

LITTLE BUDDIES COMMUNITY CHILDCARE CENTRE

Over 50 people registered for the First Aid & CPR Programme for adults, children and infants being organised by parent's representative of Little Buddies Community Childcare Centre, Riverstown. The aim is that Riverstown will become the first village in Ireland with a least one adult in every household trained in First Aid and CPR. Included in the photograph are Little Buddies representatives, course participants and course tutor George Williams, Qualified Ambulance Paramedic, BLS Instructor and Occupational First Aid Instructor.

Courses will run throughout November, December and January in this initial first phase. For further information contact Brenda Parke 087 683 9775 or Fiona Candon 086 382 5854

FAMILY FUN DAY

October 12th was the day chosen for SCCC annual Family Fun Day which was held this year in the new Community Childcare Facility, Little Buddies in Riverstown. The beautiful sunny Autumn day (yes I did say sunny!!) saw indoor and outdoor activities for the afternoon, and included arts and crafts, drama games and Play.



A look back at 2008



2008 in Pictures: From top left clockwise: Aerobics, Spraoi in Ballymote. Parents Support Network Family Fun Day in Merville. Buntús Start, First Friends. Quality Seminar. Food Tasting. Grace Idris, receives her certificate. Parents Support Network Family Fun Day in Merville. SCCC Staff.

As we come to the end of 2008, I would take this opportunity to thank all those working in Childcare to Parents and those who supported SCCC and the childcare sector throughout the year. We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2009. Let us end the year on a quote which encapsulates the spirit of childcare in Sligo from Rudolph Steiner - "Receive them with warmth, surround them with beauty, guide them with truth"

Sharon Boles, Manager

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Staff Contact Details

Manager
Sharon Boles

Support & Development
Joan McGrath

Support & Development
Viola Craig

Childminding Advisory Worker
Noreen McNamara

Early Years Health Promotion
Sheila Ryan

Administrator
Suzanne Cole

Receptionist
Isobel Wasson

Receptionist
Jennifer Feehily

Contact
Unit 6
Cleveragh Retail Park, Sligo
Tel: (071) 914 8860
Fax: (071) 914 8849
Email: sccc@gmail.com
Website: www.sligochildcare.ie



newsletter



President McAleese and Dr. Martin McAleese with (l-r) Dylan Mullen, Charlie Mullen and Jacob Craig.

PRESIDENT MCALEESE OPENS TIR NA NOG COMMUNITY CHILDCARE CENTRE

Tir na nOg in Collooney was delighted to hear in October last that President McAleese had accepted their invitation to perform the official opening of Tir na nOg - the new community childcare service in Collooney.

On the day, President McAleese acknowledged most eloquently the wonderful facility which she had the privilege of officially opening. She felt that such a wonderful environment must be what every parent would want for their child and acknowledged that as many children will spend significant periods of time in the place, the quality of the surroundings and the very obvious care of the staff will make it a home away from home for the children.

She also stressed that it is not just the nurturing and caring of the children, but that this encompasses parents and carers also - whether they are currently in employment, returning to work or training.

The President also said that the well being of our precious children must continue to be a priority even in these difficult financial times. She added that every hour of professional involvement in childcare brings expertise, guidance and wisdom into childrens' lives.

President McAleese then focussed on the tremendous voluntary sector in Ireland, and more especially the community in Collooney and the tireless work and tenacity which had brought about the completion of such a wonderful facility.

Christmas Word Games (All answers at the bottom of the page)

Unscramble these Christmas Songs !

1. ATNSA LSUAC SI NCIOMG OT OTNW
2. KEDC ETH LASHL
3. LOPRHU THE ERD SNOED EREDIENR
4. LIGNEJ SLEBL
5. TORSFY EHT WONASNM
6. TINSEL GHINT
7. HET TILLET MEMRURD OBY
8. IHWTE SARTCHMIS
9. ODG SETR EY REMRY LETEGNEMNN
10. THE STIRF LONE

Fill in the Blanks !

