



Newsletter

UPDATE

NEIC PARENTING PROGRAMME - WHY SHOULD PARENTS BE CONNECTED?

Positive outcomes for children are linked to their parent's interactions & relationships with others. The quality of parents interactions & connections with their community, society & access to services influences child & family wellbeing. Families need to be supported by quality services & amenities in their community to build & strengthen social networks. NEIC Parenting Programme Coordinator works with local parents to connect them to programmes and other supports in the area, to help them support their children to develop the skills needed to face adversity. Parenting programmes also provide parents with a support network of peers & professionals to build & strengthen parenting skills. We are currently inviting parents to take part in a Parents forum, which is a space for parents to have their voice heard and ensure programmes & support are responsive to their needs & experiences. For more information on NEIC Parenting Programmes, contact imelda.okeeffe@ncirl.ie

Connection

The energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.

Brené Brown

RESTORATIVE PARENTING

Participants engaged in the programme really value the opportunity to connect with other parents. Their need for connection, understanding, being listened to are supported through provision of a safe and non-judgemental space. Parents really value being able to share their parenting experiences and normalise some of their challenges and by doing so, feel less alone and equipped with more understanding of themselves and their families. They also come away with new ways of strengthening their relationships with their children and partners. For more information on RP Parenting, contact Sonya.Goulding@ncirl.ie

RETHINK 1ST GRADUATION

This month, our first group of Home Visitors from Dublin's Inner City and National sites across Ireland graduated from the first ever professional QQI-approved Home Visiting course at the National College of Ireland. Our fantastic Home Visitors not only completed the course but designed it, all while continuing to support children and families during a pandemic! Congratulations to all involved on such a fantastic achievement.



Connections form the very basis of our society. From birth, we strive to make connections with others and the world around us. All our individual connections create strong communities, but the pandemic disrupted our ability to connect with each other. Over the past two years, communities around the world have thought of creative ways to connect with each other when our usual ways were interrupted. Whether it was holding a street party, going shopping for your neighbour or having zoom quizzes, we tried and tested it all! For some people making connections during the pandemic was hard and that is OK. This is a normal response to stress. As we learn to live with COVID19, the ELI wants to celebrate connections and reconnections. Over the past academic year, we have continued to support children, young people and their families by reconnecting through indoor/in-person work.



Here are some of the programmes we are currently running:

- Home Visiting programmes and other Parent Support: 0-2 programme, Parent Support Groups (0-5 years), ParentChild+ (16months-3.5 years), Restorative Parenting Courses (pre-birth-12 years) and Stretch Graduate Programme (4+).
- Parenting365: connecting children with a diagnosed or suspected developmental delay or disability and their families to tailored support.
- Literacy and Numeracy: Doodle Den (Senior Infants), Early Numeracy Programme (0-8 years) and Zoom Ahead with Books (3-8 years)
- STEM and Educational Guidance: Coding (8-12 years), STEM family and Career e-Learning, STEM events, card challenges, maths Irish Tuition Support (junior and leaving cert) and Educational Guidance (primary and secondary school).
- Language Support: Tuition Support (junior and leaving cert), Language Cafes and English Speaking Sessions (12-18 years).
- Capacity building: Numeracy mentoring in early years settings (0-8 years), Restorative Practices and the NEIC Parenting Initiative.
- ELI National: keep an eye on our social media channels to hear more about how we are bringing learning and research from Dublin's Inner City to communities across Ireland.

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
- Website: www.ncirl.ie/ELI

THANK YOU

Partnerships with Corporates, Government Bodies, Trusts, Foundations and generous individual supporters are all fundamental to the lasting change that ELI is making in the Dublin Docklands Community. We wish to thank all of our socially minded supporters who are journeying with children, families and young people towards success. For more information on how you, your company or your network can support the Early Learning Initiative please contact Mary Anne Stokes, Development & Volunteering officer: maryanne.stokes@ncirl.ie

The Area Based Childhood Programme



Whatever way you want to connect with us, the 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 have the support they need to feel part of a connected community.

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. Let's get connected!

ABC 0-2 HOME VISITING PROGRAMME

Becoming a parent often brings with it a need to make new connections within their community. Our ABC 0-2 Home Visiting programme can help families to build these connections. Our home visitors are always there to help sign post parents to other groups and services within the area. For more information on the 0-2 Programme, contact marion.byrne@ncirl.ie



PARENTCHILD+ PROGRAMME

ParentChild+ home visitors and families are really enjoying visits back in the home! Connecting with the families face to face strengthens the bond and professional relationship for all involved. We are delighted to say that home visitors are once again out and about within our community making connections and promoting ELI programmes. For more information on the ParentChild+ Programme, contact Linda.McGrath@ncirl.ie or jennifer.oneill@ncirl.ie



ABC 0-3 GROUPS

0-3 Groups have really enjoyed the return to in-person activities after such a long time online. Being face to face really enhances the holistic experience of coming to a group and helps parents make connections within their community. We are in the planning process of establishing a bilingual (Mandarin and English) storytelling and playgroup which we are very excited about! We look forward to seeing you all over the coming months. For more information on Groups, contact Marie.Boyne@ncirl.ie



PARENTING 365 TODDLER GROUP

Children with developmental delays or additional needs may sometimes find it harder than their peers to connect with others because of delays in speech and language or social communication. Their parents often find themselves isolated and have limited access to other parents who may be having similar experiences. Parenting 365 provides a safe, inclusive space for these families to connect with each other. Our Parenting 365 Play Group provides a warm, welcoming space for children to explore their abilities and reach their full potential through the wonder of play. For more information on Parenting 365, contact jennifer.oneill@ncirl.ie



