

art competition winners

newsletter

Issue 17 • October 2008



MAYO

County Childcare Committee
Coiste Chúram Leanaí
Chontae Mhaigh Eo

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Art Competition which we ran over the summer months from the Summer edition of our newsletter.. The subject of the competition was 'Summer in Co. Mayo'.

We would like to congratulate the winners of each category and hope they get good enjoyment out of their winning prize... see below for details of lucky winners..

3-5 years category



Naíonra Bheal
an Atha,
Bury St.,
Ballina,
Co Mayo.

**1st
prize**

Láina Joyce

€100 voucher



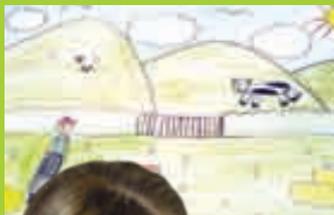
S.N. Thoin
Re Gaoith,
Acaill,
Co. Mhaigh Eo.

**2nd
prize**

Emma O'Hara

€75 voucher

6-13 years category



S.N. Thoin
Re Gaoith,
Acaill,
Co. Mhaigh Eo.

**1st
prize**

Aínná Joyce

€100 voucher



Foxford
Afterschool,
Foxford,
Co. Mayo.

**2nd
prize**

John McNulty

€75 voucher

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We had a good response to this competition and may run more in future editions of the newsletter...

We also wish to thank everybody who took part in this competition and to teachers and childcare workers for taking the time to participate in this worthwhile competition.

Chairperson's Foreword

NCIP Update

By Jim Power, Co-ordinator.



Majella Gibbons
Chairperson MCCC

Hope you are all back and refreshed after some enjoyable summer holidays. I always find this season as the busiest in childcare and this year is shaping up to be a particularly busy one - as you can see from the Mayo CCC training and events calendar.

Firstly, to get the negative news dealt with, Mayo CCC regretted to hear the news that the Centre for Early Childhood Development & Education (CECDE) was no longer to be funded and therefore has ceased to exist. Mayo CCC would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work completed by the CECDE. Mayo CCC feels that the closure of the CECDE will have

a serious negative impact on the development of quality childcare in Ireland. On a personnel note we wish the director of CECDE Mr. Heino Scholfield and the CECDE staff every success in the future and we look forward to working with them.

On a more positive note Mayo CCC wish to congratulate Killawalla Community Childcare Service and Breege Jackson, owner of 'The Mulberry Tree' for holding their official openings. I wish both services every success in the future and Mayo CCC looks forward to continuing to work with them.

Well, all here in Mayo CCC are busy planning and making arrangements for the 2nd Mayo Childcare Recognition Event. After getting feedback from childcare services through the network meetings Mayo CCC have decided to make a few small changes to the event. Details of the event will be in a letter which all the services will receive in the coming weeks. However, please note that we have had to change the date of the event this year. The Recognition Event will now be held in The Ramada Hotel, Ballina, on Friday, the 21st of November. This is a week earlier than planned. We hope to see as many childcare services at the event as possible. Last years event was a great success. We hope to build on this and hold an even more enjoyable event which we hope will raise the profile of Childcare in the county. Places will be limited, so tickets for the event will generally be distributed on 'a first come first served basis'. We feel it is very important to recognise the work of all involved in the childcare sector in Mayo. We feel that at times this work is very under valued. Therefore Mayo CCC wish to use this event to formally acknowledge your hard work, be it as a volunteer on a management committee, as a staff member, as a childminder or as the owner of a quality childcare service, we feel your work needs to be given the recognition it deserves, so please come along and enjoy your moment in the limelight.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the 2 additional enclosures with your Mayo CCC newsletter. The first enclosure is a DVD entitled 'The Face of Men in Childcare in Ireland'. This DVD was launched in Cork earlier this year and it shows the benefits for the child of engaging men in childcare services. The second enclosure is an information leaflet produced by the Mayo Local Child Protection Committee which provides information to parents and carers to assist in choosing safe services and activities for children. Special mention to the HSE Children First Information & Advice Officer, Sandra Claxton for all her excellent work on this project and all her other work. Contact details for both these items are included on the leaflet and DVD if you require further information on either topic.

Finally, finally I hope you enjoy this edition of the Mayo CCC newsletter!!

Majella Gibbons
Chairperson MCCC

As the County Childcare Coordinator for Mayo I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the work which has been completed by Childcare Services in the county to achieve a smooth implementation of the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS). The local childcare services committees and their staff have worked very hard to implement the procedures necessary to implement this scheme and then in turn to secure funding for their service for the coming year. Our development workers have kept me updated on all the work that has been done and at this stage it appears that the childcare services in Mayo have achieved the implementation of the scheme. This achievement should not be underestimated. This was a great achievement to get this far and this achievement by Voluntary management committees and childcare staff should be acknowledged and applauded.

