



Newsletter

Early Learning Initiative
National College of Ireland

Welcome to the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme Improving outcomes for children and their families

Have you spotted the new logos yet?

Our ABC programme, which is funded through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies, is now officially up and running.

Through the ABC Programme, the Government is directly helping children and young people in the Docklands and East Inner City to reach their full potential in all areas of learning and development.

A big welcome to the children and families from Summerhill, Ballybough, Mountjoy Square and Baggot St who have joined our Parent Child Home Programme, Zoom Ahead with Books and Early Numeracy Programmes. We are delighted that you are involved and hope that you enjoy talking, reading and playing with the rest of your community. Preparations are also underway for the introduction for new programmes.

1 0-2 Years Programme

With the support of the HSE and Tusla, a programme for parents with children aged 0-2 years is being developed. Just like PCHP, it is aimed at parents who are interested in supporting their children's well-being and development from an early age. If you are a parent with a child aged 0-2 years and are interested in the programme, please contact us here in ELI.

2 Restorative Practice

This programme aims to build strong, happy communities and to manage conflict or tensions by actively developing good relationships and resolving conflict in a healthy manner. It has been run very successfully by CDI in Tallaght, who are supporting local services and organisations to use Restorative Practice to build a stronger and safer community for everyone.

3 Doodle Den

Doodle Den aims to improve literacy among children (5-6 years) using a wide range of activities in an after school setting. It hoped that, following training by CDI in Tallaght, this programme will run in various services across the community in September.

4 Meitheal Practice Model

One of the great strengths of ELI has been our network of over 2,278 parents, public health nurses, early years and after school services, schools, community, statutory and corporate organisations, who have worked with us to ensure that children will have the aspirations, skills and qualifications needed to achieve their dreams.

As part of the ABC Programme, we will be working with Tusla on the Meitheal Practice Model. Meitheal is an old Irish term that describes how neighbours would come together to assist in the saving of crops or other tasks. For us, using Meitheal means continuing to work together to ensure that every child in the area will get the help and support needed in an accessible, integrated and coordinated way.

As this new phase for ELI begins, I want to thank everyone who has helped us get this far. We are very excited about the ABC Programme and look forward to continuing to work with you all to build a better future for children and families in the area.



Shape Up

We live in a world of shapes. That window in your kitchen is a square, the pizza you had for dinner is a circle, and the bed you read your bedtime stories in is a rectangle! Our next ABC Early Numeracy Week will be exploring 'Shape' and will take place from the 11th-15th May.

Children are developing their numeracy skills when they start to identify and categorise different shapes so why not go on a shape-spotting adventure and see just how many shapes there are?

- Play a game of 'I-Spy' with shape – Find objects in the environment and help children to recognise shape in everyday things e.g. a door could be a rectangle, a climbing frame in the playground could be a cube!
- Go on a shape 'Treasure Hunt' – All you need is a pencil, some paper, and your imagination! Pick some shapes you want to find e.g. triangle, rectangle, circle, square. Walk the neighbourhood and ask your child to be on the lookout for shapes. A leaf may be triangular. A road sign may be a circle. As they find familiar shapes, they should write or draw the object. When you return home, take a look at your results. What shape appeared most frequently?



Don't forget to join in with the numeracy activities in your schools and services in May!

Did you know

that your local library is also taking part in numeracy week? Why not take the children on a visit to your library's numeracy corner and look for books that focus on shape.

Participating libraries: **Charleville Mall Library, Central Library in the Ilac Shopping Centre, Ringsend Library and Pearse Street Library.**



Explore Outdoors

As the evenings get brighter and milder, take the opportunity to go outdoors and explore - a great way to do this would be to walk along your local beach (take your bucket and spade to Sandymount) or go to your nearest nature trail (put on a good pair of walking boots and go to Dollymount).

- Look out for worms, snails, butterflies, shells, pebbles, plants and birds. What else can you find?
- Compare colours, shapes and whether you find something small or BIG!
- Listen to all the different sounds around you – can you hear the waves splashing or pebbles crunching under your feet?

After your adventure, take some time to sit with your child, relax and read some of our favourites - 'Spot Goes to the Park' (Spot also has a trip to the beach with 'Spot Goes to the Beach'), 'Slow Snail' or 'Counting in the Garden' - these books are the perfect way to end your day.



Money Matters

Money can be a regular topic of conversation and it is something your children will hear about everywhere – at home, at school and from their peers, which only makes it more important for children to develop the right attitude to their future finances. 3rd & 4th class students have been taking part in the Ulster Bank Financial Literacy Programme, covering a range of topics from learning about earning money to discussing budgets. Good money management is an essential life lesson for everyone from a child with their pocket money to those with a very healthy bank balance!

Let's Talk Money

- **Income is money coming in:** the amount we earn will depend on the type of job we work, the difficulty of the job and the amount of time it takes. **Make your child earn their pocket money by doing simple chores – the amount of pocket money they get will be determined by the type of job they do and how long they spend doing it.**

- **'Needs' VS 'Wants':** 'Needs' are the things that we must have in order to live e.g. food. 'Wants' are things that we would like but could live without e.g. sweets. **Talk about your family's particular needs and wants and how you prioritise your own spending.**

- **Budget your money:** everyone has to make choices about how they spend their money. **Give your child the responsibility for their own money by teaching them to make a simple plan on how they spend it.**

- **Saving is a good habit to learn:** we are not always able to buy things that we want. Saving money is a great way to set aside money for future needs and wants. **Use your child's next school trip as an incentive for them to save any pocket money they earn.**

NCI Maths Club

GOOD LUCK to all the students who will be doing the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations this June. We hope all the hard work and long hours that have been put in over the past months and years will pay off.

Discover University

This summer, National College of Ireland (NCI) will be holding its annual Discover University programme to give secondary school students the opportunity to experience life in college. Students work with NCI student team leaders on either a business or a computer project and they also get involved in a range of fun extra-curricular activities.

The programme will run between **Tuesday 16th June and Wednesday 24th June**. For more information, please email lucy.kinghan@ncirl.ie.



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Upcoming Events

Monday 11th - Friday 15th May:

ABC Numeracy Week - Shape

Thursday 21st May:

Primary Level Awards

Wednesday 27th May:

NCI Monopoly Challenge

Friday 5th June:

PCHP Graduation

Tuesday 16th – Wednesday 24th June

(excluding weekend):

Discover University Programme

Photo Board!



NCI Quiz Challenge



NCI Rummikub Challenge



Ulster Bank Financial Literacy programme class visits



Third level students take part in Citco Open Day



Educational Guidance Exhibition



Facebook donates laptops

Corporate and individual support is fundamental to our success. We wish to thank all of our socially minded corporate and individual supporters, including Dermot Desmond, who play such an active role in the advancement of ELI.

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