

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND UPSKILLING ( N = 247 PROFESSIONALS)

### National Centre- Home Visiting and Parent Support ( No = 1,515 Families)

#### Sláintecare

1,200 families received the Community Mothers Programmes across the 7 sites

'So many times, in today's society, we are afraid to admit that we are not coping, or that we think we've done something wrong. I never felt that with the Programme – I think it's really important.' Parent

### HIGH QUALITY RESTORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

#### ParentChild+ National

286 Families 340 outdoors

3,322 visits 1,500 video call visits

1,465 indoors 17 phone call visits



'The support we receive from ELI is fantastic. I don't know any other programme that gets up-to-date training and has a specialist at hand to discuss matters relating to the programme. It's amazing!' Coordinator

### My Place to Play National

152 Infant Mat Packs.  
146 Toddler Packs

'It gave myself n my daughter our lil space to interact together. And my daughter is so interested by the hedgehog eyes. It has caught her attention and I found she was very relaxed on it n interacted great with the girl from NCI while we worked together.' Parent

### ReThink Microcredentials

85 Home Visitors and Coordinators completed Level 6 and Level 7 ReThink Micorcredentials

'It was good to have time to discuss various real-world scenarios that people had dealt with and how they managed them. This was an opportunity to put our learning into practice. I would like to see more chance to do that.' Practitioner



### Volunteers

ELI are very thankful as always to our Volunteers who give their time to support the work we do.

162 Volunteers



'Great programme supporting development of communication and presentation skills, preparing students for public speaking and delivery of presentations. Provides motivation and enhances communication skills. A fantastic initiative adding real value to students.' Volunteer

### Conferences

ELI staff presented at 15 Conferences

ELI hosted 2 Webinars

# Who We Are

ELI enables children, their families and the community, to acquire the skills and self-confidence needed to fully benefit from the education system. We are continually pioneering programmes that aim to address the issue of low educational achievement.

Partner us to expand the minds, hopes and ambitions of this generation, and help them to develop the skills they need for success in education, employment and life.

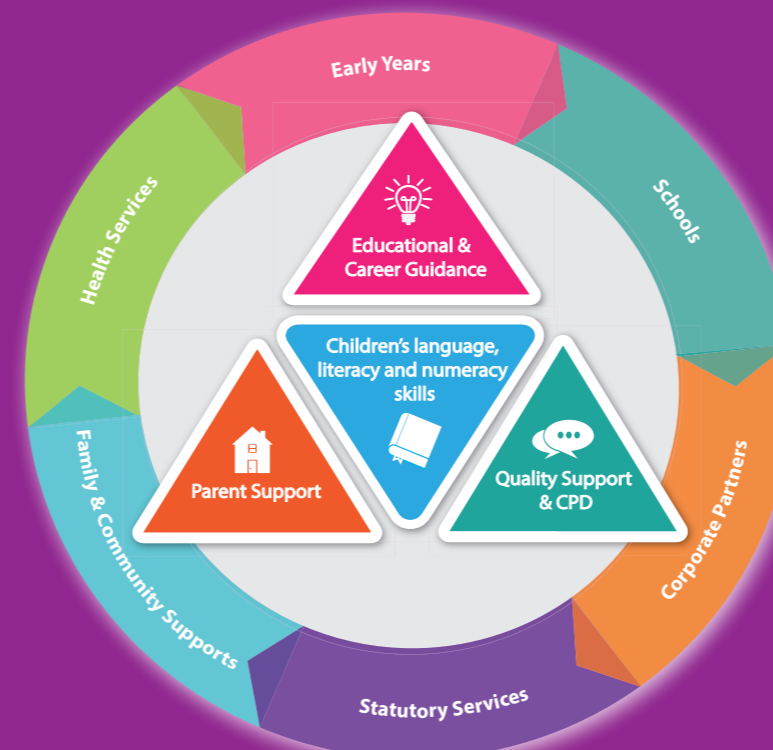
For more information on programmes and supports available in your area, please see below:

Website: [www.ncirl.ie/ELI](http://www.ncirl.ie/ELI)

Email: [eli@ncirl.ie](mailto:eli@ncirl.ie)

Twitter: @ELI\_Docklands

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/earlylearninginitiative](https://www.facebook.com/earlylearninginitiative)



## Early Learning Initiative National College of Ireland

We wish to thank all our socially- minded corporate, government and individual supporters as well as trusts and foundations (anonymous or otherwise) who play such an active role in the advancement of ELI. You are all making a difference to the children who will one day become Dublin's workers, leaders, and innovators.