However, we can not get carried away... there remains a lot of ongoing management work which needs to be continually done by management committees to ensure that their service remains financially sustainable and viable. Mayo CCC development workers will continue to work with you to achieve this through individual meetings, dissemination of information from the OMCYA and through the Network meetings.

Also, Mayo CCC look forward to see representatives from all the Community Childcare services at the third and final 'Check in' meeting of this year regarding 'Subvention' (ie. CCSS). This meeting is planned to be held on the 16th of October 2008. Further details will be posted to you.

On another bright note Mayo CCC is happy to congratulate **Killawalla Community Childcare Service** with the official opening of their premises which occurred early in September and to Breege Jackson for the opening of her new facility in Ballina, called the **'The Mulberry Tree.'** Congratulations and best of luck to both services in the days and years to come. It is fantastic to see the continued development of quality childcare across the county and these two projects are further evidence of this.

Finally, just to say all at Mayo CCC wish you a happy Halloween, we look forward to seeing you at the Mayo CCC recognition event on the 21st of November and if you require any information, support and or guidance please do not hesitate to contact us.



FOCUS ON private childcare provider

'The best party ever' is how one young reveler described the official opening of The Mulberry Tree Learning Centre on the Killala Road in Ballina which took place on Friday, September 18th.

Approximately 100 children and their parents joined local politicians, health care professionals and members of the Ballina business community in celebrating the opening of this new facility which caters for all ages from babies to teens.

While parents toured the toddler, wobbler and baby facilities the children were kept busy with face painting, puppet shows, a mad scientist, a disco and bouncing castles as well as having the run of the outdoor play area, the indoor sand room and the computer room. There were also visits by Shrek and Mickey Mouse. No wonder they had such a good time!

Speaking at the opening of the facility Jenny Bernard of the HSE said that the centre was an important addition to the child care facilities in Mayo and congratulated Breege on the quality and range of services at the purpose-built facility. She said that there was a lot to learn from business women like Breege in terms of quality, leadership, management and being responsive to the customers - both parents and children. Jenny also spoke of how the name 'The Mulberry Tree Learning Centre' had a special connotation for her as she had spent many happy childhood years playing around a mulberry tree on her uncle's farm in Somerset.

Breege Jackson, the owner and manager at the centre said that the growing demand to be able to provide a range of childcare services from babies to after-school is what had prompted her to consider expanding her already successful crèche. She said the new centre had been designed to provide a space where children could be stimulated mentally and physically while acquiring the life skills they need: the ability to interact with others; to negotiate for themselves; to be independent and to problem solve. She said "I always say to parents that the most important thing they can do for their children is to allow them to play with other children. As family sizes are much smaller these days, children are depending on us to provide this opportunity to play and form these important relationships. Here at Mulberry Tree Learning Centre we encourage them to do this in a caring and supportive environment with staff that are trained to the highest standards and committed to each child's development".

The Centre was blessed by Father Muredach Tuffy and Reverend Susan Patterson who blessed all the children who attend it and all the staff who care for them.

It was officially opened by local author Morag Prunty who spoke as a working mother, of her own experiences of trying to find suitable childcare. She told of her own mother who had been a childcare professional in the UK and it was through her that Morag had discovered Breege's crèche in Dillon Terrace. She pointed out that this was the only crèche in Dublin or Mayo that had come up to her mother's extremely high standards of childcare and talked of how happy her son Leo had been there. Leo too seemed to be enjoying the fun on Thursday and went home grinning with a bunch of brightly coloured Mulberry Tree Balloons.



the mulberry tree
learning centre



kids kitchen



Be the envy of all your friends as you learn how to make the most delicious chocolates!

Kids Kitchen recognises the importance of encouraging children to take an active interest in food and nutrition.

Children will be introduced to a number of savoury and sweet bites that they will make. Dishes may include spaghetti bolognese, chicken fajitas, home made pizzas, curry, breads, scones, tarts and cakes. As well as table setting ideas.

- Duration - 10 week cookery course
- 1½ hour classes, one class per week
- Children from 6 years upwards
- Small group with similar age groups
- Choose from a Saturday or week day class
- Times: 4.30 - 6.00pm, Monday -Friday
- Saturday: 10.00am - 11.30am or 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- Further details / booking contact Kids Kitchen on 096 70284 between 9.30am - 5.30pm

compu-kids



Compu-Kids classes will make your child stand out from the crowd giving them the competitive edge that will benefit them in school and the rest of their lives.

