

Early Learning Initiative

Newsletter



DOODLE DEN

The four library visits that took place in April in Charleville Mall library were a great success. We would like to thank all library staff for hosting the lovely and enjoyable story telling sessions and KPMG who gave their time to volunteer. Pictured here is Lara from Charleville Mall Library with Doodle Den children.

Congratulations 0-2 ABC Programme



Our ABC 0-2 Home Visiting and Parent Support Programme are delighted to be recognised as finalists in the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards, Healthcare Initiative - Child Health and Wellbeing - Clinic/Specialised Centre. This was the first year for this category to be added to the awards sponsored by the Katharine Howard Foundation. Well done to the team, it was great recognition.

This April we also reached another milestone as family number 100 started on our Home Visiting programme since it began in October 2015.

CODING CLUB

'Learning about electronics and robotics with Deloitte volunteer mentors in the ELI Afterschool Coding Club'



NUMERACY WEEK MAY 2018



Our final numeracy week will be in May from Monday 28th to Friday 1st June 2018. The theme is 'Counting'. We will be focusing on supporting the children to learn how to 'Count' during daily activities eg, Counting steps when walking or climbing the stairs.

Let's Support Parental Involvement by:

- Encouraging parents to get involved in the numeracy fun by informing them about the theme 'counting'.
- Chat to parent's about how they can support their child's learning in the home and tell them about the home activity cards.
- Give parents the opportunity to share information with you about what learning is taking place at home.
- Encourage parents to visit their local library with their children and look for books on counting.



Zoom Ahead with Books

Thanks to our wonderful corporate volunteers from the Central Bank of Ireland and Citco who supported this year's Zoom Ahead with Books. Children and volunteers came together as book buddies to read, play and draw together during March and April, before exhibiting their artwork during exhibitions in May.

10 Year Celebration Continues - #LOVEducation

Thank you everyone who wished us a Happy Birthday in January. It was wonderful to catch up with all of our supporters along with our first PCHP children and their families at ELI's birthday celebrations in January and again at our Love Education Showcase on April 30th. As these children enter second level, we are looking at what support they need to continue to third level and beyond. Find out more in this issue about our Educational Support Fund; Discover University and our Love Education Event on 30th April.

10 Year Celebration Continues - #LOVEducation

ELI's 10 year celebration continue with our Early Years Conference on the theme 'The Constitutional Role of Parents as the Primary Educators of their Children' on 13th June. Paschal Donohue, TD and Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform will be the keynote speaker on the role of fathers in their children's education. It will be interesting to hear how he manages a parenting-work-life balance. Since 2008, fathers' involvement in ELI's programme has grown enormously and it is wonderful to see so many active interested fathers at our events.

ELI has experienced rapid growth over the past ten years with the number of participants growing from 400 in 2008 to 9,188 in 2018. ELI's long-term strategy is based on improving its existing programmes - Home Visiting, Parent and Professional Support, Robotic Coding, Restorative Practice and Educational Guidance - as well as developing new ones to ensure that our children and young people have the skills they need for tomorrow's world.

Nobody can predict the future, but we can say that our children will need self-confidence, resilience, a wide range of literacies and transferable skills if they are to thrive and flourish.

In June 2019, a consultation process to develop our 2020-2025 strategy will begin. Looking to the future, we welcome the contribution of all our partners and hope, with your support, to build on our success in improving educational outcomes for children, young people and their families in the area.



Thank you to everyone involved in the Love Education showcase at the National College of Ireland. The showcase was a collaboration between the Early Learning Initiative, Tusla and the North East Inner City Taskforce to highlight the positive aspects of education in local schools and services in the North East Inner City.

Thank you to all of the schools, services, children, young people and adult learners who took the time to create posters which presented their greatest achievements to date and their hopes for the future. It is great to see so many innovative approaches to education in the community.

