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Issue 12  
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# CEANGAIL • CONNECTION



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## Limerick City Childcare Committee - a one stop shop

Limerick City Childcare Committee has been providing support to childcare providers and practitioners in Limerick since 2002. This support takes the form of information, resources, training, guidance, innovative initiatives, and links to other organisations working in the childcare sector who may not be based locally but also are in a position to assist childcare services maximise their potential.

Through the development of a national strategy for childhood care and education 2011-2013, Limerick City Childcare Committee aim to support both childcare providers and parents in providing a quality standard of care for the young child from birth to 12 years of age. Both practitioners and parents are welcome to visit our offices in the 1st Floor, The Granary, Michael St, or contact us on 061-407525/6/7 to avail of support, resources, advice, access our library or other information.



## Book Worms - We want you!!!



Limerick City Childcare Committee has been operating a resource library for the past 3 years. Each year we try to update the resources available to our members and visitors. We now have the following sections in our library:

- Journals
- Resource library with information on child development, planning, managing a service, behaviour, health, bereavement and many more
- Media library including a variety of videos and DVDs
- Equality and diversity section incorporating children's books from around the world, language resources.
- Activity centre eg jigsaws, playdough etc
- Information stands where you can access up to date leaflets on ECCE, newsletters, etc.

We would welcome you to visit our library and would love to hear from you regarding how you would like to see it utilised.

- Would you like to attend story telling sessions?
- Parent and Toddler groups - if we had activities for children to play with, would you like to browse?
- Do you have any ideas for sharing cultural and language experiences?

Also, if you find it difficult to visit the library, you can now access a list of our resources online at [www.limerickcitychildcare.ie](http://www.limerickcitychildcare.ie).

If you are already a member or would like to join, you can borrow the books by emailing us with the list, and we will post them to you or deliver them to your service.

We look forward to hearing from you.



# Workforce Development Plan for the Early Childhood Care and Education sector



It is important that, after an initial lead-in time, all lead staff in services delivering the ECCE initiative will have achieved a major award in early childhood care and education at level 5 of the NFQ or equivalent. It is also recognised that the historical complexity of educational attainment of the workforce in ECCE services in Ireland may present challenges in this regard. To facilitate practitioners, who are not currently fully qualified, to achieve this status, it has been proposed by the OMCYA to put in place a Workforce Development Plan which will address issues such as access and effective participation in education and training programmes. A national consultation process commenced in 2009 to enable all stakeholders in ECCE provision in Ireland to express their views on this important issue. The National Childcare Strategy 2006-2010 identified the need to develop the skills and qualifications profile of the workforce in the Early Childcare and Education (ECCE) sector.

Work on the development of a Workforce Development Plan began with an extensive programme of research and consultation. June 2009 saw the publication of a Background Paper on Developing the Workforce in the ECCE sector which brought together datasets from a wide variety of sources on the profile and qualifications of the current ECCE workforce. This document formed the basis for a consultative process which was launched on 12th June 2009 and concluded on 30th September 2009.

The issues that emerged from the consultative process included:

- Requirement for flexible, modular delivery of courses
- The consistency of training courses
- The quality of the tutors
- The high cost of participating in training programmes
- The low rates of remuneration which act as a disincentive for people to acquire higher qualifications or to remain within the sector
- A Recognition of Prior Learning process for people who have been working in the sector without formal qualifications

The background paper and a report on the findings from the consultative process can be accessed from [http://omc.gov.ie/docs/Workforce\\_Development\\_Plan\\_Introduction/1287.htm](http://omc.gov.ie/docs/Workforce_Development_Plan_Introduction/1287.htm)

It is anticipated that unqualified staff working in services participating in the ECCE initiative will be required to commit to becoming qualified within the first two full years of the scheme. After that time a service which does not have a fully qualified staff member leading the preschool year will not be eligible for participation in the ECCE initiative.

