

Toys, Technology and Training


Supporting our
Neurodiverse Community


Free Talks and Workshops Spring 2025




 buytickets.at/tttkildare

 Kildarelibraries.ie/ttt

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What is the TTT Programme?

The TTT Programme is designed to offer support to our neurodiverse community.

Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas libraries, a specialised collection of toys and assistive equipment can be accessed free of charge in branches throughout the county and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any Kildare library.

Items in the catalogue can be requested or renewed online and collected by the borrower at their nearest branch library. Pick up a catalogue at any Kildare library or view it online at kildarecoco.ie/library.

This collection has been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with therapists working in the community.

Membership is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in County Kildare. Contact your local library for further terms and conditions of use.

A full list of our libraries and contact information is available at kildarecoco.ie/library.



Free Talks and Workshops

The TTT Programme includes an annual series of free talks and workshops, funded by Kildare County Council. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

Attendance is open to everyone and free of charge, though booking is required.

TTT talks and workshops from February to May 2025 will be in-person events taking place across Kildare libraries, unless otherwise stated.

Please take note of location when booking

Continuous Professional Development

Certificates of Attendance are available for all TTT talks and workshops.

Certificates will be available from the venue after the event. Please note that certificates will only be issued on the night and cannot be requested at a later time.

Sensory Garden at Leixlip Library



Sensory Pods at Leixlip & Kildare Town

Sensory pods are a safe space designed to address the needs of those with sensory support, processing or anxiety-based challenges.

The pods offer options to engage or limit visual, auditory and kinesthetic supports.

Sensory pods are located in Kildare Town Library and Leixlip Library; for more information or to book a session, contact the relevant library directly: kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie / leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie



Tovertafel (Magic Table)

Leixlip and Naas

The Tovertafel is a special projector that turns any blank surface into a 'magic table', or interactive games surface.

It was developed with the care sector in mind, focusing on making games more accessible and therapeutic to those with a cognitive challenge.

In particular, games have been developed that support children and adults with autism and older adults with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Leixlip Library at leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie or Naas Library at naaslib@kildarecoco.ie when this service is available in your local branch.

Portable Projector

Kildare Library Service also provides access to the Tovertafel through a portable projector. Contact your local library to see when this service is available in your local branch.

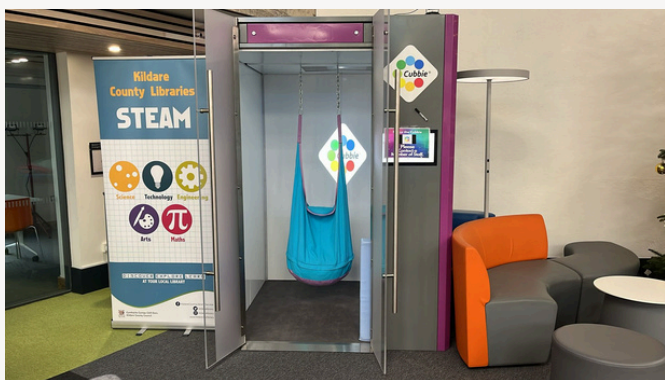


Cubbie at Athy and Naas Libraries

The Cubbie offers a sensory solution for people with autism, ADHD and other sensory processing disorders (SPD) and anxiety. It delivers a sensory programme specific to a person's unique sensory needs, helping them to regulate and better participate in school, work or play activities. The Cubbie is easy to use, allowing each user to adjust LED lighting, sounds and vital effects to match their needs. It provides flexible seating options including slings and rockers, and is wheelchair accessible.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Athy Library at athylib@kildarecoco.ie or Naas Library at naaslib@kildarecoco.ie


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accounts fund



The Fact Factory Magazine



CHILDREN'S AUDIO AND PRINT MAGAZINE

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AGE 7-12
STRUGGLING WITH:

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

DYSLEXIA

RELUCTANT READERS

BORROW READER PEN & MAGAZINES
FROM THE DESK

@AUDIOMAGMEDIA



Available to borrow from Athy, Celbridge, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge libraries.

Further Resources

TTT Book Collection

A tailored selection of titles providing comprehensive information on numerous conditions.

Available in Leixlip Community Library; request from your local library or via the online catalogue.

Reader Pens

Reader Pens - now available to borrow and use in Kildare Libraries.

Read words and full lines of text aloud for independent reading

To aid: Dyslexia, difficulty with reading or pronunciation and vision problems.

For more information, please contact your nearest library branch.

TTT Vimeo Channel

Our TTT Vimeo channel features talks, presentations, storytimes and more, with new content added regularly:

vimeo.com/channels/toystechnologytraining

Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS)

TTRS is a literacy programme aimed at improving reading and spelling while teaching touch-typing. It is specifically designed for those with learning differences such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia.

TTRS is available in the following Kildare Libraries: Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge.

For more information, please contact your nearest library branch.

Events




Please note that booking for all events is online via our Ticket Tailor box-office:

buytickets.at/tttkildare



Dyslexia Information Session for Parents

 Online

[Register](#)

In this pre-recorded information video from the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, we look at:

- What is dyslexia?
- How to get an assessment
- Support in school
- Support at home
- Dyslexia & self-esteem

Register to receive a link to the video and the presentation slides used.