Every lesson is full of adventure, excitement and fun teaching essential computer skills which include:

Course Content:

- PC Basics
- Basic Typing Skills
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Powerpoint
- Creating Posters/Notices
- Making Greeting Cards
- Word Art
- Basic Web Design
- Creating Tables
- Creating Files and Folders

Duration:
1 hour classes over a 10 week period.



Further information call:

096 70284

**Unit 5, Killala Road Business Park,
Ballina, Co. Mayo.**

FOCUS ON Community Childcare Service

Community Provider Focus

Name of Service: Killawalla Community Playschool
Telephone: Lisa or Mary at 086 2418226
Address: Community Centre, Killawalla, Westport.

How did your service begin and how long has it been established?

Killawalla Community Playschool was set up by a group of local parents in September 2006. An after-school service began in February 2007. The venue is the local Community Centre.

How does your childcare facility meet the needs of the local community?

At present we can cater for up to 14 preschool children in the morning session and the after-school service caters to Junior and Senior infants.

Did you apply for childcare funding in order to build the facility and how long did it take to construct?

We applied to An Pobal in 2006 for a Staffing Grant and some capital funding to purchase outdoor and indoor equipment. In March 2008 Killawalla Community Council undertook the refurbishment of the Community Centre, so we now enjoy a warm, comfortable and thoroughly modern facility.

What are the advantages of having a facility located next to the National School?

The proximity has many advantages:

- ▶ The one-stop and drop off suits parents as well
- ▶ It makes for a very smooth running of the after-school service in particular
- ▶ The National school provided us with accommodation during the recent refurbishment of the centre (March to August 2008) and has, on many occasions, shared facilities with us.

What advice would you give a community group starting a childcare service?

Seek advice from Mayo C.C.C. and the H.S.E.'s Early Childcare Services to begin with. We also found it invaluable to visit other community playschools and talk to management committees providing a similar service. Their combined experience, knowledge and advice can be enormously beneficial. Parental involvement and support in the playgroup is very important.

What is the most positive aspect of your service?

We consider our most positive aspect to be the quality of the service we provide. We implement a High Scope curriculum, and the favourable ratio affords many benefits to the children. The attractive new building is well resourced in terms of light, space and a good variety of materials and equipment (both indoor and outdoor) to cover all developmental areas.



activities for pre-school children

pumpkin mask



You will need:

- Cardboard (eg. cereal box)
- A Pencil
- Scissors
- A Hole Punch
- Orange and Green Non-toxic Craft Paint
- Black Marker
- Elastic

Instructions:

- 1 Use the pencil to draw a simple pumpkin shape on the cardboard.
- 2 Paint the body of the pumpkin orange and the stem green. Cut out the pumpkin shape. Make sure a grown-up helps you with this. Draw the eyes, nose and mouth of the pumpkin on top of the paint, being sure that they match the location of your eyes, nose and mouth. Use a ruler to measure if necessary.
- 3 Then use your scissors to cut out the eyes, nose and mouth of the pumpkin. Use the hole punch to punch out two holes on the sides of the mask, then thread the elastic through the holes and fasten.
- 4 Use the pencil to mark out the lines of the pumpkin. When you're satisfied with your pencil lines trace over them with the black marker.
- 5 Your Pumpkin Mask is now ready to try on. Adjust the elastic if necessary so that your mask fits properly.

spooky mosaic

You will need:

- Paper/Card
- Pens
- Coloured Paper
- Scissors
- PVA Glue (white glue)



Instructions:

- 1 Draw or print out a simple spooky picture on your paper or card. We drew a pumpkin but you could draw a witch or a bat or anything else you fancy.
- 2 Take some coloured paper in the colours you want for your picture and cut it into small squares.
- 3 Cover the picture in glue; for a large picture you will need to do it a bit at a time as the glue will dry if you cover the whole picture at once.
- 4 Stick on your coloured paper mosaic tiles to cover your picture.



marshmallow ghosts and ghouls



Ingredients

- Marshmallows
- White Chocolate Chips or White Chocolate
- Silver Ball Cake Decorations or similar
- Writing Icing
- Lollipop Sticks
- Green Food Colouring
- Strawberry Laces (optional)

Instructions:

- 1 Melt the white chocolate or white chocolate chips in a glass bowl in the microwave or over a saucepan of simmering water. This takes a minute or two.