NUMERACY

ELI's numeracy-themed week in February provided an opportunity to reconnect with children and staff in schools and early years services with onsite visits taking place to see the 'Numeracy Learning in Action'. This was a great opportunity to see the children enjoying the resources and learning early maths skills through play and fun with their friends. For more information on Early Numeracy Programme, contact Claire.OBuachain@ncirl.ie



DOODLE DEN

Doodle Den children and parents from Rutland Street NS were delighted to reconnect with Charleville Mall library last month as restrictions were lifted. Our lovely Librarian had the children engrossed in the story she read and afterwards, everyone had a lively discussion about different places around the world. Every child left with their own brand new library card. It's so good to be back in the library!

For more information on Doodle Den, contact Helen.Reynolds@ncirl.ie

STEM

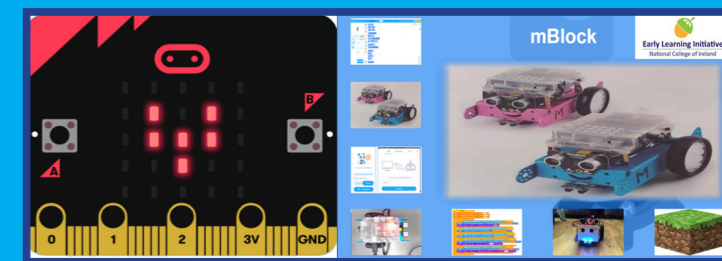
It's been such an uplifting experience having our robotic Coding Club back running face to face in two local services. There's great connection, positivity, and community spirit amongst all involved. Services have been so supportive and are working in collaboration with the Early Learning Initiative to ensure children are having a meaningful and enjoyable learning experience. Children have been learning how to navigate the computer keyboard, download the software, build mbots and of course, code! St Laurence O'Tooles primary school even had the opportunity to have their coding event onsite! It was fantastic to see the parents attend the event with great excitement and joy amongst all involved. For more information on Coding Club, contact Julie.Booth1@ncirl.ie

CHILDHOOD RESTORED

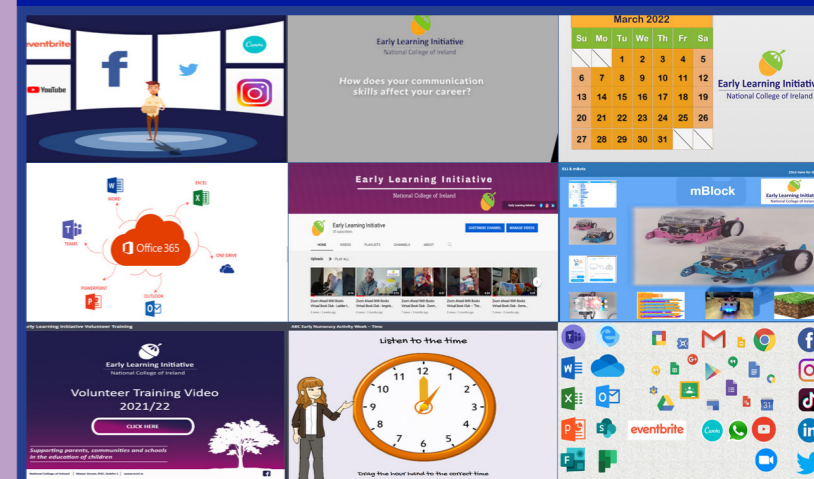
Childhood Restored is a community arts project generously funded by the NEIC



that aims to give primary school children a safe space in which to express their feelings about the pandemic, through art and creative writing. With the help of a visiting community artist and writer, children will create stories and artworks that will be compiled into a book of collective experiences and published. A community exhibition of the artwork and stories will be held in NCI in June and all are welcome to attend. We'd love to see you there! For more information on Childhood Restored, contact rhonda.hill@ncirl.ie



TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIONS



Technology plays an important part in developing connections, both within our team in ELI and with the communities that we work in. Reviewing our own technology practices and exploring e-Learning opportunities will provide us with new ways to connect with each other. Stay tuned to learn how we are incorporating E-learning into our programmes over the coming months! For more information on E-learning, contact fergal.otoole@ncirl.ie

Restorative Practice

Calling All Teachers: Our Restorative Practice summer courses are back face-to-face this summer, don't miss out! ELI will be delivering our Drumcondra Education Centre accredited summer courses for teachers face-to-face in National College of Ireland in July and August.

Restorative Practices for Classrooms and School Communities July 4th to 8th 2022 and August 15th to 19th 2022

For more information, contact: emma.wheatley@ncirl.ie

DISCOVER UNIVERSITY



We are so excited to have Discover University back on campus again this year! Discover University is a 6-day summer programme held in NCI that aims to give young people aged 14-17 from Dublin's Inner City the opportunity to experience a taste of life at university. Students choose one of four subjects (Business, Computing, Early Childhood Education or Psychology) and work in groups to complete a project in their chosen subject. They also attend lectures, workshops, and lots of other fun activities! The programme includes visits to exciting and innovative companies in the Dublin Docklands to show how higher education translates into the working world. The programme will run from June 23rd to 30th this year and is free of charge. Students can apply online from mid-May at <https://bit.ly/3JecFJa>. For more information on Discover University, contact andrew.dineen@ncirl.ie