

What's been happening in your ABC?

We had a successful meeting of the Consortium on March 6th that was open to all members. We discussed the Consortium review and, after sandwiches and tea, had an interesting presentation from Fidelma Bonass and the TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) team involved in running Meitheal (Practice Model for all Agencies working with Children, Young People and their Families) in NW Dublin.

The next **Consortium Meeting** is scheduled for June 15th at 11am followed by a talk delivered by Dr. David Carey at 12.30pm in RD004, DIT Grangegorman. All are welcome to attend.

The **Doodle Den Programme** is looking to hire facilitators for a relief panel for the final term of the school year, 24 April- June 2017. Doodle Den is an after school literacy programme for Senior Infants which runs for 1.5 hours on Tue, Wed, and Thur evenings after school during term.

If interested, please contact Martha at dublin7doodleden@gmail.com



500+ children benefiting from GG ABC programmes

Incredible Years (IY)

petra.hanlon@dit.ie



Baby Programme

The second run of IY Baby with Baby Massage finished in February. 14 mums and babies attended, facilitated by 2 Public Health Nurses. After the 14 weeks together we had a lovely graduation where everyone told of their favourite parts of the programme. The third programme is due to start on March 29th.

Teacher Classroom Management (TCM)

One group of 5 teachers attended TCM training from Sept-Dec 2016. 3 teachers are currently enrolled in the programme. 77 children will benefit from this training in 2017.

Classroom Dina

Training took place in Oct' 2016 and Feb' 2017. In total

24 people, from 10 facilities, have received Classroom Dina training with Peter Loft from Incredible Years (US). Peter Loft is returning for one day. On March 15th, to check in with the Oct



group and a shared learning afternoon with Liz Cronin has been organised for May 24th to bring everyone who received CD training together to share their learning. 213 children will attend Dina School in 2017!

Basic Parenting

To date, 12 people have received Basic Parenting training. This 14 week programme focusing on positive behaviour and problem solving is currently being delivered by Step by Step, St. Mary's Primary School in conjunction with School Completion Project, St. Gabriel's Primary School paired with Stanhope Primary School. To date 73 children and their parents have benefited from the delivery of this programme.

Grangegorman ABC Steering Group Update

January Steering Group discussed how we can sustain ABC-style activity in the Grangegorman ABC area once the current ABC programme has come to an end. The feedback from the Consortium review meetings which took place towards the end of last year played an important part in shaping our discussions.

Key issues included:

- Who might be involved in a successor programme to ABC?
- How can we build on our achievements and learn from our experiences so far?
- How do we continue to develop inter-agency working and cooperation in the area?
- How do we go about developing a strategic vision, leadership, funding, target groups, etc.?
- What kind of resources do we need to move this forward and how do we get them?

With everyone in Grangegorman ABC currently working at full capacity, it was agreed that we would seek approval to create an additional temporary post to carry out this important development work on behalf of the Consortium. Consortium members with the capacity to lead on this work will be invited to flag their interest. A brief for the work involved and a process to select a consortium organisation to carry it out will be put in place.

Upskilling

24 students enrolled in the DIT Level 7 Aistear and Síolta Implementation

Programme (the early childhood curriculum framework for all children from birth to six years) in 2016.

Graduation is scheduled for May 2017!

The Level 6 classes will finish in June. We look forward to all 15 students completing and submitting for the full Level 6 award.

Doodle Den

Thanks to the work of the teachers and D7 School Completion Programme, 120 children over 2015-16 and 2016-17 have taken part in the year-long after school literacy club for senior infant class pupils. The aim of the club is to engage children in reading and writing while doing fun activities.

Dates for your calendar:

- March 28th** 'Stepping Up' school transition workshop
March 29th Speech and Language upskilling for all EY staff. 10am-12, DoCCS
April 6th Implementing Aistear & Síolta / Inclusion Upskilling day
May 5th Deadline for submission of Steering Group agenda items
May 9th Steering Group
May 24th Classroom Dina shared learning afternoon
June 15th Consortium Meeting with Dr. David Carey

Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP)

PCHP is a "learning through play experience" for parents and their preschool children. It is designed to strengthen the natural bond between parent and child and to encourage a love of learning. We are seeking approval from Pobal to take on more families under the Grangegorman programme. ABC is assessing how best to continue supporting PCHP after ABC's scheduled end. National College of Ireland's Early Learning Initiative have offered to do this, subject to funding.

Referral Pathways

A workshop for parents, teachers and early years staff involved in the "Stepping Up" initiative to support children moving from crèche to primary school has been organised for Wednesday 28th March in the Daughters of Charity, Henrietta Street. On Thursday 29th March a workshop to help early years' staff to support referrals around speech and language issues will take place in Manor Street and will be led by Kitty Murphy, a HSE Senior Speech and Language Therapist. For more information contact Fidelma Bonass, Referral Pathways Chair, fidelma.bonass@tusla.ie

Grangegorman Area Based Childhood Programme.

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