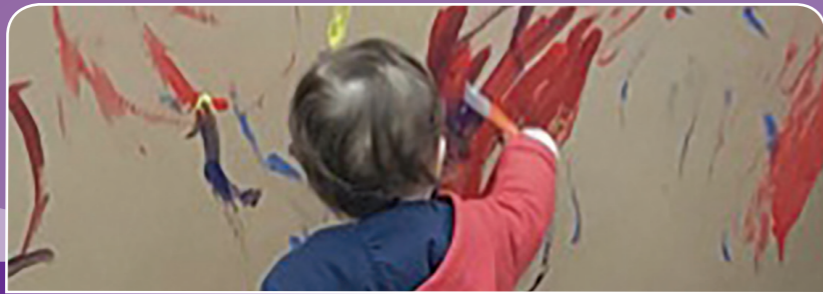
And thank you to all of our corporate partners for highlighting the link between education and employment. It was a valuable opportunity for children and young people to have discussions with professionals in the working world and learn more about education and career paths.



Corporate, government and individual support is fundamental to our success. We wish to thank all of our socially minded corporate, government and individual supporters, including: Dermot Desmond, Joseph E. Corcoran, David and Michele Joy, Keith Ennis, Colin and Nikki Ryan, The Winifred Garvin Fund, and those who wish to remain anonymous, who play such an active role in the advancement of ELI.

The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013-2018





Parent Child Home Programme – Creative Event

On March 23rd the Parent Child Home Programme held their annual Creative Play event for families in phase one of the programme. The event saw a range of open-ended activities set out for children and their families to enjoy - such as arts and crafts (painting, drawing, gluing), shadow puppet making, play dough, sand play, gloop, Rice Krispies and shredder paper play to name but a few. The benefits of these types of play are hugely significant for early learning and development- for example, while playing with sand the children are discovering new concepts such as texture, weight, volume, capacity and other early mathematical and scientific concepts. Parents gained an understanding of the value of undirected creative and messy play experiences for their child.

Links to Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework: Communicating: Aim 4: Children will express themselves creatively and imaginatively

Let's Talk Books

January saw the launch of our 'Let's Talk' book, which was funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Dublin North East Inner City Initiative. This book supports children and their families by encouraging a greater understanding and use of emotional language. Using restorative practices as a framework, this book inspires people to express their feeling and their emotional literacy skills. Restorative practices allow us to feel valued, respected, safe and healthy. Watch out later this year, for our up and coming Let's Talk workshops for parents, early year's educators and teachers.



Past PCHP Children and their Home Visitors with Gina Quin (President of NCI) launching the Let's Talk book.



Minister Katherine Zappone, NCI President Gina Quin and Dr Josephine Bleach, with children from the Parent Child Home programme officially launching the Let's Talk book.

Children: Ellis Carabini and Maya rose Miller Moran.

Using Restorative Practices to Strengthen Positive Classroom and School Norms

Summer Course for Primary and Post-Primary Teachers

Continuing Professional Development

EXTRA PERSONAL VACATION (EPV) ACCREDITED

Two courses are available this summer, and will take place from 10am to 3pm each day from the 2nd of July to the 6th of July 2018, and the 20th of August to the 24th of August 2018 in the National College of Ireland, Mayor Street, Dublin 1.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to provide an introduction to the philosophy and processes of Restorative Practices (RP), and thereby inspire and enable the participant teachers to create and maintain a positive relational environment in the classroom and school as a whole.

This course is being funded by the ABC Programme through the Early Learning Initiative and as such is free of charge to those schools and teachers participating in ELI programmes. For further information and/or booking enquires please contact Emma Wheatley on 01 4498713 or Emma.Wheatley@ncirl.ie



Discover University

Discover University is back to give students a taste of life at National College of Ireland with the chance to try out one of four projects: Business, Computing, Early Years (NEW!) and Psychology (NEW!), with lectures, company visits and lots of other fantastic activities! The 2018 programme runs from Tuesday 19th – Wednesday 27th June (excluding the weekend).

For more information on how to apply, please contact Aine Kavanagh at aine.kavanagh@ncirl.ie or by phone on 01-4498757, or check our website for details.

Thanks!



We were delighted this year to distribute the ELI support fund to young people in Dublin's Inner City. This fund was provided by a very generous donor with the aim of supporting students in achieving their educational goals. Funds were distributed for educational equipment, extra-curricular activities and educational assessments to young people in 4th class in primary school up to 6th year in secondary school.