- 2 While you are waiting, start making your ghosts. Thread a couple of white marshmallows onto a lollipop stick for each one.
- 3 Now dip the ghosts into the melted chocolate and swirl them around to cover the top of the ghosts "heads". Bring them out and lay them flat on a paper plate for the chocolate to harden, pushing a couple of silver balls on for the eyes before it does.
- 4 Use a tube of writing icing to draw on a mouth and any other features you would like. Keep in the fridge until you need them.
- 5 To make the ghouls, use either white or coloured marshmallows. Thread one on per stick. Add some green food colouring to the chocolate and then swirl the marshmallows in it as before, this time covering as much of the surface as possible.
- 6 Use silver balls for the eyes, but this time add some other decoration too: we used strawberry laces for the hair and would have added chocolate drops for the ears if we hadn't eaten them already! Leave to harden as before.



activities for after-school children

Witch face paint

Be the Halloween Witch! A Wonderful combination of face paint, costume and ideas to dress up as the Halloween Witch right at home. So rake up the Halloween parties, display the best trick at your trick or treat and win the face dress this year.

You will need:

- Hair Band or Elastics
- Round and Triangular Sponge
- Absorbent Paper Towel
- Bowl of Water
- Face Paints: green, white, red, black and blue
- Thick and Fine Brushes

Instructions:



1

Tie the hair back, use the triangular sponge to make a purple outline around the face by mixing your red and blue face paints. Fill the outline with green face paint using the round sponge. Blend the colours with the round sponge.



2

Before the green face paint dries, use the medium brush to paint above and below the eyes with white face paint.



3

Mix white and blue face paint to make light blue. Paint the lower lip light blue using the medium brush. Look up towards the ceiling and keep your head still while a red line is painted under both eyes.



4

Paint black bushy eyebrows and wrinkles. Paint creases on the lips. Since witches rarely smile, they have deep frown lines.



5

Use the tip of the fine brush to paint red circles on the chin and forehead. Clean the fine brush before outlining the circles in black. Keep using the fine brush to paint black hairs sprouting from warts.



6

Use the fine brush and black paint to accentuate the lines under the nose and add other gruesome features. Don't forget to make a broom by tying a lot of twigs and small branches.



Witch's Costume

Witch's Hat

You will need:

- Large Piece of Thin Black Card (A1 size)
- Double Sided Sticky Tape
- 1 Packet of Novelty Hair or Wool
- 50cm of Shiny Ribbon - 2cm wide
- Craft Knife
- Variety of Sequins for Decoration
- Drawing Pin
- Length of String
- White Pencil



Instructions:

- 1 Place the card on a flat surface. Using the drawing pin and the string, draw a large circle with a pencil tied about 30cm from the fixed pin.
- 2 Cut out a semi-circle.
- 3 Apply sticky tape to the straight edge of the semi-circle, twist card into a cone shape and stick down.
- 4 Use a dinner plate as a template to draw the brim of the hat. Cut this out and draw around the cone base to make a circle inside it.
- 5 Cut this out to create a 'doughnut' ring, remembering to leave overlapping tabs to stick brim to cone. Attach using more sticky tape.
- 6 Decorate with sequins, novelty hair and a ribbon tied around the brim.

Witch's Cape

You will need:

- 50cm of Black Fabric
- 1m Black Ribbon
- Iron-on Bonding Tape
- Glitter Fabric Paint
- Scissors
- Iron



Instructions:

- 1 Wash fabric, dry and iron.
- 2 Cut out the shape of the cape with scissors. This should be an egg shape with a straight edge long the top. (See shape guide)
- 3 Fold over 1cm of top edge of fabric and iron.
- 4 Cut two strips of the bonding tape to fit the length of the top edge of the cape. Iron on the first, paper side up to seal the flap down.
- 5 Allow tape to cool down and peel off the paper backing, then seal down the fabric with the iron.
- 6 Repeat the process to bond the ribbon centrally along the top of the cape.
- 7 Finally, decorate the cape with stars, moons and bats using the fabric paints.

SHAPE GUIDE



Childminding News

Mayo Professional Childminding Committee

The Mayo Professional Childminding sub-committee was established as a sub-committee under Mayo County Childcare Committee. The Professional Childminding Sub-committee and its work is funded by Mayo County Childcare Committee.

The sub-committee works actively with childminders here in Mayo to promote quality home based childminding. The committee is made up of three childminders who are notified to the HSE and / or 'Voluntary Notified' to Mayo County Childcare Committee, the Childminding Advisory Officer, HSE, Childminding Ireland Development worker and a development worker from Mayo County Childcare Committee. The committee have successfully run three information nights around funding for childminders and including children with special needs in childminding services. The Mayo Professional Childminding Committee have also successfully run training events around the county and have been engaged at promoting the importance of becoming either Notified or Voluntary Notified. Mayo Professional Childminding sub-committee are committed to supporting childminders to improve the quality of their services to enrich the life's of the children they mind. It is child centred and is continuously involved in events that promote the professional services that notified and voluntary notified childminders provide in their communities.

If you are a parent that would like more information about what you should look for in a childminding service please contact Mary O'Hara-Gavin, Childminding Advisory Officer (details below). Equally if you are a childminder and you would like to join the increasing number of childminders who are notified or voluntary notified and be able to assess training or funding why not contact the Childminding Advisory Officer (details below).

