

Offaly Parent & Toddler Groups Newsletter



Winter 2024

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www.offalychildcare.com





HI EVERYONE,

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF
OUR NEWSLETTER FOR PARENT &
TODDLER GROUPS

REMINDER: 2024 Grant Expenditure

All funding must be spent by **31st December 2024**

Progress report and itemised original receipts for eligible expenditure must be returned to Offaly County Childcare Committee **by 6th January 2025**

WE WELCOME ANY FEEDBACK
AND IDEAS FOR FUTURE EDITIONS

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Check out our website and
social media, all are
updated regularly

To View, click links below

Website **Facebook** **X**



Supporting Parents



[Helplines, Parenting Courses and Advice](#)



[Pregnancy, New Parents and Carers](#)



[Your Child's Education & Childcare](#)



[Children with Additional Needs](#)



[LGBTI+ Supports](#)



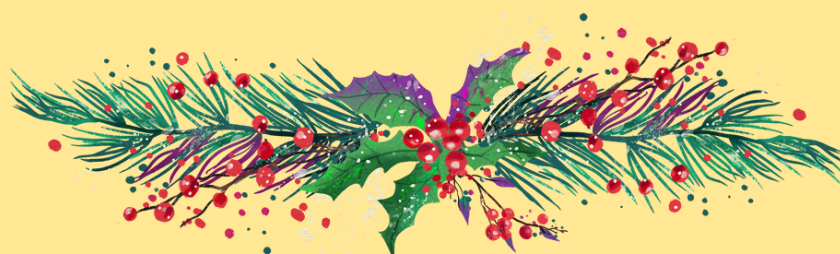
[Keeping You and Your Child safe + Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

Parenting is rewarding and challenging. But, whatever age your child is and no matter how experienced you are, all parents will benefit from a little support and advice. There's lots of information out there. The Supporting Parents initiative is bringing together trusted, high quality resources in one place, to help you navigate your parenting journey.

We will continuously update this page as new resources become available locally and nationally.

If you didn't find the resource you were looking for, please contact us at parentingsupport@equality.gov.ie

Click [HERE](#) for the Resource Page



Offaly and Laois Libraries

Parenting Support Programme



Autumn 2024



Offaly Libraries, together with Laois Libraries, are delighted to announce the return of our Parenting Support Programme, a free series of talks and workshops for parents. Supported by Laois Offaly Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC), the Parenting Support Programme invites experts to discuss a broad range of parenting topics currently impacting our children.

Our first talks, delivered by the National Parent's Council, will give parent's practical tips on managing the transition from pre- school to primary school.

Tullamore Library: Tuesday, 3rd September 18:30

Birr Library: Wednesday 4th September 18:30

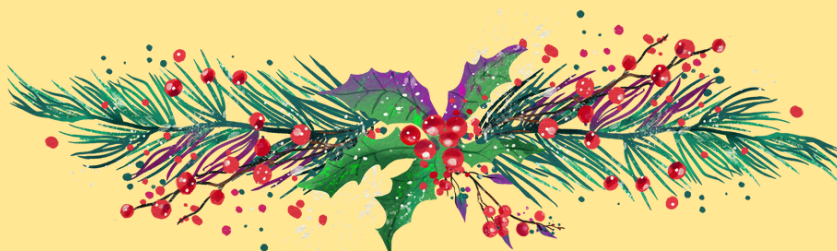
Edenderry Library: Friday 6th September 10:30

For the full schedule of events please visit:

[PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME BOOKLET](#)

Access Website

[HERE](#)



Click on Pictures for Links to Activities



Benefits of Starting to Read Early

The first few years of life is a time of rapid brain development.

The benefits of reading to your baby include:

- soothing and comfort - hearing your voice calms your baby as they recognise it from before birth
- learning new words - books often have language that you do not use in other conversations
- attention and listening skills - books help create a culture of reading and learning in your family

Remember that telling the child a story can happen any time. Give it a try during mealtimes, diaper changes, driving to child care, and right before bed when you “tell the story” of the child’s day. Each of these moments creates an opportunity to build a deeper connection with the child and to build her language and literacy skills, too!

Useful Links





Síolta and Aistear support the learning and development of all children from birth to six years across a range of early childhood settings and through the provision of an appropriate curriculum.



