



Newsletter

Early Learning Initiative
National College of Ireland

Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme - In Programme for Government

Thank you for helping us to:

Improve children's language, literacy and numeracy skills

Raise educational aspirations

Support parents as their children's first and best teacher

Connect children and their families with third level education, local businesses and the community.



It has been very encouraging to see the adults in the community working together to proactively protect and support children, particularly during these difficult times.

This year, over 7,500 children, parents and professionals are involved, with satisfaction rates of 97%. There are nearly 150 families and 40 Home Visitors involved with the Parent Child Home Programme in Dublin, Limerick and Galway. Over 1,900 children take part in our Early Numeracy Programme.

Our evaluations tell us that children in the area are doing well in school and they have high aspirations for the future. Children tell us that they are learning lots of 'important stuff' including 'learning is fun', 'working with others' and that no matter what happens they are still winners.

We are optimistic that, with continued support from all of us, these children will have the language, literacy and numeracy skills needed to progress through the education system and find work in the many prominent corporate organisations here in the Docklands.



2nd class student from St Laurence O'Toole's Girls School at the recent Zoom Ahead with Books Exhibition, April 2016.

Practitioners from six early years services across the area joined us on 5th April 2016 for an interactive workshop on 'Creating Treasure Baskets'.

The focus of the workshop was how treasure baskets can encourage and support 'Exploring and Thinking' for babies. Participants also got a chance to look at the new *Aistear Siolta Practice Guide* before the fun began.

Each practitioner made their own Treasure Basket to bring back to their service.

What is a Treasure Basket?

A low sided basket or box

Filled with natural and everyday materials

Babies can have fun exploring and investigating

Suitable for babies once they can sit up on their own to 18 months

Can be used for indoor and outplay play.

You can make one at home for your own baby with items you find around the house, e.g. egg cartons, velcro rollers, nail brush, ball of wool or piece of ribbon. Please ensure there are no choking hazards in your basket and always supervise your child while using it.

For more information see:

<http://www.ncca.ie/en/Practice-Guide/Play/Using-a-Treasure-Basket-with-babies.pdf>



Parenting and Traumatic Events

Unfortunately, there have been some traumatic events in our community recently. Here are a few ideas on how we can support children during these difficult times:

- Show them lots of love and affection
- Listen to them and watch their behaviour to figure out what they need
- Answer their questions in language they can understand
- Protect them from what they don't need to know - Keep them away from frightening TV images and scary conversations
- Stick with your normal routine and rules as much as possible
- Find ways to have fun and relax together like singing a song you both like or telling a story
- You help your children best when you take care of yourself. Get support from others when you need it.

One of the most important things to remember is that most children are resilient, particularly if the adults in their lives keep reassuring and supporting them.



Recent Volunteer projects with our corporate partners

Top - Volunteer Judge from Author Cox speaks to students as part of the Education Guidance exhibition.

Middle - Central Bank and Deloitte volunteers take part in the NCI Dragon's Den as students pitch their project ideas.

Bottom - SAP Coding Club - students learn about robotics, programming and electronics with an mBot.



Experience life as a college student at NCI, with our **Discover University** programme for second level students, aged 14-17 years old.

Students work in groups on a business or computing project and take part in taster lectures, extra-curricular activities and company visits. Applications are available on the Early Learning Initiative website: www.ncirl.ie/ELI. **Places are limited.**

Programme dates & times:

Monday 13th – Wednesday 22nd June (excluding the weekend) from 10am-4pm.

If you would like more information, please contact Lucy Kinghan on **01 4498626** or email lucy.kinghan@ncirl.ie.



Discover University activities 2015

Farewell and thank you to Phillip Matthews



President Dr. Phillip Matthews at PCHP Graduation June 2015, with one of our graduating families from Dublin South City Partnership.

Dr Phillip Matthews has been President of NCI for the past six years and a great supporter of ELI. Unfortunately, as his term of office is now over, he is leaving NCI in June. Phillip will be a great loss, as he has been a great advocate for ELI, in particular the Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP), and has contributed enormously to the success of ELI.

On behalf of ELI, our partner organisations and the local community, we wish Phillip every success in the future and thank him for all the work he has done to make a positive difference to the lives and education, of children and young people in the area.

Upcoming Events

Discover University

Monday 13th – Wednesday 22nd June (excluding the weekend) from 10am-4pm

PCHP Graduation 2016

Thursday 17th June

Early Years Conference

Enriching the Home Learning Environment – 23rd June 2016



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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, who play such an active role in the advancement of ELI.



The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013-2016



Being able to communicate effectively is one of the most important skills children develop.

We, as adults and parents, have an important role to play in supporting the development of children's language.

We, in the ELI, would like to say a **BIG thank you** to each and every one of you, who work towards making the children in our community effective communicators.

Here are some Top Tips:

Talk, talk, talk
to your child as much as possible during everyday activities

Read, read, read
It's never too early to start reading with your child

Come down to your child's level
and make eye contact

Follow your child's lead
when you play together

Play, play, play
use lots of language as you play with your child

Turn off, tune in
Remember to turn off devices and make time to interact together

Be responsive and encouraging
to your child's attempts to talk

Observe, Wait and Listen
Think of a wise old OWL

Most importantly have FUN!

For more ideas on how to support your child's learning and development:

The ABC 0-2 Years Programme is a home-visiting service available to offer support to parents and their children from pre-birth to two years.

The Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) is a "learning through play experience" for parents and their young children aged one to three years.

If you are interested in taking part in these programmes, please contact us on **01 4498 635** or email **eli@ncirl.ie**. Places are limited.