### The Area Based Childhood Programme



Vol 5, Issue 7, September 2022

## Early Learning Initiative

# Newsletter Community Update 2021-22

2021-22 was a year of growth and challenges for the Early Learning Initiative. It was a challenging year as we dealt with the continued impact of COVID-19, increased waiting lists for disability services, the Ukrainian refugee crisis and cost of living increases for children and families across Ireland. However, it was also a year of fantastic growth where we reached more families locally and nationally through our new National Centre and Dublin's Inner-City programmes. The National Centre supports communities across Ireland to deliver home visiting programmes, while our Dublin's Inner City programmes deliver wrap-around inclusive services to local children and families.

Our focus on at-risk children continued with 14,835 people engaging in an ELI's programmes in 2021-22. Satisfaction rates and learning indicators remain high with children's language, literacies and cognitive skills continuing to improve. While 2021-22 was a turbulent year for many families, our wonderful partners helped ensure that children and young people flourished despite the many challenges. A huge thank you from ELI to those partners who continue to support the educational and career aspirations of communities across Ireland. 2021/2022 overview:

- 14,800+ people engaged with ELI programmes
- 7,400+ families
- 1,200+ professionals
- 5,669 engaged on social media
- 93% (n=1,063) were satisfied with their participation

Home visiting and family engagement programmes continued to provide support to families in 2021/22 with new programmes also being developed to support emerging needs of families. We developed programmes with a diverse range of families and children in mind, in particular children with additional needs who face long waiting lists for assessments and services. New programmes include Parenting365, Stretch Graduate, NEIC Childhood Restored, NEIC Parenting Coordinator and My Place to Play Toddler.

With our support, we are confident that families and children will continue to do well over the coming year and years to come. Despite the challenges that we continue to face in communities across Ireland, we know that children and young people can thrive with the support of their families. ELI and our partners are delighted to be included on your family's educational and career journeys. So please don't be a stranger, reach out to any of our ELI team to hear more about how your family can be involved in our programmes.

Our End-of-Year Report 2021/22 is available on our website: [www.ncirl.ie/eli](http://www.ncirl.ie/eli). To keep up to date throughout the year, please connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

REG. CHY 9928



Together we are supporting children and families to thrive

ELI would like to acknowledge and thank all our wonderful partners. We look forward to working with you in the best interests of children and families in 2021/22.

- 6,683 parents and family members for your inspiring commitment to your children
- 1,222 professionals from community, statutory, voluntary, and corporate organisations for your ongoing commitment and support
- 40+ corporate organisations, trusts, and foundations for your sustained investment in ELI programmes and services
- Irish Government for your generous support and ongoing commitment through the Dublin Docklands and East Inner-City Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme, Tusla, Children and Young People's Services Committees, Rethink Ireland, The Ireland Funds, The Community Foundation for Ireland, and the North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative

[www.ncirl.ie/ELI](http://www.ncirl.ie/ELI)



## HOME VISITING AND PARENT SUPPORT ( NO 1,452 FAMILIES)

Positive playful home learning environment

### ABC 0-2 Home Visiting Programme

'This programme helped me to cope with the pressure as new mam and supported me during my maternity leave which actually impacts all mams mentally. It helped me to meet other mams and build a circle to share the challenges I am facing. And it is great way for my little one to engage with other babies in different kind of sessions.' Parent



'Just that I really appreciate the support and the work my home visitor does. She's amazing, kind, caring, approachable, very understanding and has not only supported my daughter but also me, she has been great, and I just think that should be acknowledged.' Parent

1,393 Visits  
446 Video Calls  
121 Phone Calls  
134 Families

365 Socially distanced face-to-face visits

### Stretch Graduate Programme

111 Visits  
3 Video Calls  
46 Phone Calls  
20 Families

'The family loved engaging in the activities, and they continued to play with the toy last time after I left.' Home Visitor

'I really enjoyed cooking course and now looking for something else to do.' Parent

### Parenting365

66 Families 3 x 6 week programme of Parent and Toddler groups and Parent Support Groups

'The ladies who worked this group made this group what it was - they were so kind and caring and I am so grateful for all of them and how accepting they were of all of our children.' Parent



'This programme had helped me, first of all, to connect and interact with parents with similar difficulties in coping with parenting. This programme also helped me understand my child's behaviour, at a different level, through professional guidance and advice. And not the last, throughout this programme I've learned how to better care for myself in order to be able to care for the others.' Parent

### Groups

16 Groups  
6 Summer Programme Events

269 Families



'What I like best about the group was meeting and chatting with other mams.' Parent

'It is fun, motivating, relaxing, a highlight of my week!' Parent

### Home from Home Dublin's Inner City

225 Visits  
40 Outdoor Visits

132 Indoor Visits  
5 Video Call Visits

4 Phone Call Visits  
14 Families



'If there is a continuous I would love for more story telling as reading it was one of the highlights. Now my son does not go a day without a book be it old or something new.' Parent