Mary O'Hara-Gavin, Childminding Advisory Officer, HSE
at 094 9034776 or 087 2168496.

Childminders - Upcoming Training/Events

First Aid for Childminders

Ballina:

Date: 1st & 8th November **Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Knockmore/Rathduff Community Centre.

Childminders Only.

Places limited to 12 participants.

Quality Awareness Refresher Course

Only Childminders who have completed the QAP previously can attend this training. All training on Wednesday nights.

16th October: Information on Tax

22nd October: Fire Safety in the Home

5th November: Healthy Eating Menu Plans

12th November: Children's First Child Protection Training

19th November: Siolta

Childminding Advisory Officers provide networking, information, training and support to those minding other people's children at home and link parents and childminders.

For further details contact

Mary O'Hara-Gavin, Childminding Advisor on 094-9034776/7.

For further details on any of the above training/events contact

Mayo County Childcare Committee at 094 9047010 or email: mayochildcare@mayococo.ie



Spooks

by Sandra Liatsos

There's a goblin at my window,
A monster by my door.
The pumpkin at my table
Keeps smiling more and more.
There's a ghost who haunts my bedroom,
A witch whose face is green.
They used to be my family,
Till they dressed for Halloween.

parents page dealing with aggression

The chances are that the children you mind are well-behaved and cooperative for much of the time.

But when tempers do start to flare, and hands do begin to fly, it's quite a challenge to manage their aggression. It doesn't take much for a peaceful morning or afternoon to be transformed into an emotional storm!

Aggression can be expressed in many different ways. The most obvious forms are deliberate and direct physical violence (punching, kicking, biting), insidious physical violence (hair pulling, spitting, pinching) or "accidental" physical violence (tripping, nudging), but there are more subtle forms such as verbal violence (threats, insults), body language (threatening facial expressions, close body proximity), social rejection (excluding, whispering) and spiteful behaviour (ignoring, revenge). Much depends on the age and stage of development.

Age and Stage

The expression of aggression tends to be more physical at a younger age and psychological at a later age, along the following general lines (though bear in mind there are gender differences):

2-3 years

Aggression at this age is typically physical and impulsive. It usually springs from nowhere and is triggered by a specific instance. A toddler is quick to grab, hit or snatch - and even bite. He thinks mainly about what he wants and doesn't recognise the impact of his actions on the victim.

3-5 years

Most five-year-olds have learned that physical violence is unacceptable, and while there may occasionally be episodes of this, aggression has become more verbal. A child this age is more likely to scream and yell at someone who angers him, rather than actually hit them. Verbal aggression begins to dominate.

5-9 years

As social relationships assume much greater importance in this phase of a child's life, aggression is often shown through deliberate social exclusion, such as keeping the other child out of the game or wilfully excluding him from the party invitation list.

9-12 years

Social maturity and life experience enables an aggressive child to use more subtle means. Spiteful behaviour - for instance, deliberately spreading false tales, teasing about appearance or attainments - is very effective and hurtful. A child can be devastated by this form of non-physical aggression.

13+ years

Incidents of fierce aggression are infrequent now, with most children this age able to defuse aggression through discussion and compromise. Sharp trading of insults does occur, though rarely escalating to physical fights. An older child is more likely to divert aggression than he is to express it openly.

Gender Differences

The notion that boys are more aggressive than girls is not supported by psychological research. True, studies have found that boys favour physical aggression (which usually has quite obvious devastating consequences for the recipient) while girls favour verbal and social aggression - but it's just that boys' aggression is more noticeable, not that it is more frequent.

One of the consequences of boys' overt aggression is that it is usually pounced on immediately by adults, such as parents and teachers. That means that incidents are easy to detect, and it also means that boys' aggression is tackled almost the moment it appears. Compare that with the subtle aggression of girls, which, by its very subtle nature, can continue for lengthy periods without ever being spotted by an adult.

Perhaps that's why the impact of aggression has gender differences too. Girls who have experienced teasing, insults or wilful social rejection during the childhood years tend to retain the emotional bruises from those experiences well into adulthood, whereas boys' memories of physical fights tend to grow less vivid with time.

Assertive not Aggressive

Don't confuse aggression and assertiveness, however - there is a big difference between these two characteristics. Assertiveness is an admirable quality, while aggression is not.

Assertiveness is a child's ability to express himself, to express his views confidently and clearly without offending the listener. An assertive child, for instance, is one who is able to tell another "No, I'm playing with this toy right now but you can have it when I've finished", and if he can say this with a smile and a calm voice then so much the better. A child's assertiveness is not at the expense of someone else. It is a combination of self-belief, clear thinking, independent thought and a sensitive personality. These are personal qualities you happily encourage in the children you mind.

