

NEWSLETTER

Getting Ready for School

To support parents and childcare practitioners in preparing children to make the transition from preschool to primary school, Sligo County Childcare Committee hosted a Seminar on 'Transitions' – "Getting Ready for School". This Seminar was for parents and childcare practitioners and provided guidance and information to support children's transition from Pre-school to Primary School.

75 attended the Seminar on Sat. 6th March in The Glass House, Sligo which identified the skills which children should have developed to ensure their readiness for school and how parents and childcare practitioners can support the development of these skills.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Mary O'Kane who has carried out extensive Irish based research on Transitions. Workshops were delivered by Avril Sweeney, Mary Hough & SCCC Staff.

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Workbook launch – 'All About Me'

Dr. O'Kane was then requested to formally launch the workbook 'All About Me' on behalf of Sligo County Childcare Committee and Sligo Social Services.

The development of the workbook formed part of the Pre-school Transition Programme.

This workbook has been devised as a tool to assist practitioners in the identification of the unique needs of the child and as a communication tool between the pre-school and primary school. It will assist infant teachers in getting to know the child as it is passed from the preschool to Primary School (with the permission of the parent) and will promote an easy transition for children from pre-school to Primary School.

It will eventually be a Book of Memories for parents when it is returned to the parent during the child's first term at primary school as a record of the child's final year in preschool.

The Pre-school Transition Steering Committee especially wish to acknowledge the assistance of Dolores Hannon Sligo Social Services And Tina Butler Lifestart in devising this workbook and their help was much appreciated.

This workbook has been piloted with selected services in Sligo and will be extended to the rest of the county.



Dr. Mary O Kane with members of SCCC & Steering Committee



New B.A. Early Childhood Studies and Practice (Level 8)

A new part-time Certificate/Diploma in Early Childhood Studies and Practice at level 7 as part of an overall level 8 Bachelor of Arts degree programme has recently been approved at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The course content has been developed in line with current Irish government policy in the field of early years care and education to meet the needs of practitioners in the childcare sector who wish to pursue further education and training in a flexible manner, complementing and supporting continued employment. The Certificate/Diploma/Degree cycle builds on practical experience, enhancing the learner's skills through exposure to theory, policy and research skills and practical learning opportunities. Further details are available through the Office of Adult and Continuing Education, NUI Galway @ 091 492659 or e-mail Suzanne.golden@nuiGalway.ie Details of the BA Hons. Early Childhood Care and Education being run through **Sligo I.T.** can be found on their web site www.itsligo.ie