

Sensory Play

Sensory Play

"We know that young children are oriented toward sensory experiences. From birth, children have learned about the world by touching, tasting, smelling, seeing, and hearing. Sensory play also contributes in crucial ways to brain development."

Highscope, Extensions Newsletter.

Children need opportunities to explore through sensory play. In addition to the traditional sand and water play, adults can promote sensory play while also using children's interests to enhance the learning experience.

Sensory Bins and Small World Play

The website 'Play Create Explore' has many examples of Sensory Bins, some of which are included below. To create a sensory bin you will need a tray, bowl, children's paddling pool, pan, or even a mat on the floor.

A variety of items are added to the bin to create a sensory experience (Cloud Dough, Popcorn, Salt, Sand, Cooking or Baking Ingredients) or to create a small world habitat (a construction site, garden, pond area).

Cloud Dough Recipe

8 cups of flour and 1 cup baby oil. You may need to add a little extra oil to get the consistency just right.

The adult should ensure, that the materials used, are age appropriate.

Source: www.playcreateexplore.org



Contact Details for Limerick Childcare Committee

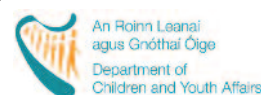
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Join Us on Facebook and Twitter!

Limerick Childcare Committee (LCC)
is now on Facebook and Twitter. The links can be found on our website
www.clcc.ie
'Like' or 'Follow' LCC to keep up to date on the work of LCC, including training
and information sessions.



Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Limerick Childcare Committee
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Registration System for Early Years Services

The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Section 92, requires the new Child and Family Agency (Tusla) to establish a Registration System for Early Years Services. This Registration System will replace the current Notification System.

New Early Years Services

will have to register with Tusla and undergo an inspection before they will be able to open the service.

Existing Early Years Services

(those who were in operation before the 1st January 2014)

will be deemed registered on an interim basis. These services will have to apply to re-register. Tusla will advise these services when they will need to re-register.

The Registration Process is in two phases:

1. The Agency will assess the proposed service against the relevant standards and regulations to ensure that it will be fit for purpose. This phase will include a paper application and a site visit. If it is deemed fit for purpose, the service will be able to commence operations.
2. The Agency will inspect the service against the National Standards for Early Years Services once it is operational, in order to determine its ongoing registration status.

Further information on Registration can be found at
www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/registration-system-new

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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014



Limerick
Childcare Committee

Limerick Childcare Committee

In January 2014, Limerick City and County Childcare Committees merged to form Limerick Childcare Committee, in line with the establishment of Limerick City and County Council.

Limerick Childcare Committee is currently based in Croom Mills, Croom with plans to move to Raheen/Dooradoyle, pending the availability of a suitable premises.



Limerick Childcare Committee is staffed by:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Anne Delaney | Manager | anne@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Elaine Scanlan | Administrator | elaine@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Niamh Lenihan O'Brien | Assistant Administrator | niamh@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Marie McElhinney | Information Officer | marie@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Marie Therese Marry | Childcare Development Officer - Limerick City | marietherese@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Rosemary Moore | Childcare Development Officer - East Limerick | rosie@limerickchildcare.ie |
| Catriona Sheehy | Childcare Development Officer - West Limerick | catriona@limerickchildcare.ie |

Chairperson, Joan Condon acknowledged the “work of both the committee and staff, in ensuring that the merger did not impact on the day to day operations of the Childcare Committee, and that it was completed in line with the timeframes set out by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.” She also recognised “both the patience and the goodwill of Childcare Services in supporting the establishment of Limerick Childcare Committee.”

Joan also acknowledged the contribution of Dara O'Brien, Co-ordinator of Limerick City Childcare Committee, and wished her well in her new post with Limerick City and County Council.

Supporting Childminders

A Childminding Service is provided in the Childminder's own home. In Ireland, Childminder's are regulated by the Child Care (Pre-school Services) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 and Amendments 2007. These regulations are concerned with childcare services, which cater for children under the age of 6 years and not yet attending primary school.

