parent and Toddler Groups



**North Tipperary County Childcare Committee are delighted to announce that the following Parent and Toddler Groups were awarded grant funding through the Parent & Toddler Group Grant Initiative:**

North Tipperary Community Services – Cloughjordan Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Ballina Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Borrisokane Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Borrisoleigh Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Kilcommon Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Lorrha Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Nenagh Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Newport Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Portroe Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Rathcabbin Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Silvermines Group  
North Tipperary Community Services – Toomevara Group

Carrig / Riverstown Group  
Thurles Group, The Source  
Rainbow Stay and Play Group  
Lismackin Group  
Families of the Future Group  
Holycross / Ballycahill  
Nenagh Group  
Templetuohy Group

We will be inviting new applications for the Parent & Toddler Group Grant Initiative in January 2011.  
For further information contact Helen on 067-44886.

# CETS – Childcare Employment and Training Support Scheme

From the 1st of September 2010 the new Childcare Employment and Training Support Scheme (CETS) came into effect. CETS combines the existing childcare support payments for qualifying FÁS and VEC trainees into one capitation system for providing free childcare places. Nationally the scheme has provision for approximately 3,000 full time equivalent places, with a number of private and community childcare providers participating in the scheme in North Tipperary. Trainees will be advised of the availability of childcare places in their area by their local FÁS or VEC centre.

For further information please visit the OMCYA website – [www.omcya.ie](http://www.omcya.ie) or alternatively contact Helen on 067-44886 or Edel on 067-44887 or Geraldine on 067-44888.

## Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Update

For those parents / carers who may not have heard the ECCE is a scheme designed to give children aged between 3 years 3 months and 4 years 6 months in September of each year access to a free Pre-School Year of appropriate programme-based activities in the year before they start primary school. Participation in a pre-school programme provides children with their first formal experience of early learning, the starting-point of their educational and social development outside the home. Children who avail of pre-school are more likely to be ready for school and a formal learning and social environment.

It is important for Parents / Carers and childcare providers to note that participating childcare services must provide an appropriate educational programme for children in their pre-school year, which adheres to Síolta, the national framework for early years childhood education. Pre-School leaders must hold a certification for a major award in childcare / early education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland (NFQ) or an equivalent nationally recognised qualification or higher award in the childcare / early education field. Participating services must operate the relevant pre-school provision free to parents in return for the applicable capitation grant. However, service providers may charge Parents / Carers for optional additions such as hours which are additional to the free pre-school year requirement and services which are not regarded as a normal part of a pre-school service. Importantly service providers must ensure that Parents / Carers are fully informed that their agreement to additional hours or to any optional charge is not compulsory and that agreement is not a condition of initial or continued enrolment and appropriate programme based activities are provided to children not participating in an optional activity where this takes place during the required period of pre-school provision.

For further information on the ECCE Scheme please visit the OMCYA website – [www.omcya.ie](http://www.omcya.ie) or alternatively contact Helen on 067-44886 or Edel on 067-44887 or Geraldine on 067-44888

## Community Childcare Subvention (CCS)

It was announced in the 2010 Budget that from the 1st September 2010 the original Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) would be replaced with the new and revised Community Childcare Subvention (CCS). This scheme is aimed at supporting Parents / Carers in receipt of Social Welfare and / or Medical Cards to reduce their childcare fees.

In order to apply for CCS your child must be attending a Community Childcare Service and the level of subvention you are eligible to receive is dependent on the number of hours per day and days per week that your child attends the service. The Childcare Provider will deduct the subvention from the full price of your childcare leaving you to pay the balance.

If you would like any further information on the CCS scheme contact Helen on 067-44886 or Edel on 067-44887 or Geraldine on 067-44888.



# Childminding News

By Nóilín Ryan

For further information please contact Nóilín on 085-7173186 or email: [ntchildminding@gmail.com](mailto:ntchildminding@gmail.com)



Hi Childminders,

We are well over half way through the year and I hope that you all enjoyed your summer break.

At this stage we should be having a little look- back on the previous Childminding year and asking a few questions that will help make your work for the next few months easier and more enjoyable for you and the children.