If you require staff members to upskill or would be interested personally in gaining a qualification in childcare please contact Limerick City Childcare Committee. We will be shortly publishing an updated version of the Training and Development Supplement, and have our Career Paths guide available on our website [www.limerickcitychildcare.ie](http://www.limerickcitychildcare.ie)

# Aistear

Creatchuraclam na Luath-Óige  
The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

Aistear is the new early childhood curriculum framework for children from birth to six years in Ireland. Because early childhood marks the beginning of children's lifelong learning journeys, this framework is called Aistear, the Irish word for Journey.

It provides information to help practitioners, including infant teachers and Early Start teachers to plan for and provide enjoyable and appropriately challenging learning experiences that will allow all children grow and develop as competent and confident learners. Aistear describes the types of learning experiences that are important for children in early childhood and offers lots of practical ideas and suggestions. Examples of how this learning might be nurtured are also given.

## Who is Aistear for?

Aistear is for all children from birth to six years. This means it can be used in a range of settings such as children's own homes, childminding settings, crèches, nurseries, playgroups, preschools, naionraí, Early Start Units and in infant classes in primary schools.

## Aistear has two parts

Part 1 sets out 12 principles. Many of these are similar to the principles in the primary school curriculum, with some additions, for example, a principle on learning through play and one on children as citizens. Part 1 also describes the content of children's learning. Unlike the Primary School Curriculum, Aistear does this using four themes rather than using subjects and curriculum areas. The themes are

- Well Being
- Identity and belonging
- Communicating
- Exploring and Thinking

Each theme connects with most, if not all, of the subjects in the Primary School Curriculum.

Through the themes, Aistear focuses on developing children's dispositions and skills, nurturing attitudes and values, and building knowledge and understanding of their world.

Part 2 of Aistear consists of four sets of guidelines. These focus on:

- Enriching learning through interactions
- Learning through play
- Using assessment to support learning
- Working with parents

## What is in Aistear for me?

Lots! Examples from practice are a defining feature of Aistear's guidelines. The examples are known as learning experiences and show how key messages in the guidelines might look in action in different settings including preschools and infant classrooms. The guidelines also give practical ideas and suggestions for using different types of play to extend children's learning, strategies to interact with children, methods to assess children's learning and plan for the next steps and ways to involve parents in their children's learning. Thinking about my practice questions are included to help you reflect on what you do and say to support children's learning and development, and plan for how this can be improved. Detailed information on Aistear can be found at [www.ncca.ie/earlychildhoodframework](http://www.ncca.ie/earlychildhoodframework).

The NCCA have published Aistear on the NCCA website and on CD-ROM. The NCCA have also published practical planning tools and tipsheets to support practitioners in becoming familiar with Aistear and in beginning to use it in their work with children. The Council plan to work with practitioners, children and parents to gather examples of Aistear in action across a variety of settings. These examples might include short video clips, photographs, and samples of children's work and conversations with adults and other children. The purpose of the examples is to share practice across settings. This will be done through the NCCA's ACTION website at [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

Reference: [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

# síolta

Síolta was developed and published in 2006 by the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) on behalf of the Department of Education and Science. It is a quality assurance process which addresses all aspects of practice in early childhood care and education services. It is designed to support practitioners to develop high quality services for children aged birth to six years and is relevant to all settings where children spend time out of their home environment. Detailed information on Síolta can be found at [www.siolta.ie](http://www.siolta.ie).

In February a new Síolta Co-ordinator was employed by Barnardos to cover the Limerick City, County and North Tipperary region. Jean Currid has previously worked in the family support field and has been with Barnardos for the past 6 years. This new position was welcomed by Limerick City Childcare Committee.

There are only 22 Síolta Co-ordinators currently employed in the country, each with a large geographical area to cover, which means that it will not be possible for all services to participate on the Quality Awareness Programme immediately. However, there are a number of options for services to engage with Síolta. In fact there are 3 Levels of Síolta in Practice:

**LEVEL 1** - Awareness of Principals, Standards and Components. This takes place on an informal basis through

- Sharing of experiences
- Consulting the Síolta manual and using the framework to inform practice in your own service
- Group work e.g. through workshops or locally organised groupings, to develop action plans on how to practically implement the standards within a setting.