Supports Available

Limerick Childcare Committee provides a number of supports to Childminders and those considering a career in Childminding, including

- One to one support, to discuss such issues as notification, insurance, Garda Vetting, and overall quality issues linked to Siolta and Aistear.
- Training for Childminders and Potential Childminders, including the Quality Awareness Programme (QAP). These courses are advertised in local press and on facebook. Limerick Childcare Committee have run 4 QAP's in 2014.
- The Childminding Development Grant which offers small scale funding to Childminders. In 2014 €10,595.68 was awarded to 11 Childminders in County Limerick. This funding was used to purchase safety and play equipment and to make minor adjustments to the childminder's home and to enhance or establish the childminding service.

For further information please see www.clcc.ie or contact 061 600918 or info@limerickchildcare.ie

Minimum Qualification Requirement

In 2013, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), announced that for the first time in Ireland, a minimum qualification requirement would be introduced for the Early Years Sector.

All staff working in Early Years Services, must hold at minimum, a relevant qualification at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

All Pre-school Leaders delivering the ECCE Scheme (Free Pre-School Year), must hold at minimum, a relevant qualification at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The minimum qualification for ECCE Pre-School Leaders was Level 5.

These requirements were introduced on a phased basis beginning in September 2014.

From September 2014, the minimum qualification requirements came into effect for new services setting up.

The criteria will not come into effect for existing services until September 2015.

The Learner Fund To support staff already working in the sector, the DCYA made funding available for Early Years staff to access Level 5 training and for ECCE Pre-School Leaders, to access Level 6 training. The first round of funding was launched in April 2014, with 53 staff from Limerick being approved. A second round of funding opened in November and applications are currently being processed.

Qualification Exemptions For existing Early Years staff who will be retiring between September 2015 and September 2021, the DCYA have made an exemption facility available known as The 'Grandfathering' Process. This allows such staff to make a declaration that they will retire from the sector in the next 7 years, that is before September 2021.

Grandfathering Declaration Form The Grandfathering Declaration Form is only available from Childcare Committee's and any staff member wishing to take up the exemption, should contact Limerick Childcare Committee to make an appointment to complete the paperwork.

Parent and Toddler Group Grants

Under the Parent and Toddler Initiative, Childcare Committees are responsible for overseeing grants to Parent and Toddler Groups, on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The primary purpose of the initiative is to provide grants to Parent and Toddler Groups for the development of their services.

In 2014, Limerick Childcare Committee awarded a total of €9146 to 24 Parent and Toddler Groups in Limerick City and County.

Pip Information Evening

Professional Development

Lower Ground Floor, Croom Mills, Croom, Co. Limerick

T. 061 600918 | F. 061 600898 | E. info@limerickchildcare.ie www.clcc.ie

Parent's - Are you Eligible for Free or Reduced Rate Childcare?



Free Pre-school Year ECCE Scheme

The ECCE Scheme is operated by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and ensures that all children can avail of one year of free pre-school, before they enter primary school.

The scheme provides each eligible child with free pre-school for 183 days in total on the basis of:

- 3 hours per day
- 5 days per week
- 38 weeks per year

The service can charge for additional hours and optional extras such as school tours, but parents are not obliged to avail of these. If a service charges for optional extras they must provide the parent with an 'Optional Extra's Letter'.

How to Apply?

In general, children enter the scheme during September of each year. Parents contact an Early Year's Service which operates the ECCE Scheme and enrol their child. The service will provide them with a Registration Form. The service applies directly to the DCYA for a place for the child using the PIP System (Programme Implementation Platform) which checks the child's date of birth against their PPSN to ensure they are eligible. If the child is eligible, the system prints a Declaration Form for the parent to sign.

Late Entries

Children can enter at any stage during the scheme year, which runs from September to June each year.

Age Exemptions

Children with Special Needs

Parents who wish to apply for a waiver of the upper age limit or to avail of the pre-school year on a pro-rata basis over two years (e.g. 2 days per week in year 1 and 3 days per week in year 2) on the grounds that their child has special needs, must apply in writing to the DCYA, not later than 1st July of each year.

To avail of the pre-school year in

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sept 2014 | The Child must be born between the 2nd February 2010 and the 30th June 2011 |
| Sept 2015 | The Child must be born between the 2nd February 2011 and the 30th June 2012 |

The DCYA will require the following details before making a decision:

1. A copy of the child's Birth Certificate or Passport
2. Evidence of the child's Irish PPSN (i.e. a copy of an official document or card showing the child's name and Irish PPSN, e.g. a Drug Payment Scheme card, a Medical Card, or a letter from the Department of Social Protection).
3. The name and address of the pre-school service in which the child will be enrolled.
4. A detailed assessment report from the HSE, or treating consultant confirming that the child has special needs which will either delay his/her entry to primary school or make it more suitable that s/he avails of the pre-school year on a pro-rata basis over two years.