In contrast, aggression is all about "me, I, myself", about the hostile child's feelings and ideas. An aggressive child puts his emotions and needs over and above those of everyone else, and he is not overly concerned by their protests or distress. Like the self-centred four-year-old who screams at you because you have laid down the rules of behaviour and he doesn't like that. True, there are varying degrees of aggression in children, but it is always unpleasant to receive or to watch - an aggressive child is more interested in himself than others, and that's not a quality you'll willingly encourage.



by Dr. Richard C. Woolfson

Early Years Education - Childcare.ie June - July 2008, Issue 35

10 Tips for Managing Aggression

- 1 Encourage caring behaviour.** Talk to the children you mind about the importance of helping each other. The more sensitive they are to the needs of their peers, the less likely they are to let their aggression dominate in their relationships.
- 2 Take a preventative approach.** If a child you mind is aggressive, talk to him about this when he is settled and relaxed, not when he is in the middle of an outburst. If you wait until he has erupted, he won't listen to a reasoned argument.
- 3 Explain consequences.** When discussing aggressive behaviour with a child you mind, explain that you don't like it when he hits and screams and that the other children dislike it as well. Tell him that his friends will stop playing with him.
- 4 Confirm disapproval.** Your reprimands are effective, so point out also that you will be displeased with any child who shouts, hits, bites, or screams at others, and make it quite clear that this sort of behaviour is totally unacceptable.
- 5 Make punishments clear.** Let the child know that he will be punished for aggression (though never punish aggression with violence of your own), and spell out these punishments; for instance, he will be sent to another room, away from the others.
- 6 Stay calm.** Keep your temper no matter how much you are provoked. Carry him firmly away from the person who is the target of his aggression. Once you have done that, hold him steady until he starts to calm down, then gently release him from your arms.
- 7 Treat all incidents seriously.** Remember that the victim of non-violent aggression, such as teasing or social rejection, hurts just as much inside. Don't dismiss those episodes as trivial; they are very real to the child on the receiving end.
- 8 Be positive.** Always praise the child for his positive behaviour, whenever you can. For instance, make a big fuss of him when he plays without being aggressive and praise him for not hitting out even though he lost his temper.
- 9 Never match aggression with aggression.** The suggestion, for instance, that an adult should bite a child in retaliation for a bite is simply silly. That sort of aggression is not justifiable, and sets a dreadful example for the child to copy.
- 10 Involve parents.** They have a right to know that their child behaves aggressively, although they may react defensively when you first bring this matter to their attention. It's very important that you all cooperate together in order to help the child settle.

brain compatible dance

Brain Compatible Dance taught by Cathy Gill

What happens in brain compatible dance class?

Through dance, music, rhythm and rhymes, the children explore movement activities in a fun and educational class with a wide variety of music, props, and rhythm instruments.

Classes are concept based, each week we work on a different concept, for example if we are working on Pathways we explore moving straight, curved and zig-zag. The structure of the class is the same, but new concepts are introduced each week, this allows the children to become familiar with the class and build on new ideas.

With a young family, I understand the need for classes. Last year I returned to the USA to train with one of the leading dance teachers Anne Greene Gilbert who has taught for over 25yrs.

In January I started to teach Parent and Toddler classes in Westport, there was a very positive response to the class, children as young as 15 months were enjoying the class with their parent/caregiver.

Currently classes are running in the Westport area with weekly morning and evening classes, for the following Parent and Toddler Class, 3-4yrs and 5-8 yrs. Classes are also on going in a Pre-School setting one morning a week. If you are interested in classes for your Playschool, Pre-school or crèche you can call me and I can set up a class. Additionally it is suitable to child minders, who maybe interested in classes either at their location or coming to a class.

A comment from a parent of children attending class, "Class has helped my child's co-ordination, social and interaction with other children".

I look forward to bringing brain compatible dance to all.

Contact

Cathy at 087 766 8258

for more details

Halloween Foclóir/Vocab



Hallowe'en: oíche shamhna

Pronunciation:
ee-heh how-nah

Ghost: púca or taibhse

Pronunciation:
pookah or thyve-sheh

Hobgoblin: bobodha

Pronunciation:
bub-uh-dhah

Pumpkin: puimcín

Pronunciation:
pim-keen

Costume: culaith

Pronunciation:
kul-ah

Sweets: milseáin

Pronunciation:
mill-shaw-inn

Sparklers: spréachláin

Pronunciation:
spraykh-law-inn

Turnip: tornapa

Pronunciation:
thurn-ah-pah

Apples: úlla

Pronunciation:
oo-lah

Barm Brack: bairín breac or arán breac

Pronunciation:
bah-reen brack or
ah-rawn brack

Party: cóisir

Pronunciation:
koh-shírr

Games: cluichí

Pronunciation:
kliff-ee

Bonfire: tine cnámha

Pronunciation:
chin-eh krawv-ah

Launch of 'Keeping Children Safe' leaflet for parents and carers

The Mayo Local Child Protection Committee through HSE West have produced a leaflet for parents and carers which gives advice on choosing safe services for children.