Limerick Northside Síolta Network are a group of 5 services based in the Northside of Limerick who undertook the initiative to employ a facilitator to support their staff in implementing 2 Síolta Standards within their services over a period of a year. Their experiences have been evaluated and documented and can be used as a template for how a service can support the implementation of Síolta and the value of working together and sharing experiences. This report, *Síolta: Working together to sow the seeds*, was launched on the 22nd July, and is available on the LCCC website.

**LEVEL 2** involves self assessment of your service with the support of the Síolta Co-ordinator, and

**LEVEL 3** involves a quality assurance programme in partnership with the Síolta Co-ordinator.

Please remember that at the moment, Level 1 engagement is the level that is required for participation on the ECCE scheme.

As you will see from our calendar of events LCCC have organised a number of Level 1 Síolta workshops this autumn. As such, accredited Síolta training does not exist, and therefore you cannot become qualified in Síolta. However, participation on these workshops are the first step on the Síolta Framework ladder and will prepare you for participation at levels 2 and 3 in the years to come. They will also provide you with the tools to commence work on your Síolta portfolio if you have not already done so.

For further information on Síolta workshops available, see over page.



# TRAINING

## Síolta Workshops

Since the development of Síolta, National Quality Framework, in 2006, Limerick City Childcare Committee has provided the opportunity for childcare practitioners to participate on various workshops relating to the Framework. However, consultation with providers and the evaluation of the Limerick Northside Síolta Network pilot, Síolta, Working together to sow the seeds, has proven that there is a need to provide additional support to providers in the implementation of Síolta. As previously mentioned, we are delighted to welcome Jean, our new Síolta Co-ordinator, and Jean will be working closely with a number of services in Limerick City over the coming year. To compliment Jean's work, Limerick City Childcare Committee are planning a series of practical workshops on the Síolta Standards, taking each one in more detail than before and identifying areas where services can start to get their teeth into implementing Síolta and recognizing how the work they are already involved in relates to the framework.

This autumn we are focusing on the Standard "Identity and Belonging". There will be a series of 4 workshops:

- Introduction to Identity and Belonging
- Developing an inclusive environment
- Developing inclusive policies and procedures, and
- Language Awareness.

Details of these workshops are available on our calendar of events, and we are asking services to sign up to participate on all 4 workshops.

At the end of the autumn we will have an introductory workshop for the Standard: Interactions, and would hope that feedback on the practical support required in implementing this standards would be identified on the night and will guide the workshops to be delivered on this standard in the spring.

## Training and Development Strategic Review and Supplement

In 2009 Meehan and Tully Ltd undertook a piece of research on behalf of Limerick City Childcare Committee to review current provision of childcare in Limerick City with a focus on the training levels within childcare in the city. The results were very positive with 84% of services responding. Some of the results of the survey are outlined below:

- 91% of managers and 87% of practitioners hold a qualification of at least FETAC Level 5.
- Owner/Managers and practitioners stated that cost, training times and lack of available time were very significant barriers to training.

Limerick City Childcare Committee aims to support childcare providers by making training available at times most accessible to the sector and through the provision of our training grant scheme (see below).

The number of men working in childcare is reflective of the number working in the sector throughout Ireland - i.e. 6% of owner managers in Limerick City are male and 1 % of practitioners.

The demand for childcare has moved from full time to part time with the change in the economic climate. There is still a large demand for school age childcare. The introduction of the ECCE and CETS schemes may have an impact on these results.

The information gathered through this piece of research has been used to develop a User friendly career path document which is available on our website, and through our training and development supplement available shortly.

The final document will be available this autumn from Limerick City Childcare Committee.

## Training Grant Scheme

2010 was the second year of the Limerick City Childcare Committee's Training Grant Scheme, with 14 applicants this year. The scheme aims to support childcare practitioners in Limerick City to access more affordable training opportunities at a minimum of FETAC Level 5. As previously mentioned, the new ECCE scheme calls for practitioners to have a minimum of FETAC Level 5 or be in the process of achieving this level of training in order for the service to qualify for the free preschool year scheme. The Training Grant Scheme gives

applicants the opportunity to apply for up to 50% of the course fees, and in order to receive the funding, the students must show evidence of completion of training. €6000 in grants was approved in 2010.