School Admission Policies

Parents may apply for a waiver of the upper age limit where their child will not be able to commence primary school until they are aged at least 5 years and 7 months, due to the local primary schools' admissions policies, on condition that the child has not already availed of the ECCE Programme.

The DCYA will require the following details before making a decision:

- 1 to 3 as outlined above (Copy of Birth Cert, Proof of PPSN and Details of Pre-School)
- And a letter from the Principal of the local primary school confirming the age admissions policy.

Transferring to a New Service:

Parents can also transfer their child from one service to another during the year, by giving one month's notice to their Early Year's Service. The first service needs to provide the parent with a form to take to the new service.



Childcare for Low Income Families CCS Scheme

The Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme is offered in 41 community childcare services in Limerick. The scheme provides access to reduced rate childcare for parents in receipt of social welfare/low incomes.

To access the scheme, children must be attending a participating service during the reference week set by the DCYA. In 2014, the reference week was the 20th to the 24th October. In general this is to only time a child can join the scheme, there are exceptions, outlined below.

- Where a child in receipt of CCS funding leaves the scheme, the service can reallocate the remaining funding to another child whose parent's meet the eligibility criteria
- A parent of an infant birth to 12 months unable to apply for CCS subvention before/during the reference week may do so at any stage during the CCS year. Certain criteria apply and are available on the DCYA website.

Hours of Subvention

| |
|--|
| Full-Day Subvention Child's attendance (hrs per day) Minimum 5hrs+ |
| Part-Time Subvention Child's attendance (hrs per day) Minimum 3hrs 31mins - maximum 5hrs |
| Sessional Subvention Child's attendance (hrs per day) Minimum 2hrs 16mins - maximum 3hrs 30mins |
| Half-Session Subvention Child's attendance (hrs per day) Minimum 1hr 15mins - maximum 2hrs 15mins |

- * Certain restrictions apply to Parents in receipt of Illness/Injury
- ** Benefit, Job Seekers Benefit/Allowance and Supplementary
- *** Welfare Allowance. For details please see 'Reducing your Childcare Costs - A Guide for Parents' available on www.clcc.ie

Table 1 - Eligibility Criteria

| Band A - Recipients with medical card | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Parent Family Payment• Widows/Widowers Pension• Pre-retirement Allowance• Farm Assist• State Pension• Blind Pension• Guardian's Payment• Illness/Injury Benefit*• Disability Allowance• Carer's Benefit/Allowance• Back to Work Enterprise/Education Allowance• Community Employment• Domiciliary Care Allowance• Family Income Supplement (FIS)• Secondary School students• Invalidity Pension• Disablement Pension• HSE Referrals (no medical card required) | Full-Day Payment €95 |
| | Part-Time Payment €47.50 |
| | Sessional Payment €31.35 |
| | Half Session Payment €15.20 |
| Band AJ - Recipients with medical card | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job Seekers Benefit/Allowance**• Supplementary Welfare Allowance***• TÚS• Part-time Job Incentive Scheme <p>Full subvention will apply to parents availing of sessional and half day places, but where the child attends full day care, the maximum subvention is €50 per week.</p> | Full-Day Payment €50.00 |
| | Part-Time Payment €47.50 |
| | Sessional Payment €31.35 |
| | Half Session Payment €15.20 |
| Band B | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Card• GP Visit Card• Parents who are in receipt of Social Welfare payments listed under Band A/AJ but have no medical card• Parents who no longer qualify for Band A/AJ this year, but who were verified as being on Band A/AJ at the end of the previous school year. | Full-Day Payment €50.00 |
| | Part-Time Payment €25.00 |
| | Sessional Payment €17.00 |
| | Half Session Payment €8.50 |



Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programmes

The TEC Programmes consists of:

The Childcare Education and Training Support Programme (CETS)

The purpose of the programme is to support parents on eligible training courses and eligible categories of parents returning to work, by providing subsidised childcare places. CETS is administered on behalf of the Department of Education. Places can be full-time, part-time, after-school only or after-school with pick up places. ETB/Solas have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of the CETS Programme.

