



COISTE CHONTAE LUIMNIGH UM CHÚRAM LEANAÍ

# COUNTY LIMERICK CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

## AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2011



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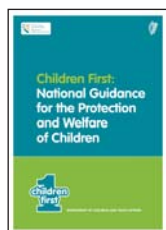
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County Limerick Childcare Committee,  
Lower Ground Floor, Croom Mills, Croom, Co. Limerick  
Tel. 061 600918 Fax. 061 600898 Email. [info@clcc.ie](mailto:info@clcc.ie) [www.clcc.ie](http://www.clcc.ie)

# CLCC AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2011



## Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011

In July 2011, Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs launched the revised 'Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children'. Children First aims to promote the safety and well-being of all children, by providing clear guidance on "what organisations need to do to keep children safe, and what different bodies and the general public should do if they are concerned about a child's safety and welfare" said Minister Fitzgerald.

### Briefing Session for Childcare Services

County Limerick Childcare Committee in conjunction with the HSE will hold a Briefing on the Revised Children First Guidance 2011 on the 13th December 2011. The session will be delivered by Anne Murray and a copy of the document will be made available to each childcare service who attends.

The session is targeted solely at the managers/owners of all registered childcare services in County Limerick.

To book a place, please email [info@clcc.ie](mailto:info@clcc.ie) or call 061 600 918

Date: 13 December 2011

Time: 7.00-8.30pm

Venue: Woodlands House Hotel, Adare



## CLCC Re-launch Website [www.clcc.ie](http://www.clcc.ie)

County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) are delighted to announce the launch of their new look website [www.clcc.ie](http://www.clcc.ie)

In 2003, CLCC launched their website with the support of the I.T. Department of Limerick County Council, who have continued to maintain the website. The website was established as a means of making information available to childcare services, parents and the wider community on Government Policy and Programmes and their implementation in County Limerick by CLCC.

In recent months, CLCC have worked with Limerick County Council I.T. Department, to develop the website as a more effective tool for the dissemination of information. It is envisaged that the new look website will be easier to navigate, be more organised in its presentation and essentially become a more effective information tool for the user.

The website will also include a Twitter feature, which will allow CLCC to provide regular updates to Childcare Providers and Parents in County Limerick, on a wide range of issues such as the Free Pre-school year and Training.

"Limerick County Council has and continues to be an invaluable asset to the work of County Limerick Childcare Committee. The support provided by the I.T. Department in setting-up and maintaining the website over the past 8 years is gratefully appreciated." Ann McMahon, Chairperson, CLCC.



## CCS

Based on recent feedback from the Department for Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), it is unlikely that there will be a second E-Return for the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Scheme in January, as had been the case in previous years. The second return had allowed services to include children in the scheme, who had not been enrolled with them during the reference week, which was the 10th to the 14th October 2011.

## Beep Beep Day 2011

The week of the 10th to the 16th October was National Road Safety Week. To celebrate, County Limerick Childcare Committee held a Simon and Friends Road Safety Workshop on the 13th October. The workshop was a huge success and participants were provided with a

Simon and Friends Resource pack as well as an Information Booklet for Parents entitled 'Road Safety Education for Children at Pre-school'

County Limerick Childcare Committee would like to thank all the services who held a 'Beep Beep

Day' to promote road safety with the children and families using their services and to those who sent us in some photographs of events.



## National Standards for Pre-School Services

In December 2010, the Childcare Regulations Implementation Group, launched the National Quality Standards for Pre-school Services. These standards are intended to provide a clear and easy to use tool for Pre-school Inspectors, Pre-school Service Providers and Parents using pre-school services. The document will support providers to deliver a high quality service and support users in choosing the childcare service best suited to their needs.

County Limerick Childcare Committee recently distributed a copy of the Standards to all childcare services in County Limerick, but is also available on [www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/natstandards\\_preschool](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/natstandards_preschool)

## CLCC Training

In the second half of 2011, CLCC will have delivered just under 40 workshops and training programmes, on a wide diversity of topics, including

- First Aid
- Child Protection
- Speech and Language
- Attachment in Childcare Setting and
- Planning in the Early Years.