If you are interested in applying for the 2011 scheme, further details will be available from Limerick City Childcare Committee in early 2011.

## Providers Networks



In June of this year staff of LCCC met up with 20 childcare practitioners representing 14 services to discuss the needs of the sector through 2 consultation meetings. The meetings provided valuable information on how Limerick City Childcare Committee needs to engage with both providers and city wide/national structures in the future.

Feedback from the days included requests for further information on

- rates
- garda clearance
- suggestions for workshops, and
- a desire to further engage with Síolta.

Although we will not be in a position to meet all needs in 2010, we have endeavoured to prioritise actions relevant to the childcare sector for the autumn, and will take into consideration all other feedback for 2011. You will be able to see from our calendar of events that we aim to provide a variety of opportunities in the autumn for you to access information and practical advice. We have requested that the Síolta workshops become more practical with participants being given the opportunity to share their own experiences

and take back practical ideas on how to implement Síolta within their service.

There was also a suggestion that providers network through visiting other services. We would now like to open this opportunity up to all providers in Limerick City to make your service available on an evening in December for a Christmas event. If you are interested could you please contact us. If we have more than one offer we may be able to organise further networks in rotation in the various services in the future, so don't be disappointed if we do not take up your kind offer this year.

In order to provide some clarity on issues which were raised at the meetings, we have included information on local authority rates for ECCE services.

We have also contacted the Garda Vetting Unit for clarification on queries raised and are awaiting reply. Please note that there are many other aspects of assessing a potential employee which can be taken into consideration including references, both written and verbal, and interviews. When further information is received we will circulate to all services.

### Rates

Under the Valuation Act, there is an exemption from Local Authority Rates where the costs incurred by the provision of an educational service are met "wholly or mainly" from Government Funds (e.g. Exchequer sources such as the ECCE capitation grant). The Valuation Office, who administer the Act, have advised the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) that, from January, this applies to any exclusively sessional, ECCE funded pre-school which is "wholly or mainly" funded by ECCE capitation, provided the premises are exclusively used for purely educational purposes, and not also used for other rateable, commercial services (e.g. a commercial crèche funded by parental fees). (NB Domestic use is not commercially rateable, and so if the premises used by your facility is also your home, that will not of itself incur a liability).

As always, please contact us with ideas, suggestions, concerns or queries and we look forward to working with you in the Autumn.

## Road Safety Day in Limerick City

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

Each book is beautifully illustrated. At the end of each story there are a number of extension activities which preschool providers can use to prompt other learning experiences with the children.

Stories are also recorded onto a CD Rom which can be played to children in their early year's environment including road safety songs and an interactive computer game targeted at the under 5's. The teacher's guide called 'Hand in Hand' which includes information about integrating road safety into the Early Years Environment and suggested activities, games and songs which support the 'Simon and Friends' stories. The programme can help childcare services reach Standard 9 'Health and Welfare' of the Síolta Programme.



The Road Safety Authority has also produced a booklet, leaflet and DVD for parents on child safety in cars.

Each childcare service can receive this road safety pack free of charge. It is hoped that all the childcare services in the city will take part in the 'Beep Beep' Week October 11th - 15th by

- Reading the 'Simon and Friends' stories to the children
- Distributing the road safety leaflets and DVD's to the children and parents

In order to ensure appropriate use of the materials, Limerick City Childcare Committee will be organising training sessions for all the Childcare services taking part in the 'Beep Beep' Week. The materials described above will only be given out at the training session. So, in order to receive these materials and to take part in the 'Beep Beep' Week it is essential that someone from your service attends the training. We consider that the training day is valuable and would encourage you to attend.