### ParentChild+ Dublin's Inner City



8,638 Visits  
4,052 Indoor Visits

156 Families  
206 Outdoor Visits

1,029 Video Call visits  
29 Phone Call Visits

'The amazing dedication that each person gives. Starting from the ladies from Early learning program to my home visitor. The books and toys are plus however the best part is the dedication and love that they put in what they do.' Parent

### RP Parenting

60 Families

'I found listening to others say how they were feeling made me realise I wasn't on my own. Everyone was so supportive.' Parent

'Overall, I'm more patient with myself and will show my child that I'm just a human too - I get upset/angry and make mistakes. It's always okay to feel but we can manage our emotions better sometimes. Loved the course. Would definitely recommend to others.' Parent

### My Place to Play Dublin's Inner City

528 Families

'Encourages me to introduce tummy time and create space even in small room for baby.' Parent

### NEIC Parenting Champion

20 Families

'When I heard the facilitator talk about 'Self Care' that's what sold the programme to me.' Parent

10 One to One Parent Support Sessions

5 Parenting Courses

## MULTIPLE LITERACIES (N = 2,581 CHILDREN)

Language, literacy, numeracy, social and coding skills

### Early Numeracy

1103 Children

'They love this Gelli sensory play!! It's amazing and loads of language being used!' Educator



'The teachers love using the sequence cards provided with the numeracy resources they are using them as part of their language curriculum lesson plans.' Educator

64 NUmeracy CPD

### Zoom Ahead with Books

1,034 (976 in ZAWB and 57 in Virtual Book Club)



'I enjoyed drawing with my mammy.' Child(ZAWB)

7,172 Books Read  
'Thank you so much for sending us this book, we loved it. The video was great too. Hopefully the museum will be open soon so we can go back again with the book. Have a lovely day.' Parent(Virtual Book Club)

### NCI Challenges

24 Children

'My favourite part was putting all the numbers together and taking them off.' Student



'My favourite part was when I won!' Student

### NEIC Childhood Restored

7 Schools Workshops

1 Artist  
164 Children

'I really enjoyed looking at other people's projects, drawing and painting and meeting the artist.' Student



1 Poet  
'It opened the flood gates for them to talk amongst themselves about it, mentioned all the good and all the bad. It's always a sign of a successful project when it's still talked about after it's finished.' Educator

### Doodle Den



'My son wished he could be young again and do Doodle Den and that he loved that time.' Parent

95 Children  
'We will miss it so much because we like it better than school.' Children

### STEM Family Learning and Coding Clubs

'The main benefit is that they will have an early exposure to robotics and lots of technologies that will be used on their professional careers and everyday lives.' Parent (Coding)

161 Children



2 Families Stretch Home Learning, 5 Families e-Learning, 29 Families STEM Play & Learn, 28 Families at 4 STEM events (microscope, 3D printing, STEM in environment, Sequence and Pattern in STEM), 43 Families Virtual Robotic Coding Club, 54 children Robotic Coding CLUB through schools and services.

'It was a new area of learning for my child. He didn't know anything about microscopes, but the event really got him thinking and sparked his interest.' Parent (STEM)

## EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE (N= 639 YOUNG PEOPLE)

Educational, career and life aspirations

### Language Cafes, Tuition Support and English Speaking Sessions

2 Language Cafes (Spanish and Irish)

'I got higher than mostly everyone in my class [and] I just want to thank you so much for helping me. I'm so proud of how far I've come thank you for teaching me every week.' Student (Tuition Support)

95 Young People



'Yeah, I like to do the English programme every Wednesday and it's good because I can improve my English more and I can have opportunity to speak every Wednesday...It improves my words in English, like, some of the words I don't know I can ask someone, I can ask the person from there.' Student (EAL Speaking Sessions)

### Educational and Career Guidance

456 Young People

'There were a lot of different people with different backgrounds, and it was interesting to listen to each of them. Like, I don't think I've ever heard a farmer talk about their career before in my life.' Student(A Day in The Life)



'We split the jobs and were planning out what we were going to write and what we were going to do a day before we put all the stuff together.' Student (Ed Guidance)

### Discover University



38 Young People

'I made so many friends here' Student

'Discover University has given me confidence and helped me think about college for my future.' Student

### Restorative Practice with Children and Young People

284 Professionals engaging in RP CPD and training



50 Young People

'Restorative Practice is giving me the assurance that sometimes difficult conversations may need to be had to move things forward, and the tools to do this. It has built my confidence in looking to use restorative practice to overcome difficult situations where maybe before I might have just got annoyed or walked away.' Practitioner

'Restorative Practices is supporting my personal development and self-awareness, which in turn help me both personally and professionally. Through the RP training, I am also learning specific theory that can guide me in my interactions with others, professionally and personally and support higher quality relationships develop.' Practitioner