It outlines that all groups, including **pre-schools and creches**, sports organisations, youth clubs, community and parish based groups and disability services have a duty of care when working with children and should have a **Child Protection Policy** in place as required by the Children First National Guidelines.

It advises parents to ask questions and ensure that the group:

- choose staff, volunteers, coaches etc. who are recruited properly
- have Codes of Behaviour for those working with children to ensure they have positive attitudes towards children.
- manage and supervise people and activities appropriately.
- offer training to staff and volunteers.
- know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare or Protection and how to report this to the Health Services Executive.

This leaflet may be of assistance to pre-schools and creches in informing parents about the service's responsibility to have a child protection policy in place, in line with Children First Guidelines and the Pre-school regulations.

The leaflet is available by contacting Sandra Claxton, HSE Information and Advice Officer, Children First on 094 90 42579. The Mayo County Childcare Committee on 094 9047010 or the HSE, Early Childcare Services on 094 90 34776.

Highly Recommended Books

by local childcare practitioners

Books to add to your library corner
available in your local library

Bad Dog Marley

Author: John Grogan

*A wonderful book based on the
best-selling story, MARLEY & ME*

Boom Chicka Boom

with Audio cassettes or CD

Author: Liz Weir

*A highly recommended book with great
voices to accompany the stories.*

The Magic Faraway Tree

Author Enid Blyton

*A timeless classic for both preschool
and School Aged Children*



notes for your diary

Mayo County Childcare Committee Training

Full First aid Course

Ballina: Date: 8th & 15th November Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Venue to be confirmed. Places limited to 12 participants.

Network Meetings

Dates: MCCC Network Meetings will take place in mid-November. Dates / venues etc will be issued in a letter to all in early November. For Childcare Providers, potential childcare workers and parents.

Buntus Training

Ballina: Date: 8th November, Ramada Hotel, Ballina. Time: 10am - 2pm
Venue to be confirmed. Bookings for Buntus Training taken at network meetings in September.

Manual Handling Course

11th October: Breaffy House, Castlebar Times: 9am-1pm or 1.30pm-5.30pm
1st November: Breaffy House, Castlebar Times: 9am-1pm or 1.30pm-5.30pm
Manual Handling training will consist of 4 hour training session on one of the above dates. (*Note: 9am-1pm session on 11th October is currently full, availability on other 3 sessions)

School Age Childcare Training

18th October: (Day 1 of training course) Venue: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar.
1st November: (Day 2 of training course) Venue: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar.
Upcoming Day 3 to be organised in near future also.

Health & Safety Information Night by Barnardos

Castlebar: Date: 14th October Time: 8.00pm
Venue to be confirmed.

Mayo County Childcare Forum Meeting

Castlebar: Date: 11th December Time: 8.00pm
Venue: MCCC Office, Ellison Street.

Childcare Committee Information Night on Subvention and Related Issues

Castlebar: Date: 16th October Time: 8.00pm
Venue: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar.

Siolta Workshops

Castlebar: Date: Early December Time: 8.00pm
Ballina: Date: Early December Time: 8.00pm
Westport: Date: Early December Time: 8.00pm
Venues and dates for above to be confirmed.

MCCC Recognition Event

MCCC Recognition Event will take place on 21st November in The Ramada Hotel, Ballina, commencing at 7.30pm. Further details will be issued at a later date

Other Training Events organised by other Bodies

Meitheal

Outreach Training

As well as pre-organised courses Meitheal also delivers courses such as Foundation Facilitation Skills, Personal Development, Advanced Facilitation Skills, Staff Support & Supervision courses to groups and organisations in their own communities or centres.

For more information contact Meitheal at 01 6719803 or info@meitheal.ie, Meitheal 35 Exchequer St., Dublin 2

Barnardos

Tomorrow's Child Conference

Date: November 5th and 6th.

Venue: Ballsbridge Court Hotel, Dublin.

The Barnardos Tomorrow's Child Conference will be an excellent opportunity to learn about practice and policy relating to the various aspects of children and young people's lives in Ireland today and discuss and debate challenges affecting them into the future.

Comprehensive Conference brochure available on www.barnardos.ie;
Email: conference@barnardos.ie or Tel 012967252.