If further information and / or clarification are required please do not hesitate to contact us on 061 407 525/527

## Childcare Employment Training Support Scheme (CETS)



The Scheme will be open to private and community childcare facilities which are participating in the ECCE and/or the CCS, as well as after school services for primary school children which are in the CCS. Services that offer part-time, sessional or shorter hour's services only - are not eligible to apply. Stand alone school age services which are not in the CCS Scheme may be considered. The scheme will come to an effect 1st September 2010.

The childcare places will be aimed at children of qualifying parents who are attending a FAS training course or an educational programme administered by a Vocational Educational Committee (VEC).

All participating services will be paid a weekly capitation fee in advance, for each place reserved at the rate of:

Service	Number of hours	Opening hours	Rate
Full Day	At least 10 hours	8am to 6pm	€170
Half Day	At least 5.5 hours	8am to 1.30	€95
After-School	At least 3 hours	2pm to 5pm	€50

All services participating in the CCSS and the ECCE Scheme should have received a letter and an application form from the OMCYA giving details of the scheme. These should have been filled in and sent to us by 18th June 2010. OMCYA will advise all applicants of whether they have been accepted to the scheme by 30th July and the number of places this applies. They will issue contracts for signature at the start of August and the first payment will come to services at the end of August.

## Community Childcare Subvention Scheme 2010



The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS), which was due to end in 2010, will be replaced by a new scheme to be introduced in September 2010 as the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme. The CCS Scheme will allow eligible parents to access reduced childcare costs at participating community childcare services

Parents will be asked to fill in the forms for the scheme on the week of 6th-10th September 2010

The table below outlines the weekly subvention based on Band A and B (pro rata) and the type of service the child is attending:

### CCS Eligibility

	*Band A (JS/JB)	Band A	Band B
<b>Full day</b> (5 hours 1min +)	€50.00	€100.00	€50.00
<b>Part-time</b> (3.31-5.00)	€50.00	€50.00	€25.00
<b>Sessional</b> (2.15-3.30)	€33.00	€33.00	€16.50
<b>Half Sessional</b> (Less than 2.15)	€17.00	€17.00	€8.00

Band A	Band B
Widows Pension	Medical Card
One Parent Family	GP Visit Card
Pre-retirement allowance	Band A last year
Farm Assist	
State Pension	
Blind Person	
Guardians Payment	
Illness/Injury Benefit	
Disability Allowance	
Back to work/ education Allowance	
Carer's Benefit/Allowance	
Supplementary Welfare Allowance	
Community Employment	
Domiciliary Care Allowance	
Family Income Support	
HSE Referrals (HSE pays balance)	
Job Seekers Benefit/ Allowance*	



# Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)



This scheme gives young children one year free pre-school before they enter primary. The Scheme was introduced in January 2010 and will be available in September 2010 for children who were born between 2nd February 2006 and 30th June 2007. For a list of participating services please contact the Childcare Committee.

Parents will be asked to fill out a Parent Declaration Form in the week of the 6th-10th September 2010. This will require their child's PPS number. The service will then transfer all information on to an electronic returns form.

Under the terms and conditions of the ECCE September 2010 the OMCYA states:

*Playschool service providers should enroll children under the scheme on the basis of providing a full place. However, where for good reason a service provider provides part-places, i.e. where two or more children share one pre-school place and each attends for a number of days per week, this will be permitted. In such circumstances the service provider will be paid a pro-rata capitation grant (i.e. the grant will be calculated by reference to the total number of children attending each day rather than the total number of children attending per week).*



## Framework for Action for the inclusion of children with special needs in early childhood education settings



In 2008, the Curriculum Development Unit; Mary Immaculate College in Partnership with the Limerick City Childcare Committee were awarded a contract by the CECDE to research and develop a Framework for Action for the inclusion of children with special needs in early childhood education settings. Following extensive research including an audit of provision, child observations and in-depth interviews with parents, childcare providers, staff and special needs assistants in five geographic locations (Limerick City and County, Kerry, North Tipperary and Clare) as well as focus group discussions and interviews with the National Disability Agencies, City and County Childcare Committees and the National Voluntary Childcare Collaborative a Draft Framework for Action (DFA) was developed.

