



Newsletter

Community Update 2022-23

The Early Learning Initiative focuses on supporting children and families to thrive in education, career and life.

2022-23 was a challenging year, with the impact of long waiting lists for children with additional needs, the on-going refugee crisis, homelessness, and cost of living increases for children and families across Ireland. However, working together we reached more families locally and nationally through our Dublin's Inner-City programmes and National Centre. During 2022-23, we engaged 16,433 people across Ireland. Satisfaction rates and learning indicators remain high, with children's language, literacies and cognitive skills continuing to improve. We also saw the full return of face-to-face delivery of all programmes post-pandemic.

Our home visiting and family engagement programmes provided support to families during 2022-23. New pilot programmes were also developed to address emerging needs, including for young people learning English as Additional Language (EAL) and Trauma Sensitive Sessions for children who have experienced trauma.

A huge thank you from ELI to our partners who continue to support the educational and career aspirations of communities in Dublin's Inner-City and across Ireland.

Our full End-of-Year Report 2022-23 is available on our website: www.ncirl.ie/eli. To keep up to date throughout the year, please connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.



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 2023-24.

- **8,474** parents and family members for your inspiring commitment to your children
- **1,562** professionals from community, statutory, voluntary and corporate organisations for your ongoing commitment and support
- **24** corporate organisations 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, HSE, Children and Young People's Services Committees, Rethink Ireland, The Community Foundation for Ireland, and the North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative.



16,433
Participants Engaged



Indicators of Satisfaction
(94%, n= 2,441)



Indicators of Learning
(91%, n= 2,138)



7,885
Parents Engaged



165
Volunteers Engaged



24 Corporate Partners
Supporting ELI



13,975
Home Visits Completed



379
Meetings Attended

DUBLIN'S INNER-CITY - HOME VISITING AND PARENT SUPPORT (1448 = NO FAMILIES)

Positive playful home learning environment

Home Visiting Programmes

Programme	Children	Parents
ABC 0-2 Home Visiting Programme (0-2 years)	130	195
ABC ParentChild+ (18-36 months)	143	207
Home From Home	27	41
Stretch Graduate Programme	40	40
Total - Home Visiting	340	483

Total - Home Visiting **340** **483**

ABC Parent Support Programmes

Programme	Children	Parents
ABC Parenting Group Support Sessions (0-3 years)	544	544
ABC 0-3 Summer Programme (0-3 years)	140	140
Restorative Parenting (0-11 years)	0	98
Parenting365	73	91
NEIC Parenting Programme	0	192

Total - Parent Support **757** **1,065**



Home Visiting Programme Dublin's Inner City

"For the first time I didn't feel alone and learnt a lot about different needs. It's been amazing talking to the staff and hearing their experiences" - Parent

Parenting365

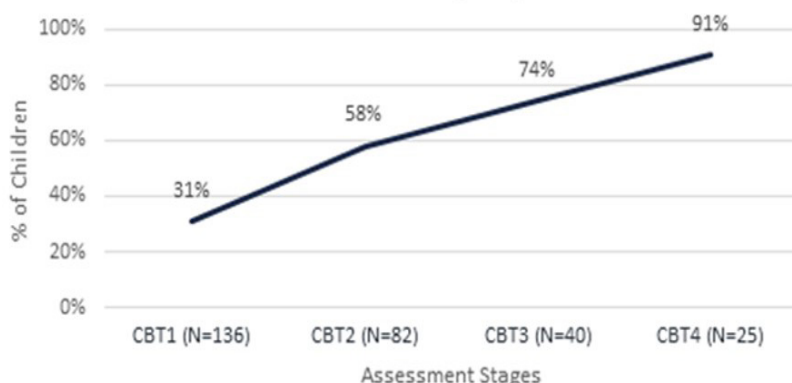
"The programme is very helpful. It showed me how to read and play with my son, and how to help him learn through play. I also got a lot of information and tips about my child too." - Parent



RP Parenting

"I am better able to respond kindly to challenging behaviours. Breathing practice and meditating more has brought clarity." - Parent

ParentChild+ 2022-23 Child Observational Assessments (CBT)



Groups



"It is great for not only the babies to engage and interact with other babies but for the parents and coordinators of the group to share their own experiences of motherhood" - Parent attending Read, Rattle and Roll