- Did I read to the children that I mind?
- Did the children get enough fresh air?
- Did the children watch too much television?
- Did they get plenty of exercise while in your care?

And the list goes on but if you start with those four questions, answer them honestly and address them you will be adding so much to the children's' lifestyle and wellbeing (and yours!). We all know the importance of fresh air and exercise in our own lives and it holds the same importance in the life of the child. It is at this early stage that the love for the great outdoors and sports participation is awoken in the child. It is up to you to help sow the seeds.

I met with a lot of you during the last few months at various childminding events. The Behavioural Management talk by Cormac Russell in Roscrea was extremely informative as also was the evening with Melissa Hogan and Roseleen Durken on Kinesiology. We had great fun in Thurles and Nenagh during the Physical Activity workshop for Childminders and all who attended this brought home a bag containing €60 worth of equipment - not bad for a night's fun! Our Beauty night with Kay was a real success and we all now know how to apply our eye make up! The coffee morning in Jump-n-Gyms is a great venue to meet up with other Childminders and have a chat. What about the Teddy Bears picnic that was held in Templemore - what a day we had with Bouncy Castles, Jesters and games of all kinds. If you missed it this year don't miss it next time!

The coming months will have just as many events for you to attend. Jump-n-Gyms will stay going on the second Wednesday of the month 10.30am to 12.30pm.

A Quality Awareness Programme (QAP) for Childminders and potential childminders will be held in September and October in Nenagh.

These events are organised for your benefit so please try to attend as your Childminding business will benefit greatly.

And finally a reminder! Please remember that the NCIP Childminding Grant is still available to all Childminders that are Voluntary Notified to North Tipperary County Childcare Committee. The Maximum grant amount is €1,000. If you need further information on the Grant or any other Childminding issue, please contact me.

It would be great if the ideas for further events came from you so please let me have those ideas.

Thanks again for your support and I hope to see you all soon.

## Network & information evenings for Childminders - Autumn 2010

### Nenagh /Ballina /Newport Areas:

Arts and Crafts evening  
Nenagh – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Manual Handling Certified course  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Thurles /Roscrea /Templemore Area:

Physical Activity Workshop for Childminders  
Pack available on completion  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Manual Handling Certified Course  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### All Areas:

Network meeting for childminders will continue in Jump-n-Gyms in Nenagh on the second Wednesday of every month, 10.30am – 12.30pm.  
Dates as follows:  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September | Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October | Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November | Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

# Training



## Refresher Paediatric First Aid

Refresher Paediatric First Aid is a one day course which is for those who already hold a current Paediatric First Aid Certificate. It will keep the current certificate in date and will reiterate the participant's ability and confidence in Paediatric First Aid. All participants must have a valid Paediatric First Aid Certificate. This certificate will last for two years.

Please note that if you hold a Paediatric First Aid Certificate or a Basic First Aid Certificate they must **not** be more than one month out of date at the time of completing a Refresher course. Holders of an Occupational First Aid Certificate have three months from expiry to renew their Certificate.

Date: Saturday 9th October 2010

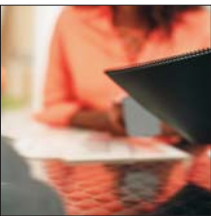
Location: Thurles



## Accredited Training

The following training centres offer FETAC Level 5 & 6 Childcare Major Award on either a full and / or part time basis:

- St. Sheelan's College, Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore. 0504-31007
- Teach an Leinn, Kenyon Street, Nenagh. 067-33437
- Colaiste Mhuire Co Ed, Castlemeadows, Thurles. 0504-21734



## Childcare Training Supplement Support

Due to current demands we fully recognise the difficulties that childcare providers are experiencing in trying to up skill and achieve higher childcare qualifications. North Tipperary County Childcare Committee successfully applied to FÁS under their Social Inclusion Scheme for funding to support childcare practitioners by providing financial assistance towards the cost of accredited training.

The Childcare Training Supplement is available for those working in a notified childcare service, interested in attending accredited childcare training (FETAC / HETAC) on a part time basis in order to achieve a higher childcare qualification (minimum level 5). The participant must not qualify for subsidy / funding under any other programme e.g. BTEI, VTOS etc. The level of supplement is dependent on current budget and demand and is available to applicants who meet the above criteria.