The draft framework is underpinned by five core concepts that emerged from the research findings and that have been identified both nationally and internationally as being central to effective inclusion of children with special needs in early year's settings. The core concepts are professional development, communication, environment, assessment for learning and accessing the curriculum/programme.

In October 2009, childcare providers, staff and pre-school assistants participating in the research were introduced to the DFA at a workshop facilitated by the researchers Eucharía McCarthy and Mary Moloney. They were supported to identify relevant strategies within the DFA to match their particular needs, to become familiar with the effective use of appropriate assessment measures and intervention strategies within the DFA together with guidelines on how to reflect on practice in order to support inclusion in their individual early childhood settings.

Thirteen early childhood settings in Limerick City and County, North Tipperary, Kerry and Clare piloted the DFA from October 2009 to April, 2010. Throughout the piloting phase, settings maintained research journals, observation and communication logs, home setting notebooks and portfolios of children's work. This data is now being analysed and a revised Framework for Action will be available in the autumn. Commenting on the involvement of childcare providers and staff in the research, Eucharía McCarthy stated that their "enthusiasm and commitment to developing inclusive practice in the early year's sector was very impressive and that their interest in the research project exceeded expectations".

# Childminders Summer Party



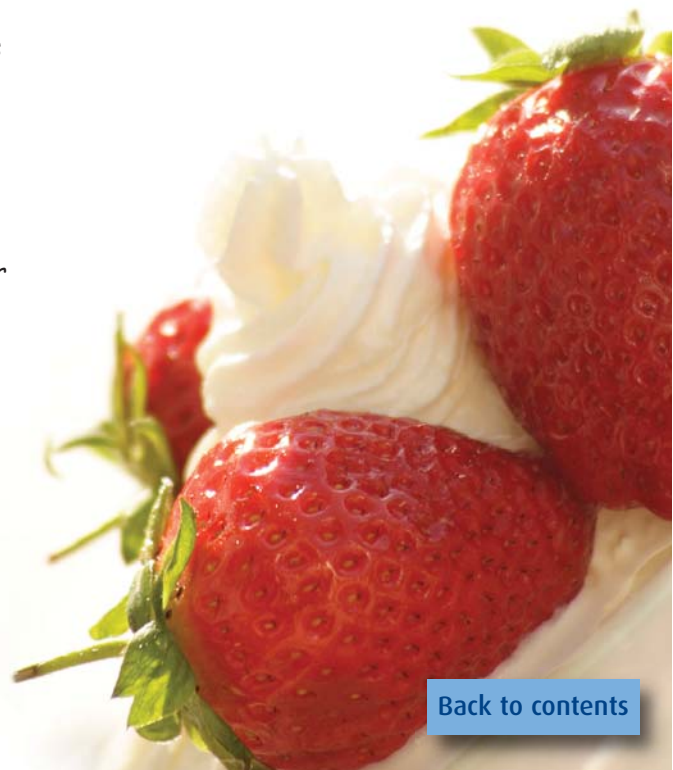
Limerick City and County Childcare Committees in partnership with the Childminding Advisory Officer for Limerick City and County hosted a Summer Party for Childminders in the Woodlands House Hotel on 26th June. We were delighted to be joined by Patricia Murray, Childminding Ireland, who spoke about the National Framework for Quality, Siolta, and the new National Curriculum Framework for the Early Years, Aistear.

We were also joined by Emma O'Driscoll, RTE, known for her work as a presenter on *The Den*, who shared her experience in working with children with the audience, and also launched the new publication "Guidelines on Planning a Childminding Business in your Home". Certificates of participation were presented by Emma to all childminders who attended to acknowledge the commitment they have had to the sector, and the ongoing commitment to upskilling and furthering their professional development.

The attendees also had an opportunity to access information on the variety of supports available to childcare professionals, and air their views on how they would like to see supports made available to the sector in the future.