Barnardos Public Training Events 2008

Date	Course	Venue
Oct. 19th	Using the New Framework for Early Learning	Dublin
Nov. 6th	High/Scope IHA (Mod.3)	Dublin
Nov. 7th	Self Esteem	Dublin (Axis Ctr)
Nov. 29th	Working with ASD	Limerick
Dec. 5th	Diversity: Working with Other Cultures	Dublin
Dec. 11th	High/Scope IHA (Mod.4)	Dublin
Dec. 11th/12th	Siolta	Portlaoise

For further details on the seminar or any courses, please contact Martina Dupleton on 01 4530355 or email martina.dupleton@barnardos.ie.

National Children's Nurseries Association

Managing Challenging Behaviour

Date: October 18th Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Fee: €75 NCNA (€90 non NCNA). **Venue:** Mayo Abbey.

This workshop will explore strategies which the childcare worker can use to encourage positive behaviour and it will provide an opportunity for participants to share techniques of dealing with difficult behaviour.

For further details on training/courses contact Kylie Johnson, Assistant Training Co-ordinator, NCNA on 01-4601138 or email: kyliej@ncna.ie.

St. Nicholas Montessori of Ireland

Course	Venue & Date
Manual Handling	Cork Oct 21st
Sensorial Refresher Workshop	Dublin Nov 15th
Christmas Craft	Limerick Nov 17th
First Aid	Cork Nov 22nd & 23rd
St. Nicholas Montessori Night	Dublin Dec 5th
Festive Celebration	Cork Dec 12th

For further information on any of the above contact St. Nicholas Montessori Society of Ireland. Tel: 01 2805705/01 2304185 or email: info@montessorireland.ie

Cascade Training Consultancy

Communicating Across Language Barriers (Training Course)

All two-day courses run from 10am to 4pm

Clearer communication in English with non-native speakers of English will enhance the effectiveness of your work in a multicultural and multilingual Ireland.

Contact: Anne O'Carroll on 027-74203, Email cascadeireland@gmail.com, www.cascadetrainingconsultancy.com for further information.

Concept Training Ltd.

Understanding the Multi-Sensory Concept

The workshop is a **must** for anyone using a multi-sensory room

22nd October 2008 Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath

8th June 2009 Glenavan Hotel, Cookstown, Co Tyrone

9th June 2009 Racket Hall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

activity for childcare services to try out

This Activity has worked well in Childcare services.

At our last set of network meetings in September childcare providers came up with some really good ideas on what they would like to see in our quarterly newsletter. One of the ideas was to have a section on activities childcare practitioners have found works really well for them. One of the ideas that came out of the network meeting was the use of an overhead projector or OHP in a childcare setting.

The price of overhead projectors has come down significantly in recent years due to the advancement of technology. However, overhead projectors have uses that are not simply to make business presentations.

Children can draw on transparencies with either a permanent or a non permanent marker. If a non permanent marker is used then the transparencies can be used over and over again. The transparency is then placed on the overhead projector and the image of the child's drawing can be projected onto the wall. Children love to see their images on walls and / or ceilings as they become larger and become more alive.

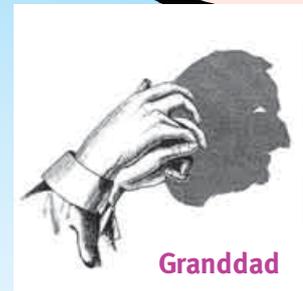
Hand shadows can also be projected onto the wall and children of all ages can have lots of fun with this. For instructions on how to form a large range of hand shadows with your hands you can go to www.fun-with-pictures.com/hand-shadows.html

Some of the more interesting hand shadows on this site are a pig, a bird in flight, a goose, an elephant, a goat and believe it or not a granddad! Not sure if granddads would approve! Check them out on the website.

Thanks to Mary Skillington from Woodland Park, School of Active Learning, Westport and committee member of Ballintubber Preschool and Afterschool for this great idea of incorporating an Overhead Projector into the activities in a childcare facility.



Bunny



Granddad



Goat



Flying Bird



MAYO
County Childcare Committee
Coiste Chúram Leanai
Chontae Mhaigh Eo

where to find us

Mayo County Childcare Committee,
First Floor, Chambers House,
Ellison St., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Tel: 094 9047010
Email: mayochildcare@mayococo.ie

Mayo County Childcare Committee contact details:

Jim Power, Co-ordinator
Email: jpower@mayococo.ie

Mary Conway, Administrator
Email: maryconway@mayococo.ie

Angela Cope, Development Worker
Email: acope@mayococo.ie

Olivia Donohoe,
Development Worker
Email: odonohoe@mayococo.ie

Michelle Basquille,
Development Worker (job-share)
Email: mbasquil@mayococo.ie

Transforming Ireland

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