The After-school Childcare Programme (ASCC)

The purpose of the programme is to support low income and unemployed people to take up a job (including JobPlus), increase their days of employment, or take up a place on a DSP Employment Programme. The programme provides subsidised after-school childcare for certain DSP customers, who have children of primary school age. The DSP have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of the ASCC Programme.

The Community Employment Childcare Programme (CEC)

The CE Childcare Programme is administered on behalf of the Department of Social Protection (DSP). The programme provides part-time or afterschool care for children up to 13 years of age, where a parent is participating on a CE Scheme. The DSP have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of this strand of the CEC Programme.

How to apply?

To apply for a place, the parent must obtain a letter from the relevant agency (ETB, Solas or DSP) and present this to an Early Year's Service participating in TEC. A list is available from Limerick Childcare Committee.

If the service can accommodate the child, they make an application for a place to Limerick Childcare Committee. To make an application, the service will require the parent to provide a letter of eligibility, proof of PPSN for parent and child/children and the parent and service must complete a Application/Declaration Form.

It is important to note that there are a limited number of TEC places available nationally, as such it is possible that a parent who is eligible for one of the TEC strands, may not get a place.

For all Schemes the Early Year's Service must provide the parent with a copy of the following, which has been stamped 'Approved' by Limerick Childcare Committee.

- Fee Payment Policy for the Service
- A Calendar for the Scheme (ECCE, CCS or TEC). This marks the days the service is open

In the case of ECCE Services, parents must also receive an 'Optional Extras Letter' (if the service provides these).

Parents who have queries on the information they have received from the service or who have not received the above, should contact Limerick Childcare Committee.

For general information on the above Childcare Schemes please see www.clcc.ie or contact us on info@limerickchildcare.ie or 061 600918 if you have a specific enquiry.

The DCYA has published an Administrative Guide for each of the Childcare Schemes. These cover all aspects of each scheme and while aimed primarily at Early Years Services, provide useful information for parents. These guides can be viewed online at www.dcy.gov.ie under Childcare.



Aistear
Creatúrachlám na Luath-Óige
The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

Limerick Childcare Committee, in collaboration with Early Childhood Ireland (ECI), provided a professional training programme titled 'Working with Aistear' from October 2013 to March 2014. Quality is a continuing aspiration for all Early Years Services. Siolta provides insight into indicators of quality practice. There are many allusive elements of Quality alongside tangible elements. 'Working with Aistear' proposed to address those tangible/process elements of quality such as relationships/interactions, environments, curriculum planning and assessment and play.

Fifteen Early Year's Services, including managers and staff, engaged with the programme. They attended 5 x 2 hour training sessions delivered by Marie Doherty (ECI), where they set themselves goals to be put into practice. They had on-site visits between the training sessions from their mentors, Rosie Moore and Catriona Sheehy, both Childcare Development Workers from Limerick Childcare Committee. The mentor's assisted them in achieving the goals they had set, and to discuss any issues or challenges they had.

This programme had a high attendance rate, and the success of the programme was demonstrated by the services at a showcase on the 11th April 2014. All the services shared their learning journey, progress and changes they had made to their practice and philosophy of how young children learn and develop. This was displayed through their group learning journals, child learning journals, short term planning sheets based on child observation and interests, photographs, video footage, and parent and staff testimonials.

"After-schoolers like to have access to materials without having to ask"

"There is a whole sense of involving the children – it's not about us (staff) planning"

"Everything we do, we think back to Aistear. We take photographs of everything, before we just took photographs of Halloween and Christmas".



New branch proposed for Limerick



Association of Childhood Professionals

The Professional Body Representing Practitioners In
Early Years and School Age Care & Education

OUR VALUES

**Solidarity, equity, equality, democracy, empowerment, honesty, openness,
self-responsibility, self-help, social responsibility and caring for others**

The Association of Childhood Professionals is the representative body for practitioners in early childhood and out of school care and education. Our journey began in Cork in 2003, when childhood professionals from around the county were feeling disempowered in relation to the direction that their profession was taking. National policies were being developed without meaningful consultation with the practitioners. There was a realisation that if practitioners were to have a say in the development of their profession, then they would need to unite and form a strong representative association, that would ensure their voice was heard at a national level. Over the following decade, many counties were inspired to form their own branch and in 2013, all of these branches united to form the Association of Childhood Professionals.

At present, we have branches in Cork, Waterford, Dublin, Kilkenny, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare and we are currently supporting the development of branches in many other counties.

