

Newsletter



Early Learning Initiative
National College of Ireland

New Year's Resolutions

A New Year brings the opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and build on what we have learned. The Early Learning Initiative is no different. ELI has adapted and added many programmes in 2021 based on the feedback and learning we have received from children, young people, parents, professionals, our corporate partners, and government agencies. In the upcoming year, we invite you to continue to let us know how we can support you as your child's primary educator. We want to challenge ourselves to continue to enhance programmes for children, young people, and their families to achieve their educational, career and life goals.



Thinking of your own New Year's Resolutions, why not get involved in an activity that will help you and your family reach their full potential?

- Mam and Baby fitness classes may help you and your baby connect and become more active and healthy
- Home Visiting and Early Numeracy are perfect for engaging together with your child in learning and development
- S.T.E.M. programmes could open new opportunities for learning with your family
- Feeling connected to your local community could be supported through Restorative Practices and Restorative Parenting Groups

To keep in touch with us and see suggested activities, videos and tips for all ages, and access to online groups please Follow, Like & Share us on.

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/earlylearninginitiative
- Twitter: @ELI_Docklands
- Instagram: @earlylearninginitiative
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/early-learning-initiative

Whatever your new years resolutions are, ELI will continue to work with you, the local community, our corporate sponsors and government agencies to ensure that children, young people and their families continue to thrive in 2022.

E-Learning has been a major part of the educational journey for ELI in 2021. We want to continue to provide educational opportunities in a hybrid model that allows children, young people and families to engage in a meaningful way that will prepare you for the current and future world of education and work.

Thank you to you all for your continued support and participation. Thank you to our corporate partners and to Tusla and government agencies for the unwavering commitment to children and young people. We look forward to what 2022 will bring.

ABC 0-2 HOME VISITING PROGRAMME

As spring approaches, it's good to get out and about so baby gets as much fresh air as possible. Daylight benefits both parents and young children. From October 2021 our 0-2 Home Visiting team organised a monthly walk and talk morning for parents. The purpose is to support families to discover more of their community and visit places of interest. Keep an eye on our social media for our next walk and talk morning. You are welcome to join us. Please contact marion.byrne@ncirl.ie



PARENTCHILD+ PROGRAMME

As we continue to overcome the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Home Visiting team are looking forward to a new year and are excited to begin the process of returning to indoor visits. We have introduced new COVID procedures to keep everyone safe during face-to-face visits while continuing with video calls and outdoor visits too! Please contact Jennifer.oneill@ncirl.ie or Linda.McGrath@ncirl.ie



PARENTING 365 TODDLER GROUP

We look forward to our second term of Parenting 365, kindly funded by the RTE Toy Show Appeal. As part of this programme, families of children with developmental delays & additional needs are given a space to come together and support one another. Navigating the early intervention process can be a daunting and uncertain time for parents. This programme gives children the opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and inclusive environment, while parents benefit from support sessions with our Parenting Facilitator. Please contact jennifer.oneill@ncirl.ie



ABC 0-3 PARENTING SUPPORT GROUPS

New year, New you? Are you entering 2022 with a new baby, or adding to your growing family? Let's get active with our mam and baby fitness group! Suitable for babies aged 6 weeks to pre-mobile. Please bring your mat if possible. All levels catered for. Includes focus on post-natal fitness from 6 weeks+ (check with your doctor first). ELI classes are relaxed, friendly, and baby-led. Increase your fitness & have your baby with you- babies included in exercises where possible. Meet other Mams and babies. Our groups offer a safe space to share and gather information while having fun & laughter along the way. Please contact marie.boyne@ncirl.ie for more information.



NUMERACY



Support your child to learn valuable early math's skills by being their Numeracy Play Partner. Talk to your child about Numbers and Measures during everyday routine activities.

- Involve children in preparation at mealtimes, how many cups, plates, bowls, knives, forks, spoons, do we need?
- Encourage your child to match socks with patterns, talk about the shapes they see.
- When your child is putting on their shoes talk about their shoe size, look at the number on the label.
- When you are out for a walk talk about the numbers you see on the bus, door of homes etc. Please contact Claire.OBuachain@ncirl.ie



DOODLE DEN

One thing we all remember as a child is playing outdoors. One of the benefits of the pandemic was our fantastic outdoor sessions. Children's senses were naturally stimulated through the ever-changing sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and a touch of the world. There are endless opportunities for new experiences which are unavailable inside. We hope to continue with plenty of options to visit community gardens, woodlands, and parks in Dublin in 2022. Please contact Helen.Reynolds@ncirl.ie

STEM AND EARNING

Science is everywhere in the world around us. Technology is expanding into every aspect of our lives. Engineering is the basic design of roads, bridges, and structural developments. Maths is in every occupation and every activity in our daily lives. STEM education helps to bridge the gender gaps sometimes found in maths and science fields. STEM education Initiatives break the traditional gender roles. Decisions we make daily use an aspect of STEM to understand the world around us. Promoting STEM to families and the wider community will provide the skills needed to succeed in everyone's educational journeys. For more information on ELI STEM and eLearning programmes, including Coding Clubs. Please contact Julie.Booth1@ncirl.ie

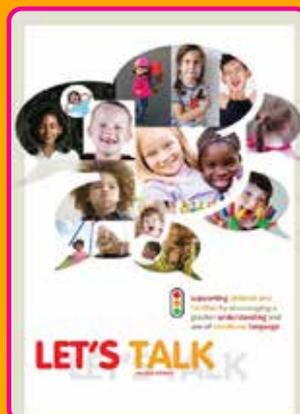


RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm is the responsibility of everyone in our society. Using restorative approaches in our day-to-day lives is the ideal way to ensure that they grow up in secure, stable and caring environments — supported by strong relationships. Whether restorative practices are proactive i.e. building relationships, or responsive i.e. maintaining relationships and repairing hurt or harm, caring about each other's wellbeing means:

- Engagement (checking-in with each other)
- Storytelling and sharing (what's happening – good or bad!)
- Identifying feelings
- Understanding impact (of our actions)
- Recognising needs
- Moving forward safely
- Support (can anyone else help us?)

Please contact Emma.Wheatley@ncirl.ie



EAL

Learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) is a huge challenge for migrant children in Irish schools. Students who do not master English are at risk of falling behind in school, which can have a major affect for their future academic success and job prospects. ELI is currently developing an EAL Support programmes for learners at second level, including English Language Café events, online Lessons (in conjunction with ListenHere. ie) and weekly English conversational classes, from January 2022. Please contact aine.kavanagh@ncirl.ie