The day was a celebration of childminding in Limerick, and as the theme was a summer party, the group were treated to strawberries and cream, fruit punch, and a variety of other delicious treats including a raffle for prizes including a sand and water table, a BT voucher or a copy of *What Difference*, a resource publication for working with children with additional needs, produced by Limerick City Childcare Committee and Mary Immaculate College in 2008.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a childminder or engaging with the childminders network in the future is invited to contact the Childminding Advisory Officer, Denise O'Shea at 061-314111.



# BOOKING FORM



Booking is essential for all of the events. To book your place on any of these workshops, please complete the form below and return it to Limerick City Childcare Committee with the appropriate fee. Please feel free to photocopy the form as often as you need to. Places may only be reserved on receipt of this form and your fee. Depending on demand for courses, we cannot always guarantee places. You will be sent confirmation of your place in writing.

Please include the fee for the training with this form. This fee is non-refundable. If you are unable to attend any of the training below, please inform us at least 3 days prior to the event.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email address:

COURSE	TICK BOX	FEE
Refresher First Aid	<input type="radio"/>	€80
Road Safety	<input type="radio"/>	Free of charge
Parents Expo	<input type="radio"/>	Free of charge
Series of 4 Identity and Belonging Workshops	<input type="radio"/>	€40
Occupational First Aid	<input type="radio"/>	€150
Keeping Safe November	<input type="radio"/>	Free of charge
Keeping Safe December	<input type="radio"/>	Free of charge
Healthy Tots	<input type="radio"/>	Free of charge
Introduction to Interactions Workshop	<input type="radio"/>	€15 to non NCNA members
Christmas Party	<input type="radio"/>	€5

Limerick City Childcare Committee,

First Floor, The Granary, Michael St, Limerick

T 061-407525/407527

E [childcare@limerickcity.ie](mailto:childcare@limerickcity.ie)

W [www.limerickcitychildcare.ie](http://www.limerickcitychildcare.ie)

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## Once upon a time - learning together

Did you realise that you are a teacher? Your child's teacher.

A parent is a child's first teacher

A recent study has found that parents' most important job when it comes to their child's learning is showing interest and getting involved ('Working together - approaches to Family Literacy' NALA)

On an average school week, children spend the following time at home compared to their time spent at school:

- Jnr & Snr Infants - 12% school Vs 88% home
- 1st to 6th class - 18% school Vs 82% home.

Some examples of family learning include:

- Bedtime reading
- Setting the table
- Going to the shops
- Talking together and making decisions
- Playing games, colouring, singing etc.

Benefits of making the home a place of learning:

- Help your child to improve their memory and concentration
- Encouraging and supporting your child builds their confidence
- Help your child to learn new words
- Support your child's Maths skills
- Being involved in your child's learning at home will form the building blocks for your child's ongoing learning for the future
- Children discover that learning is fun.

Why share books with your child:

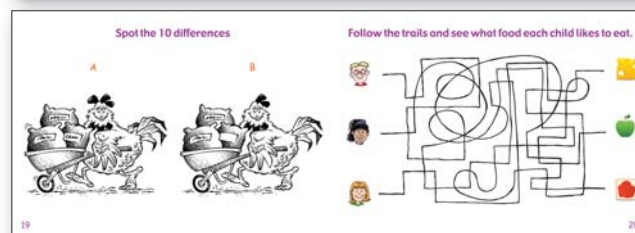
- It is fun - any time-any place-anywhere
- It brings you and your child closer together
- It develops your child's listening and talking skills
- It feeds your child's growing imagination
- It gives your child a head start with reading.

Find time to sit together and share books sometime every day, five minutes can be enough.

Further tips on reading and learning with your child are available in our new publication "Once upon a time - Learning Together" published in partnership with Limerick City Library and Limerick City VEC.



Sample Pages:



For information and details of the range of supports available:  
Limerick City Childcare Committee

Contact: Helen Ryan Development Worker T 061-407525  
Dara Lyons Acting Co-Ordinator T 061-407527  
Marie McElhinney Administrator T 061-407526

E [childcare@limerickcity.ie](mailto:childcare@limerickcity.ie) W [www.limerickcitychildcare.ie](http://www.limerickcitychildcare.ie)

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