TIP SHEETS

Birth to 3years



Supporting quality interactions during care-giving routines (click [HERE](#))

Learning and Developing through Play (click [HERE](#))

Helping babies and toddlers to develop positive learning dispositions (click [HERE](#))

Enhancing Language (click [HERE](#))



Weaning

Learn about the signs that your baby is ready for solid food

Nutrition for babies

Advice on healthy foods for your baby and how to avoid choking

Nutrition for young children

Find out how to help your child eat healthily

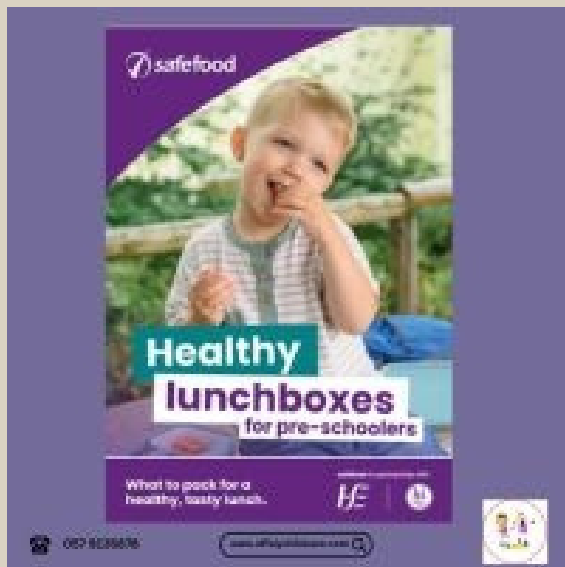
Allergies and fussy eating

Advice on food allergies and tips on stopping fussy eating



View Information

[HERE](#)



Good food habits set early in childhood can last a lifetime.

A healthy lunchbox includes at least one serving from each food group.

Mix and Match.

Suitable Drinks for Children.



View Information [HERE](#)



Childminding Regulations

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, announced the publication of the new Childminding Regulations, which will come into effect on 30 September. This is the first time that childminders will be able to register with Tusla under new regulations that reflect the home and family setting in which childminders work and that take into account the unique features of childminding.

The introduction of the Childminding Regulations follows through on a commitment in the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028.

From 30 September, it will be possible for childminders to start applying to Tusla to go through the registration process. Once registered by Tusla, childminders can then also apply to take part in the National Childcare Scheme.

Parents / Guardians Questions

What are the benefits of regulation for children and families?

The regulations help to make sure children are safer and are being well cared for, which also provides assurance to parents. Once a childminder is registered, and then signs up to the National Childcare Scheme, parents can apply for the National Childcare Scheme so their childcare costs will be reduced. Parents will also be able to look at the childminding register to see who is childminding in their area, and this will make it easier for parents who are looking for a registered childminding service .

I am a parent of children in a childminding service, what can I do to prepare for the upcoming changes?

Speak to your childminder now and ask them about their plans for registration. Remember they can register at any point over the next 3 years, and they must be registered after 3 years. You can keep up to date with developments by checking the [Early Years Inspectorate website](#) regularly and you will also be hearing more about this in the media. If you want to ask us any questions you can email cm.registration@tusla.ie and we will do our best to answer your specific questions.

When will I, as a parent, be able to access childcare funding schemes?

Once your childminder is registered with the Early Years Inspectorate and the National Childcare Scheme, you will be able to apply to access the National Childcare Scheme.

I am a parent. How can I support my childminder to prepare for registration?

You can direct your childminder to the [Early Years Inspectorate website](#) or ask them to contact their local [City and County Childcare Committee](#) if they have any questions.

I am a parent, and I employ someone to come into my home to care for my children. Are they required to register?

The childminding regulations only apply to childminders caring for children in the childminder’s own home. If you employ a childminder to come into your home every day, or if you have a live-in nanny or au-pair, they are exempt from the childminding regulations, and you do not need to do anything.



Offaly County Childcare Committee will be delivering our first Pre-Registration Training for Childminders on Saturday 12th of October. This is free training for existing childminders and anybody who is considering becoming a childminder. New Childminding regulations which came into affect last month mean that all childminders must register with Tusla. This PRT is mandatory training for registering with Tusla. Please see the posters to book your space.

Pre-Registration Training for Childminders



The Pre-Registration Training is split into 3 sessions. This will cover:

1

Becoming a Childminder

- What is a childminder?
- Overview of main regulations
- Documentation required for Tusla registration
- Tusla Registration process

2

Running a Childminding Service

- Main roles & responsibilities of a childminder
- Skills required of a childminder
- Apply regulations to childminding practice

3

The Childminding Service Handbook

- Description of Childminding Service
- Policies & Procedures
- Documents for Parents & Childminders

All 3 sessions must be completed to receive your certificate



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

Childcare
Committees
Ireland



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Pre-Registration Training for Childminders



The Pre-Registration Training is mandatory training for childminders and is the first step in registering with Tusla.

It will give you all the information you need to be a childminder, understand the new Childminding Regulations and documents required to register with Tusla.

This training:

- takes approximately 6 - 7 hours and is FREE
- will be delivered either online or in person
- has no assessment
- will provide you with a certificate of completion
- is available through your local City/County Childcare Committee

Date of training: 12th October 2024

Time: 9:15am- 4:30pm

**Location: Offaly County Childcare Committee,
8 O' Connor Square, Tullamore, Offaly.**

**Contact Darina on 0851703772 or darina@offalychildcare.com to
book. Spaces are limited.**