1. The people who help Santa make toys are called _____
2. Santa rides a _____ on Christmas Eve
3. Santa keeps a list of who is _____ and _____
4. Santa is also known as Saint _____
5. Santa lives at the _____
6. Santa often slides down the _____ of a house to deliver presents
7. _____ are animals who help take Santa around the world on Christmas Eve
8. Santa gets a lot of _____ from children in his mailbox
9. Santa has a long white _____ on his face
10. Santa wishes everybody a Merry _____

Answers to Unscramble Game
1. Santa Claus is coming to town. 2. Deck the Halls. 3. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. 4. Jingle Bells. 5. Frosty the Snowman. 6. Silent Night. 7. The Little Drummer Boy. 8. White Christmas. 9. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. 10. The First Noel.

Answers to Fill-in Game
1. Elves. 2. sleigh. 3. naughty. 4. Nicholas. 5. North Pole. 6. chimney. 7. Reindeer. 8. letters. 9. Beard. 10. Christmas

SLIGO PRIVATE PROVIDERS NETWORK

QUALITY SEMINAR

Sligo County Childcare Committee in partnership with the Sligo Private Childcare Providers Network hosted a very successful Quality Seminar in the Glass House Hotel on October 4th last. The Seminar was attended by a large number of Sligo based Childcare Workers from many of the Playgroups, Crèches and School Age Childcare services throughout Sligo.

Guest speakers on the day were:

- **Heino Schonfeld** from CEDE who spoke on the National Quality Framework – Siolta.
- **Fiona Kelleher** from NCNA who identified activities to enhance quality within childcare settings
- **Collette McGrath** who gave a presentation on Jo Jingles – a music programme for pre-school children
- **Bernie Meehan** who discussed story telling for young children and finished the day with an enchanting interactive story.

Workshops were delivered for the participants on Creative Drama for young children, Arts & Crafts ideas, Making Snack time fun for children and new ideas for School Age Childcare.

Sligo Private Childcare Providers Network meet quarterly to discuss issues, identify training gaps and needs in childcare and exchange information relating to the operation of quality childcare services.

Further information on the Sligo Private Childcare Providers Network can be obtained by contacting Louise Kilbane at Lollipop Lane Creche and Montessori at (071) 9120541 or by e-mailing sligochildcare@gmail.com

SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE

School Age Childcare is continuing to be a growing area of childcare in Sligo with many developments within this sector of childcare.

FETAC now have several accredited modules and a full FETAC Level 5 Award for students developed by School Age Childcare Collaborative Initiative (SACCI) which includes modules on Child and Adolescent Development, Health Awareness, School Age Childcare Relationships, School Age Childcare and After School Administration. Contact Joan to get more detail on this training at 9148860 or joanmcg@sligochildcare.ie

Sligo VEC are also running a FETAC module on School Age Childcare which will run from Jan – April at Quay Street, Sligo.

Contact Geraldine Tighe at VEC Tel: 9138412 or email gtighe@sligovec.ie

NEW BEGINNINGS

Provision of new childcare places continues in Sligo with the opening of 3 new childcare facilities in the last 3 months.

- **Grainne Shanley's** new service 'Pebble Lane' opened on September 1st in Coolaney. Grainne's service is located Rath Oise which is on the Collooney side of Coolaney. This pre-school service is small and personal catering for 6 children – Grainne tells me that at the moment all 6 children are boys!

Grainne would like to say 'Thank you' to the local community for the support they have given her as she set up her new service.

- In Strandhill, **Caroline Gannon** also opened her new childcare service in September. **Little Pathways** is located in Dorrins Strand, Strandhill.

Caroline's service is full day care and she caters for babies all the way up to After Schools.

- **Tir na nOg Community Childcare** opened in Collooney (See front page for details).
- Best of luck also to **Rachel Brown** who has taken over 'Start Rite' from Mary Rooney in Ballisodare.

Sligo County Childcare Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all these services every success in their future and to congratulate them on meeting all the goals along the way to getting those doors open.

SLIGO COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE GOES GLOBAL

Sligo County Childcare Committee continues to move with the times reaching out to the wider world with the re-vamping of their website.

With the growth and of childcare in Sligo, the previous web site was found to be inadequate to meet the growing demands of childcare in Sligo. The new more informative web site has been researched and designed and has now gone live.

The new website provides comprehensive information on childcare and will prove a welcome resource for our main target groups:

Childcare Providers - Parents - Students

We trust that you will find the new web site more informative and user friendly and a valuable tool into the future.

It can be accessed at www.sligochildcare.ie



Jackie Gormley and pals check out our new website!