For further information contact Edel on 067-44887



## A Quality Awareness Programme for childminders

Venue: The Pastoral Centre, Church Road, Nenagh

Dates: Over 5 evenings in Sept/Oct, Tuesdays 21st, 28th September, 5th, 12th, 19th October

Time: 7.30 -9.30pm

Cost: NO COURSE FEE. Tea/Coffee provided.

Modules covered are: Health and Safety, Child Development and Play, The Business side of Childminding, Child Protection and Arts & Crafts.



Start Strong was founded in 2004 as the Irish Childcare Policy Network (ICPN). It was a like minded union of organisations and individuals interested in progressing childcare and early learning policies in Ireland. However in 2009, ICPN incorporated as a company and evolved into Start Strong.

Start Strong is committed to advancing high quality care and education as a right for all young children in Ireland. Its advocacy is built on clear evidence of the benefits this brings for children, for the economy and for society. Start Strong works to promote informed policy development and increased investment in young children, supporting their advocacy with new research and the analysis of good practice. Start Strong are currently working to encourage the development of a 10 year national plan to bring early care and education in Ireland up to the highest international standards by 2020.

For further information and updates on Start Strong log onto [www.startstrong.ie](http://www.startstrong.ie)

What is Síolta? Síolta is the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education. It is aimed at all childcare services working with children from birth to 6 years of age. Síolta challenges everyone working in the childcare sector to think about the quality of the experiences we provide for young children. It is designed specifically within an Irish context and for use within early years childcare services regardless of curriculum or approach e.g. Play Based, Montessori, Childminding etc.

Síolta is presented in four different variations of manual to encompass all the different types of childcare service provision within the Irish sector. These are 'sessional', 'full and part time daycare', 'childminding' and 'infant classes'. Each of these user manuals contains the 12 Principles and 16 Standards of Síolta, Components of Quality and Signposts for Reflection.

### The 12 Principles of Quality

The 12 Principles of Quality represent the vision which underpins and provides the context for quality practice in childcare in Ireland.

#### The 12 Principles are:

1. The Value of Early Childhood
2. Children First
3. Parents
4. Relationships
5. Equality
6. Diversity
7. Environments
8. Welfare
9. Role of the Adult
10. Teamwork
11. Pedagogy
12. Play

### The Standards and Components of Quality

The Standards and Components of Quality define quality practice within the Framework. The standards and Components are closely related. Each Standard has a number of associated Components that break down the Standards into 'bite sized' items.

### Signposts for Reflection and Think Aouts

Each Component has a number of Signposts for Reflection which are comprised of questions followed by bullet points called 'Think Aouts'. They can be used to help you consider and reflect on your work.

### The 16 Standards are:

1. Rights of the Child
2. Environments
3. Parents and Families
4. Consultation
5. Interactions
6. Play
7. Curriculum
8. Planning and Evaluation
9. Health and Welfare
10. Organisation
11. Professional Practice
12. Communication
13. Transitions
14. Identity and Belonging
15. Legislation and Regulation
16. Community Involvement



Jean Currid  
Síolta Co-ordinator

### Welcome to our new Síolta Co-ordinator

Back in February a new Síolta Co-ordinator was employed by Barnardos to cover North Tipperary along with Limerick City and County and County Clare. Jean Currid has previously worked in the family support field and has been with Barnardos for the past 6 years.

### Síolta Workshops

Back on 16th June 2010, North Tipperary County Childcare Committee hosted a Síolta Level 1 Awareness workshop which was led by our Síolta Co-ordinator, Jean. Many childcare services from North Tipperary were represented at this workshop. We will be organising more Síolta workshops in the coming months. Watch this space!

# síolta



# Aistear

Creatchuraclam na Luath-Óige  
The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

Aistear is the curriculum framework for children from birth to six years in Ireland. It provides information for adults to help them plan for and provide enjoyable and challenging learning experiences, so that all children can grow and develop as competent and confident learners.