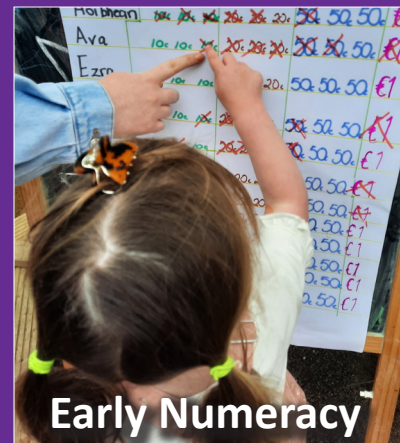
MULTIPLE LITERACIES (N = 3,486 CHILDREN)

Language, literacy, numeracy, social and coding skills

Literacies & STEM Programmes

Children Parents

Early Numeracy Project (0-8 years)	1,215	1,823
Zoom Ahead with Books (4-6 yrs)	1,023	1,535
Virtual Book Club	61	92
Doodle Den (Senior Infants)	100	150
STEM Play & Learn	24	36
NCI Challenges	677	1,016
Family STEM Learning Events (6-9 yrs)	78	70
e-Learning Programme	0	0
Robotic Coding Club (afterschools)	112	23
Tuition Support (15-18 years)	49	0
Language Cafe Events	78	0
English Speaking Sessions/Talking Heads	51	0
Totals	3,468	4,745



Early Numeracy

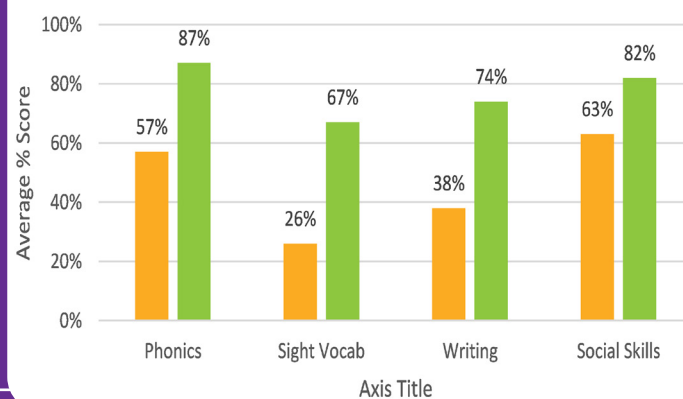
"The activities done in the school and the activity cards both worked really well in developing numeracy skills in my child" - Parent

Doodle Den



"The learning, activities + Friendships [and] the doodle den teachers involved were brilliant." Parent

Doodle Den Assessments Comparison 2022-2023



Zoom Ahead with Books



"The increased parental involvement was so enjoyable for the children. Also, it prepared them a bit for starting primary school when they would be doing homework together. Children's emotional language language developed greatly." - Teacher

STEM Family Learning and Coding Clubs



"The whole event was brilliantly organised for both parents and the children. Staff made everyone very welcome. Interaction by staff with children was excellent" -Parent

Talking Heads



"I think is good for me and it's helped me a lot and teach how to speak in English with other people" - Student from English speaking lessons"

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE (N = 612 YOUNG PEOPLE)

Educational, career and life aspirations

Educational and Career Guidance

Children Parents

Educational Guidance (5th/6th class)	236	0
Educational Guidance Exhibition (secondary)	87	5
A Day in the Life Events	107	0
Discover University (14-17 years)	38	17
Restorative Practice Children and Young People	144	0
Totals	612	22

"I learned a lot about how people go through life, get jobs and even swap careers. I also found out the intricacies of different jobs and found it really interesting" - Student

Discover University

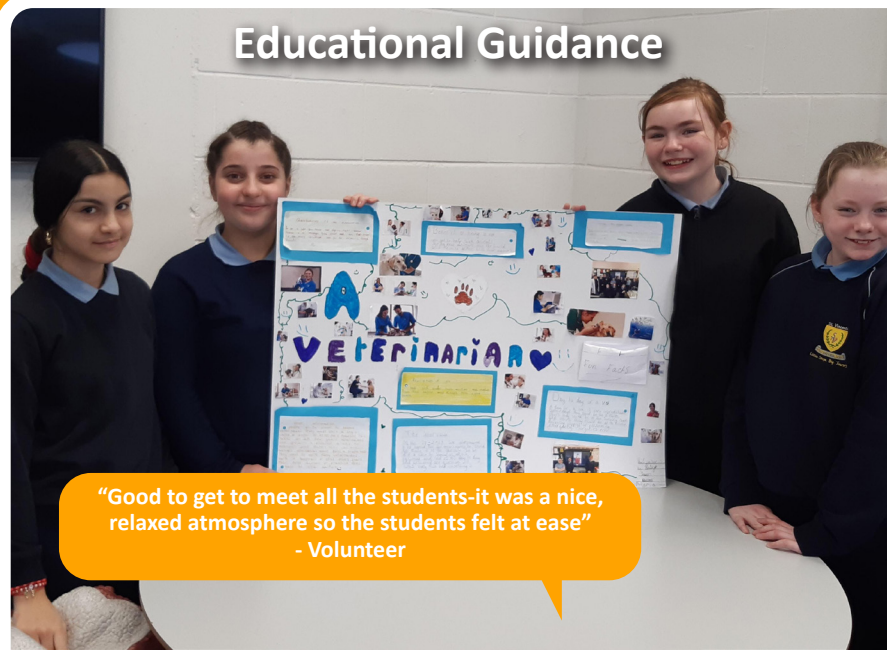
"I liked how the set-up of the programme provided a basic scaffold or framework rather than a rigid plan, and within that, there was a lot of room for things to evolve and change. I think this is valuable for responding to students' strengths, interests and needs." -Project Leader



