

Community Update 2014-15



Early Learning Initiative
National College of Ireland



Above: Launch of Ulster Bank Financial Literacy book 'Sailing on the Saving Seas'

Last year, **over 4,600 children, parents, professionals and volunteers** were involved in ELI with satisfaction rates of 99% across all programmes. Children's oral language, literacy and numeracy skills are improving and young people's aspirations for the future have never been higher. Thank you to everyone who got involved last year. **We are delighted to share the highlights of 2014-15.**

The **Docklands and East Inner City Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme**, which is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies, began last year. Through the ABC Programme, the Government is directly helping children and young people in the area to reach their full potential in all areas of learning and development.

Interest in ELI from the corporate sector increased last year **with more organisations signing up to partner ELI**. Without this substantial, long-term financial and voluntary support, much of the ELI's work would not be possible.

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who was involved with ELI last year. We really appreciate your friendship, generosity and commitment to helping us ensure that children and young people in the area achieve their educational, career and life ambitions.

We look forward to working with you again in 2015-16 and building on past successes.

An exciting new development is the **extension of the Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP)** to other areas. The Home Visitors and parents involved can already see the benefit to their children and believe that their children will start school with the language, literacy and numeracy skills needed for success.

One of the great strengths of ELI is **our network of parents, public health nurses, early years and after school services, schools, TDs, community, statutory and corporate organisations**, who are working with us to ensure that children will have the aspirations, skills and qualifications needed to achieve their dreams. None of the activities in this update would happen without their support.

Our End-of-Year Report 2014-15 is available on our website: www.ncirl.ie/eli. To keep up to date throughout the year, please connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

Early Years (0-4 years)

Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP): 18months – 2 ½ years

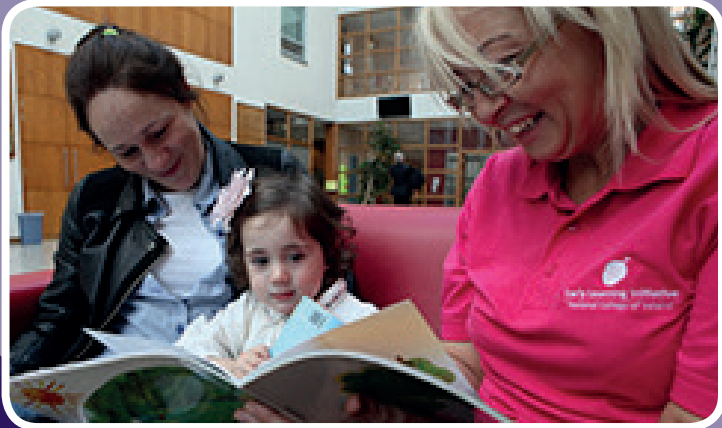


Above: PCHP Graduation June 2015

“The Home Visitor has taught me how to play with him, while teaching him new things at the same time, I learned how to help my children learn through play, to not see everything in black and white, to explore more possibilities with books and toys” (Parent)

PCHP is a learning through play experience for parents with their preschool children. It helps strengthen the natural bond between parent and child and encourages a love of learning. It also helps ensure children are ready to learn when they go to ‘big school’.

PCHP is delivered in the Docklands by trained Home Visitors from the community. Educational books and toys are given to the family during the two school years of the programme. Home Visits last ½ hour, with two visits every week. Over two years the number start to add up.



Above: Isabelle and her mother Christine with Home Visitor

Early Years (0-6 years)

Early Numeracy



“I really enjoyed being able to spend quality time with my child and watch her learning. I had forgotten about doing this type of stuff with my child.” (parent)



“The children were very interested in learning about all the different shapes. The children really enjoyed the foam shapes. Using their pincer grips peeling back the paper and sticking the shapes onto their page. The children loved going home and working on shapes with their parents. One child came in and told her teacher “we found millions of shapes at home” (ECCE Practitioner)

Growing numbers for 2015/16

- 14 ECCE Settings
- 12 Primary schools
- 6 Afterschools
- 4 Libraries

GET INVOLVED!

MONTH	2015/16 Curriculum Priority Weeks
7	9th-13th November: Sequence & pattern
	1st-5th February: Time
	9th-13th May: Measurement

Primary (4-12 years)

NCI Challenges

297 children in 2nd, 3rd & 4th classes spent at least 2,200 hours playing board games and taking part in quizzes for the NCI Challenges.



Above: NCI Monopoly Challenge May 2015



Above: St Patrick's Boys' N.S practice playing Rummikub



Above: NCI Quiz Challenge March 2015

Zoom Ahead with Books

In 2015...

375 children and their book buddies...
From 6 schools...
With support from 34 teachers...
Read over

4,200 books!



Above: St Laurence O'Toole's Junior Boys' School Exhibition

Educational Guidance Programme

5th & 6th class students exhibited 26 projects based on further education and careers at National College of Ireland.

‘I loved finding information about journalists and meeting other people in the programme’ (primary school student)

Second Level (12+ years)

Discover University

‘It introduced my daughter to university life without it appearing daunting. It helped her self-confidence to be able to ‘hold her own’ amongst other teenagers from all types of backgrounds’ (Parent)

37 students graduated the Discover University summer programme in June 2015



Above: Students made and sold their own lemonade as part of a business project called ‘Citrus Saturday’



Above: Students took part in a new computer project called ‘Imagine 3D Challenge’ where they learnt the basic of 3D modelling and printing



Above: Third level students acted as team leaders and mentored a group of students for the Discover University programme

Third Level (18+ years)

The Stretch to Learn Third Level

Programme provides financial, personal and career development support for students who in return participate in the work of ELI as role models to younger students.



Above: NCI students take part in the #GivingTuesday campaign



‘The presentation skills lecturer was fantastic! I also loved that it was very self-directed.’ (third level student)

14
Projects

674
primary, secondary
& Third-level
students

256
Volunteers

546

volunteering
hours

Below: Judge meets students at the ELI Educational Guidance Exhibition



Below: Ulster Bank volunteers taking part in financial literacy project



Above: Volunteer judges primary school projects



Right: St Patrick's Girls NS (Ringsend) give a presentation in Facebook offices

Volunteer Comments

"I really enjoyed the experience, and was struck by the commitment, knowledge and enthusiasm of the two primary school groups which I was involved with"

"I have learned how crucial enthusiasm and energy are when dealing with children. It is a two-way process – if you can show these qualities then the children are likely to reciprocate"

"Working with the kids has required the same skillset as moderating a business meeting"

New Programmes! 2015-2016

- ABC 0-2 Years: Programme for parents who are interested in supporting their children's well-being and development from an early age.
- Doodle Den: a one year literacy programme that combines a series of fun activities to engage children in learning.
- Early Years Training and Mentoring: Aistear workshops and on-site mentoring support will focus on documenting and assessing children's learning and the adult's role in supporting children's learning and development.
- Early Numeracy for 1st & 2nd classes: ESB have provided funding to extend the Early Numeracy Programme which will see an extra 200 children become engaged in early numeracy activities this year.
- Restorative Practice: 35 local teachers and principals have already been trained up during the summer, with over 100 individuals from community groups signing for training in the autumn.

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



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