Aistear is based on 12 principles of early learning and development. These are presented in three groups:

Aistear presents children's learning and development using 4 themes. The themes describe what children learn – the dispositions, attitudes and values, skills, knowledge and understanding.

These are:

- Well-being
- Identity and Belonging
- Communicating
- Exploring and Thinking

For further information on Aistear contact Helen on 067-44886 or Edel on 067-44887.

1. The first group concerns children and their lives in early childhood

- The child's uniqueness
- Equality and diversity
- Children as citizens

2. The second group concerns children's connections with others:

- Relationships
- Parents, family and community
- The adult's role

3. The third group concerns how children learn and develop:

- Holistic learning and development
- Active learning
- Play and hands-on experience
- Relevant and meaningful experiences
- Communication and language
- The learning environment

## Provider Network Nights

Back in June two network nights were held for the Childcare Providers of North Tipperary. The first event was held in Park Avenue, Thurles. A presentation on Aistear was given by one of our Development Workers – Edel Condon, supported by our Co-ordinator – Aileen Healy. The second event was held in the Rugby Club, Nenagh and was led by our other Development Worker – Helen Dunleavy-Ryan who also gave an Aistear presentation, supported by our Administrator – Geraldine Quinn. Both events were followed by tasty bar-b-que's giving the providers an opportunity to mingle with one another, chat and discuss common childcare issues.



Providers attending the Aistear presentation in the Nenagh Rugby Club.

Providers bar-b-queing!!!!

Some of our Roscrea providers enjoying the network event.



Childcare Providers enjoying the Bar-b-que in Park Avenue, Thurles.

Providers Mary Lawlor and Imelda Corcoran.

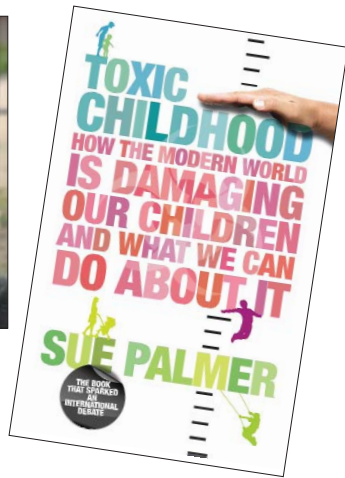


# Happy 10th Anniversary Community Mothers Programme

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate North Tipperary Community Services – Community Mothers Programme who are celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year. The Community Mothers Programme is a home visiting service for parents with new babies/young children living in North Tipperary. A community mother is an experienced mother who is trained to visit parents in their homes and share information on many issues, including a child's development and how to enjoy and participate more fully in a child's life. For further information with regard to the Community Mothers Programme contact Marian Quigley on 067-41922.



## 'Toxic Childhood' Parents Seminar



We are delighted to announce our Parents Seminar taking place on Saturday 13th November 2010 in the Abbey Court Hotel. The theme for the seminar focuses on the book that sparked international debate - 'Toxic Childhood – How the modern world is damaging our children and what we can do about it'. The key note speaker on the day will be the books author Sue Palmer, a former head teacher in Scotland, who has written more than 250 books, educational TV programmes and software packages on aspects of literacy.

'Toxic Childhood' her first book for wider audience was followed by 'Detoxing Childhood' and '21st Century Boys'. At the seminar Sue will talk about the toxic cocktail of factors affecting children's lives today and will provide advice on detoxifying childhood. Other discussion topics will include emotional and social needs of children, the importance of play, the effects of over commercialisation of young children, the 'schoolification' of early childhood and the importance of developing good listening and language skills.

We would invite all Parents / Carers, Grandparents and wider family members, all who work in the childcare, education and health sectors, and any other interested parties to attend this exciting and innovative seminar. To secure a place, simply fill out the attached booking form and return to this office along with the nominal fee of €5.00.



### Parents Seminar – 'Toxic Childhood' Booking Form (BLOCK CAPITALS)

To book for this seminar, please complete this form and return with a booking of €5.

This booking form must be returned on or before the 5th November 2010.

Name:

Contact No.:

Address:

Please return this form along with the booking fee to:

Cash Desk, North Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements

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#### 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.