NCIP FUNDING

SCCC are continuing to accept applications for NCIP funding. During 2009 there will be funding available for groups who require assistance in quality improvement of their premises. Applications for Quality Improvement under NCIP require that the areas of quality requiring improvement needs to be linked into their HSE Pre School Inspection Report.

Contacting Joan at joanmcg@sligochildcare.ie can get further information on this funding opportunity.

'ON THE SPOT' STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH TRICKY SITUATIONS

The following are adapted from Crary, 1993 and Northern Ireland Pre-school Playgroups Association, 1995 and have been taken from 'Supporting Quality Book 2 – Guidelines for professional practice in early childhood services'

- Practitioners stop aggressive or destructive behaviour such as biting or kicking on the spot and give a reason for their action. For example, "Stop kicking, kicking hurts". When the situation has been defused offer contact, support and further discussion.
- Practitioners help children to understand that they are loved/valued even when their behaviour/actions are not. For example, "I really like you Patrick, but I don't like being kicked".
- Practitioners avoid labelling children especially as 'bold' or 'good' Labels can have undesirable long term effects.
- Practitioners observe problematic situations which do not involve bullying/hurtful behaviour and give the children the opportunity to sort out the problem on their own. Practitioners encourage children to talk to one another about the problem and negotiate their own solution.
- Practitioners outline the problem and assist children to think out alternative actions. For example, "Have you any ideas to sort this out?" or "Sara is using the pram now, so your baby will have to wait for her walk. Have you any ideas on what you would like to do with the baby in the meantime? Or, Can you think of anything else that could be used for a pram?"
- Practitioners use non-judgemental language to describe what is happening and interpret feelings. For example, "It looks like you both want to use that truck. You're feeling cross because there is only one".
- Practitioners help non verbal children or children who have English as their second language to understand what is happening and express feelings by complementing language with gesture and mime.
- Practitioners help children to take responsibility for their actions. For example, wiping up spills and helping to repair equipment.
- Practitioners retain their sense of humour.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH BARNARDOS

- **Supporting Quality Book 2** Guidelines for professional practice in early childhood services – 'Enhancing Children's Learning and Development' (See also Book 1 – 'Policy and Governance')
 - **A Practical Guide to Developing Childcare Policies** Offers guidelines on how to create a set of policies, focusing on why policies are needed, factors to consider when developing them and the process involved in their development. The accompanying CD offers samples/templates that can be used as a basis for service providers when developing a number of particular policies.
 - **Parenting Positively:**
 - Coping with Bullying – for children aged 6 – 12
- For parents of children between 6 and 12**
- Coping with Death
 - Coping with Domestic Abuse
 - Coping with Separation
 - Parenting Skills
- **Nutrition**
Feed your child well: A Handbook for Parents in Ireland They are what you Feed Them; How Food can improve your child's behaviour, Learning and Mood.
 - **Special Needs**
ADHD – living without brakes



BALLYMOTE YOUTH STEERING SUMMER CAMP '08

Ballymote Youth Steering hosted their 9th annual four-week Summer Camp in July last, with 90 children taking part. The children ranged in age from 16 down to 5 years of age.

Each week participants enjoyed a wide range of exciting activities – from Sumo wrestling, archery and kayaking, to swimming, windsurfing, horse riding – and more.

Ballymote Youth Steering would like to express their appreciation to Community and Enterprise Voluntary Grant Scheme and the HSE through Sligo County Childcare Committee for their generous grants allocation.

MULLAGHMORE SAILING PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

As part of the Summer Camps Programme Sligo Leader Partnership facilitated a Sailing Programme in Mullaghmore for children with disabilities.

This was a new and challenging programme for the staff of the Sailing Club – all of whom were most obliging and keen to ensure that the children enjoyed the experience.

The following are the observations of the parents of the children

"Initially we approached the sailing with apprehension as to how we would cope out at sea. We were warned that it could get very cold, but we arrived to find the necessary clothing was organised through the Wheelchair Association. The children were quiet and shy initially, but gradually became more animated as the week progressed. On the Friday, the real highlight was a trip in the speed boat where Owen sat up driving and Emer kept falling off her seat but found this very funny!!"

"It took four days for the concept of steering to register. He would love the small boats and would have got the message much quicker if he fell into the sea"

"Staff were great and I'm sure they learned a lot from our kids"

"A great experience for Owen – he enjoyed the preparation of getting into the wet gear and loved being in the boat"