Restorative Practice with Children and Young People

"The workshop taught me how to communicate better and see things from a different point of view." - Student

Educational Guidance



"Good to get to meet all the students-it was a nice, relaxed atmosphere so the students felt at ease" - Volunteer

NATIONAL CENTRE- HOME VISITING AND PARENT SUPPORT (NO = 1,776 FAMILIES)

Positive playful home learning environment



Home Visiting Alliance

Scaling home visiting across Ireland through our partnerships with Government, Tusla, HSE and Home Visiting Alliance as part of the First Five's forthcoming national approach, continues to be a priority.

ParentChild+ National

"[I think what works well is] the child having uninterrupted time with parent and home visitor. I always notice a change in my child after the sessions especially after an arts and craft sessions or getting to use his imagination. I think the freedom for the child to interact without distraction from either of the adults is invaluable and something I try to aim for each day." - Parent



"It was an excellent play area for baby with traditional toys which baby enjoyed. it helped me realise the importance of play for young children." - Parent

My Place to Play National

National Centre

ParentChild+ and Home From Home (18-36 months)
Sláintecare Community Families (over 7 sites nationally)
My Place to Play
Home Visiting Alliance
Research & CRM Projects

Families Professionals

466 92
971 30
1,377 216
0 389
133 0
2,946 727

Total

CAPACITY BUILDING AND UPSKILLING

(N = 291 PROFESSIONALS)

High quality restorative
learning environments

1,132 staff engaged in CPD
with 16 staff engaged
in accredited courses



ELI staff presented at **17** conferences

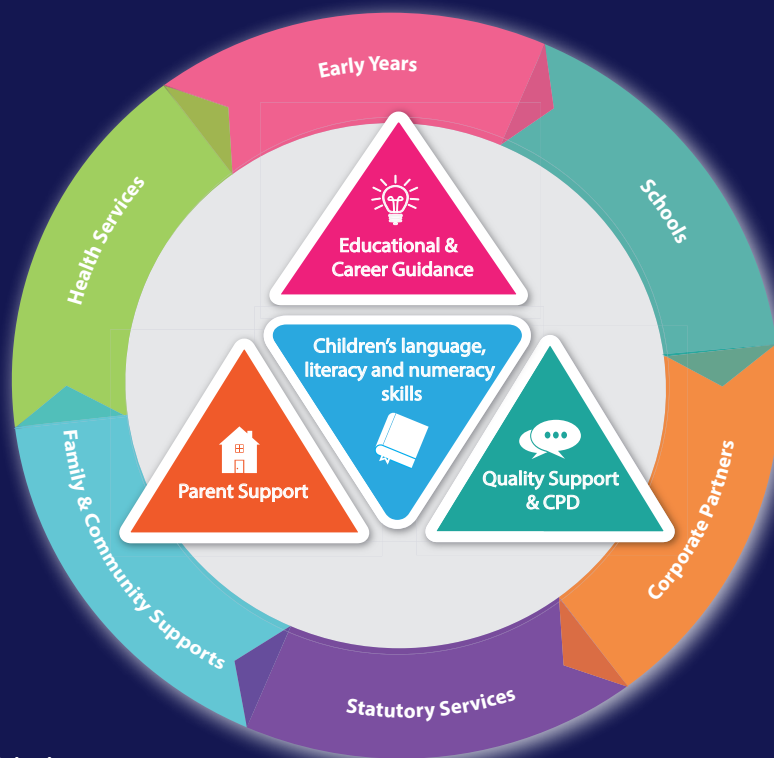
"Wonderful
experience very
good support,
fantastic
preparation
and impressive
students" -
Discover University
Volunteer

165
Volunteers

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.

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/earlylearninginitiative



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.

www.idonate.ie