Limerick is one of the counties that is in the development phase. Limerick Childcare Committee has been instrumental in supporting the establishment of this branch and on the 8th October 2014, eight practitioners put their name forward to establish the council of ACP Limerick. Once this branch is fully operational, childhood professionals in Limerick will have local representation to ensure that their voice is heard at a national stage and will be able to positively contribute to the development of their profession.

The ACP is a voluntary organisation that takes its mandate from its members. Representatives from the association have met with relevant Ministers, elected representatives, department officials, policy developers, etc. to outline the reality of being a practitioner in the current climate. We have made submissions in relation to budgets, inspectorate, training, mentors, etc.

We have participated in media discussions on early childhood education and care, and have highlighted the lack of investment in our profession and the resulting conditions that are resulting in many exiting the profession, as they are unable to make a living despite being qualified, experienced practitioners.

Our voice is becoming stronger as our members are empowered to take a stand and to demand improved conditions. While we have individual members from Limerick, it is great to see a branch forming so that there is more active involvement at a local and national level. We would call on practitioners throughout the county, to support their colleagues in the council of ACP Limerick, to represent their views and to promote positive solutions to the difficulties that we are currently experiencing.

KEY MESSAGES

1. The Association of Childhood Professionals works to ensure that childhood professionals are an integral part of Early Years & After School provision in Ireland, and as such must be a part of all processes where childcare is discussed, planned & decided
2. Childhood Professionals through their knowledge, practice & values, in partnership with parents, provide for the foundation care & education of our youngest citizens
3. Professional development & equitable pay & conditions for Childhood Professionals, must be supported by a formalised system
4. Children benefit most from quality experiences supported by Childhood Professionals
5. Society benefits directly from investment in quality early childhood care & education

**For further details on the ACP, please go to
www.acpireland.com**

Join today and be that change that you want to see.

OUR AIMS

Be the collective identity and represent the voice of childhood professionals

Promote and engage active membership

Advocate and seek support for the initial training and continuing professional development of childhood professionals

Advocate and campaign for recognition of childhood professionals including their professional status and equitable pay and work conditions

Raise awareness of the value and contribution made by the childhood professional to the lives of children, families and society as a whole

Children's Grief

Following a number of requests from Early Years Childcare Services, Limerick Childcare Committee introduced the topic of supporting children to cope with grief and loss, by organising a number of information sessions and programmes. These aimed to inform early year's staff on the area of grief and loss and how to support children experiencing same.

Children's Grief Information Session

Helen Culhane of 'The Children's Grief Project' recently delivered an Information Session for Limerick Childcare Committee, entitled 'Children's Grief' which was attended by 14 Early Years Staff. The session looked at supporting Early Years Staff to assist children and young people coping with grief and loss. The session proved hugely successful with one participant commenting that she now "has more understanding of the importance of involving children in the grieving process."

The Children's Grief Project

The Children's Grief Project based in Limerick City, supports children and young people who have been affected by loss, through death, separation or divorce.

Helen Culhane started the Children's Grief Project in September 2009, moving from a successful career as a social worker and child play therapist. "As a social worker in Limerick, I witnessed first-hand the deep effect separation has on children and the deep loss that they frequently feel. I also saw that there was nowhere for these children to go, no-one was trying to help them overcome their grief."

Helen has devised a unique approach that is centered on the simplest form of human interaction – talking and listening.

Today, with the support of her order, the Sisters of Mercy, and with the assistance of many volunteers, Helen supports on average 25 children weekly and currently has a waiting list of over 60 children. "Generally we can see a child within two months", says Helen, "this may sound like a long time to wait, but the national average waiting period for child psychology is two years."

Helen gives both national and international lectures on the power of talk and listening, as a means of healing children who are dealing with loss.

The Children's Grief Project receives no official government support. It is funded from the Mercy Congregation and through donations, and "there is no charge to families for the help we provide."

Limerick Childcare Committee would like to congratulate Helen, who was recently awarded Lidl's Local Hero, at the 'Pride of Ireland Awards' 2014.

For further information on The Children's Grief Project see www.childrensgriefproject.ie or contact 061 224 627

Grief and Loss Programme

A 3 night programme, 'Grief and Loss' was also delivered, by Marita Riordan, Play Therapist. This workshop looked at the complex feelings, thoughts and behaviours, that result from grief and loss. It provided the participants with the knowledge necessary to support children, who have experienced loss through therapeutic play interventions using clay, art, and group work with children. The importance of self-care for professionals when working with grief and loss, will also be an integral and important aspect of the programme.