“We are constantly amazed by the commitment of early year’s staff in County Limerick to on-going professional development” said Ann McMahon, Chairperson of County Limerick Childcare Committee. Over the past 10 years CLCC has “strived to meet the demand for in-service training by responding, directly to the needs high lighted by the childcare sector in County Limerick”

During the months of September and October, 295 individuals have participated on in-service workshops, with a further 120 booked into events in November and December.



## 2012 Training Calendar

The February to June 2012 Training Calendar will be distributed to all childcare services in County Limerick in January 2012 and will be available on our website. Please note that all bookings must be made through the booking form that accompanies the calendar.



To view a copy of CLCC’s Terms and Conditions for Training /Workshops please log on to <http://www.clcc.ie/Training.aspx> n.ie



‘Beep Beep Day’ at Little Stars Crèche, Abbeyfeale



## FETAC Level 5 and 6

In addition to the delivery of in-service programmes, CLCC is supporting the delivery of FETAC training to the childcare sector in County Limerick.

The FETAC Level 5 'Diversity and Equality in Childcare' module is being delivered to a number of childcare services in County Limerick as part of a national initiative, co-ordinated by Clare County Childcare Committee.

CLCC continues to co-ordinate the delivery of the FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Childcare which is being run in conjunction with County Limerick VEC. *"Now in year three of the project, we have supported over 100 individuals to further their qualifications and achieve a full FETAC level 6 award, with a number of students progressing to the level 7 and 8 degree programmes offered by NUI Galway. It is our intention to continue the project into 2012, given the demand expressed by childcare staff within the county."* said Anne Delaney, Manager, County Limerick Childcare Committee.

## FETAC Awards to be Revised

In March 2011, FETAC announced that the current childcare qualifications at levels 4, 5 and 6 will be phased out during 2011/2012. These will be replaced by the Common Awards Standards at NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications) in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), which will be accredited by FETAC.

The new programmes will be reflective of both Siolta and Aistear and National Policies, and will have a practice based focus. The changeover will begin with the introduction of the Level 5 and 6 major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at the end of 2011.

It is important to note that those with a number of minor awards completed to date, will have until the end of 2012 to complete the outstanding modules required to obtain a major award.

Between the end of 2012 and the start of 2014, some exemptions may be made allowing minor awards to be carried forward towards the new common award, where appropriate.

For more information on the Common Awards Standards in Early Childhood Care and Education log onto [www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie)





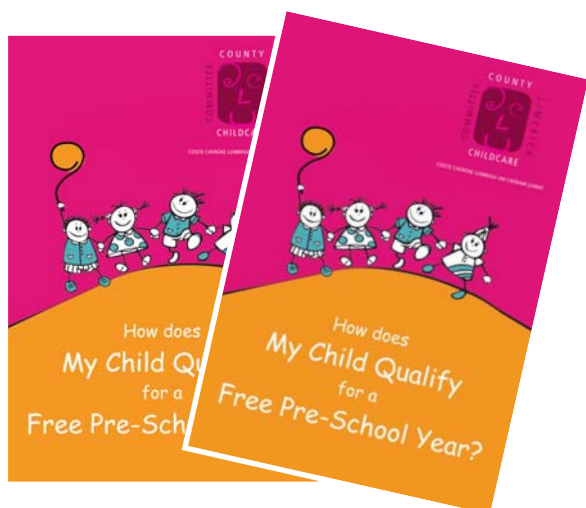
## Attention Parents: ECCE Transfer Deadlines

Parents wishing to transfer children from one service to another, must submit the necessary paperwork to the new childcare service, so that they can forward the application to the Department for Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) by the deadlines below. In cases whereby the applications are submitted after the below deadlines, the ECCE capitation fee cannot be transferred to the new service and so the parent will be required to pay the normal pre-school fee to the new service.