It also included an interactive element with the participants themselves carrying out the play activities so they could learn first-hand the power of therapeutic play.

As part of the Programme, Marita recommend the following reading:

- Helping Children with Loss: A Guidebook, Margot Sunderland
- The Day the Sea went out and Never Came Back, Margot Sunderland
- Healing Grief at Work, Alan D. Wolfelt
- Grief at Work, Developing a Bereavement Policy, Breffni McGuinness, The Irish Hospice Foundation.

This can be downloaded from www.hospicefoundation.ie

To support the delivery of the programme, Limerick Childcare Committee provided each service who participated on the training with a set of the books.

Marita established Chrysalis Children's Therapy Centre in Abbeyfeale, in 2013.

She can be contacted on 087 7767984 or maritariordan@gmail.com



Professional Development Opportunities

Limerick Childcare Committee delivered an intensive Autumn/Winter 2014 Professional Development Programme. To date, 332 places have been booked on these programmes, with a further 122 people attending Information Sessions organised by Limerick Childcare. This figure does not include those engaged in First Aid, Manual Handling and Food Hygiene Training.

In addition, 190 Early Years Staff completed Child Protection and Welfare Training in 2014.

The programmes offered, a wide range of topics including Challenging Behaviour, Literacy and Numeracy, Grief and Loss, School Age Childcare, Working with Babies, Creating Outdoors Spaces and Risky Play.



Puppets

Revised Early Years Regulations 2014

It is the intention of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), to revoke the current Child Care (Pre-School) Regulations 2006 and introduce updated regulations to reflect the new Registration System.

It is expected that the revised regulations will be published before the end of 2014. Together with the National Standards for Early Years Services, they will form the context in which statutory inspections will take place.

Limerick Childcare Committee will update Early Years Services of these and other relevant amendments via email, as the information becomes available.



National Early Years Quality Support Service

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills established the National Early Years Quality Support Service in 2014.

The National Early Years Quality Support Service, aims to enhance the quality of practice in Early Childhood Care and Education setting. It will also work to develop the capacity of Early Years Services, to provide high quality early education and care experiences for children and their families.

The initial focus for the specialist support service will be to work in partnership with Early Years Services, in implementing the guidance contained in Sfolta, the National Quality Framework, and Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

Pobal have appointed Dr. Margaret Rogers, as the National Manager of the National Early Years Quality Support Service. Margaret will lead a team of 3 Service Co-ordinators and 30 Early Years Specialists. It is anticipated that the specialist support service will commence working with early years settings in early 2015.

Congratulations to Marie Doherty

Limerick Childcare Committee is delighted that Marie Doherty has been appointed as an Early Years Specialist for the National Early Years Quality Support Service. Marie ran a pre-school service in Adare for over 20 years, during which time she sat on the Management Committee, of County Limerick Childcare Committee, before returning to Education with Mary Immaculate College and Trinity College Dublin. Following completion of her studies, Marie took up post with Early Childhood Ireland, and over the last 4 years, has worked closely with Limerick Childcare Committee, to deliver a number of Professional Development Programmes, the most recent being the hugely successful 'Working with Aistear' Programme.



Child Protection and Welfare Training

In January 2014, a new standardised child protection training course was introduced. The 'Child Protection & Welfare: Basic Level' Training is available to staff in Early Years Services and to Childminder's. It is being delivered by Childcare Committees.

The Child Protection & Welfare:

Basic Level is a quality assured child protection training course tailored to the needs of the Early Years Sector. It will be rolled out over 3 years, and is limited to staff in Early Years Settings and Childminder's.

This training is not available to students or staff from other sectors.

The new programme has been developed in partnership with the HSE, and the roll out is being coordinated by the National Early Years Children First Committee.

The one-day accredited training course, looks at what constitutes child abuse, roles and responsibilities in reporting child protection and welfare concerns, child protection policy and safe work practices.

It has replaced all previous HSE accredited training and the 'Keeping Children Safe' Training.

In 2014, Limerick Childcare Committee has delivered this training to 190 staff in 79 Early Years Services. This training will be advertised to services in 2015, when dates have been set.