- January 2012** all necessary paperwork must reach the DCYA by the **2nd December 2011**
- April 2012** all necessary paperwork must reach the DCYA by the **9th March 2012**
- July 2012** all necessary paperwork must reach the DCYA by the **1st June 2012**

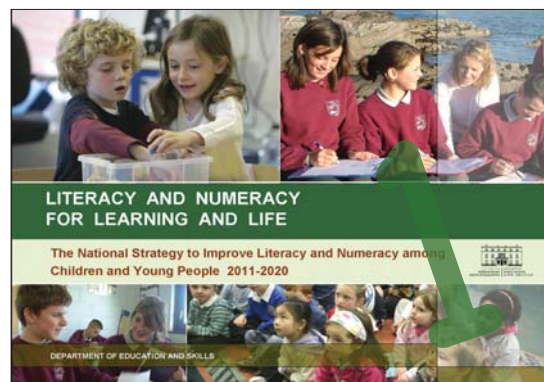
### Transfer Procedure

- 1 The existing service must complete section A of the Transfer Form and issue it to the parent.
- 2 The parent completes section B of the form and sends it to the new service along with a copy of the child's birth cert and evidence of the child's PPS No.
- 3 The new service completes section C of the form and forwards it to the DCYA along with supporting documentation.



## Literacy and Numeracy in the Early Years

The government have recently launched the 'Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life' Strategy, a programme to ensure that all young people leaving school will be "able to read, communicate orally, in writing and in digital media, and to be able to understand and use mathematics in their everyday life and in further learning" Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills.



The Early Years Education Policy Unit has hailed the strategy as "a milestone in the development of the early year's sector in Ireland, as it recognises the critical role played by experiences in early childhood in the development of literacy and numeracy."

From 2012 onwards, County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) will support the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) to implement the aspects of the strategy that relate to the early years sector, which are outlined in the 'National Strategic Plan 2011-2013, Early Childhood Care and Education Programmes' a copy of which was recently distributed to all childcare services in County Limerick.

The strategy can be downloaded from [www.clcc.ie](http://www.clcc.ie) or [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

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## Activity - Treats for the Birds



There are so many great nature projects you can do with your children in winter and what could be nicer than feeding the birds. Children just adore looking at birds coming into the garden in winter. Have a look at the kids zone at [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie), where you will find lots of interesting projects including bird tables, bird feeders made from cartons, nesting boxes along with wonderful exercises and projects to do in school and at home.

It's fun to design your own bird feeders too. I stocked up with netting, wire and string and came up with a few tasty treats. I've made these in class with the kids and they absolutely loved it! They were totally excited and didn't mind the mess at all! Why don't you have a go too?

### Materials

1. Wild bird seed mix
2. Peanuts
3. Cooking Fat
4. Twine and flexible wire
5. Opt 1. & 4. Oranges, lemons or grapefruit
6. Opt 2. Pine cones
7. Opt 3. Fine netting

### How to use:

1. Mix the fat and the seeds.
2. **Fruit feeders**, cut fruit in half and scoop out the flesh.
  - Thread wire through the bottom of the fruit, making a little spiral at the bottom, to keep the wire from pulling through.
  - Make a loop at the top end of the wire, so that you can hang it from a tree branch.
  - These feeders should hang like a bowl to allow birds to perch on the side to access the seed mix.
  - Fill with fat and seed mix, tread twine through the loop and hang.
3. **Pinecones** -
  - Use the wire to make a hanging loop at the top of the pinecone.
  - Rub fat onto all sides of the pinecone.
  - Roll the pinecone in loose seeds and add string to hang.
4. **Fat balls** -
  - Roll seed mix into a 5cm ball.
  - Wrap with netting and tie securely at the top, add string to hang.
5. **Fruit feeders for plant containers** -
  - Cut a grapefruit or a large orange in half, use a 2ft bamboo cane and push through the bottom of the fruit.
  - Twist an elastic band around the bamboo stick, below the bottom of the fruit, to stop it slipping down.
  - Fill the fruit with your fat and seed mix.
  - Pop it into a planted up container, you could also add a little bowl of water to the container, for a little drink for the birds too.

Plants that are good for winter wildlife are ivies, winter flowering pansies and shrubs with berries, such as *Skimmia japonica*.

Clear away debris once feeders are empty, you can reuse wire for your next feeders. ENJOY!

The above activity is courtesy of Ailish Drake founder of **Sow and Grow**, a Limerick based company which works with childcare services and primary schools providing creative gardening and nature programmes for children.

For more information on the services offered log onto [www.sowandgrow.ie](http://www.sowandgrow.ie) or by contacting Ailish on 087 677 2602