You can also contact the Dyslexia Association by emailing info@dyslexia.ie should you have any specific query.

Sensory Story Time Sessions

Sharon Curran, MSEN, BA Mont Ed,
Dip Hort

🕒 22.02.2025
29.03.2025
26.04.2025
24.05.2025
11am

Join Sharon for a fun, sensory story time tailored specially to meet the needs of neurodiverse children.

📍 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)



D-code Dyslexia

Introduction to Structured Literacy (SL) with Mary Moran

🕒 13.02.2025
7pm

📍 Celbridge
Library

🕒 16.04.2025
7pm

📍 Naas
Library

[Book Here](#)

This lecture will:

- Introduce you to Structured Literacy using the Dcode/ Ncode programme, which is designed to teach even the most dyslexic how to read and spell.
- Explain why some children will not read without explicit instruction.
- Outline the five pillars of literacy acquisition when using the Dcode/ Ncode programme.

Yoga and Sensory Play

with Stephanie Bolger

🕒 **15.02.2025**
2.30pm

📍 **Celbridge
Library**

🕒 **08.03.2025**
11am

📍 **Newbridge
Library**

🕒 **12.04.2025**
11am

📍 **Maynooth
Library**

[Book Here](#)

Yoga is about feeling good in your body and these sessions are designed specifically for neurodiverse children. They can come to a class and feel free to explore a wide range of sensory based activities at their own pace and if it's suitable they can engage in some fun Yoga games.

Most children know what they need to support regulation, each child is so unique and different that by providing a range of activities to explore they will naturally be guided towards what they need in that moment.

Peer Support Group

for Parents/Guardians of Neurodivergent Children and Young People

 **Starting**
27.02.2025

Thursdays
weekly
10.30am

 **Leixlip**
Library


Come along for a cuppa and connect with other parents/ guardians, share your stories/ knowledge/ experiences and support each other, in a safe environment.

This group will be self-led.

For adults only.

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

 25.02.2025
7pm

 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)

Autistic Adults and Autism Burnout


“Autistic burnout is a state of physical and mental fatigue, heightened stress, and diminished capacity to manage life skills, sensory input, and/or social interactions, which comes from years of being severely overtaxed by the strain of trying to live up to demands that are out of sync with your own needs.” (www.autism.org.uk).

Autism burnout can result in the need for significant time off work or college and can easily be misunderstood for other conditions. This talk is designed for adults who are/have/or are concerned about experiencing autism burnout.

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong will discuss what the condition is, the recovery process and what you can do to help. She will also discuss prevention strategies and lifestyle changes that will help going forward.

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

 04.03.2025
7pm

 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)


Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) in Adulthood

Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) is a life-long condition that primarily impacts motor coordination, organisation and planning. It can also cause significant levels of stress and fatigue.

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong will discuss the experience of having DCD/Dyspraxia in adulthood. She will also discuss the assessment process for adults who suspect they have DCD/Dyspraxia and weren't diagnosed in childhood and will present self-help strategies for adults with this condition.

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

 11.03.2025
7pm

 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)

Helping Neurodivergent Students transition from Primary school to Secondary School


Secondary school presents many new challenges for Neurodivergent students (i.e. autistic students or those with DCD/Dyspraxia, ADHD etc.). This is a very significant change in their lives and they need some extra support to help this transition to go as smoothly as possible.

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with Neurodivergent teenagers. It will cover the following issues:

- Coping with Change – preparation while in primary school.
- Challenges faced in secondary school
- The first weeks – what to expect and how to help
- Time for Questions and Answers

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

 18.03.2025
7pm

 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)


An Introduction to Social Stories – Opening the Social World for Autistic Children.

The world can be a perplexing place for an autistic child. Faces can be hard to read, people can say things they don't mean and there can be lots of rules that other children seem to pick up easily that can be difficult to interpret e.g. standing in a line, waiting for a turn etc.

Social stories are used to help autistic children learn about the social world in an affirming, neuroaffirmative and child centred way. They are written for the individual child using an evidence based method and are written using positive language which holds the child's dignity and self-esteem at the centre of the process. This talk is based on the work of Carol Gray, who is the proponent of social stories.

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

 25.03.2025
7pm

 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)

I've just been told my child is autistic - what do I do now?

Learning that your child is autistic can be a daunting experience for parents. You may have found it difficult to access services and be wondering what you need to do next.

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong will discuss the support that is available, sensory tools and strategies that will help your child and how to set goals for your child's development. There will be time for questions and answers.

Active LEGO Sessions

🕒 01.03.2025
11am

📍 Leixlip
Library

Active Kids Academy are delighted to bring our Active Lego Sessions to Kildare Libraries.

🕒 01.03.2025
2.30pm

📍 Naas
Library

Our Active Lego Sessions are designed to be inclusive and allow every child to work at their own pace, ability and style.

[Book Here](#)

This activity is designed specifically for Neurodivergent children & your child will not be expected to sit for the duration of the session. The children are free to explore all sections & rejoin the Lego tables at any stage.

The sessions are aimed at children aged between 4 to 14 years with a maximum of 12 children in each class.

Active Kids Academy

🕒 22.03.2025
11am

📍 Naas
Library

🕒 22.03.2025
2.30pm

📍 Celbridge
Library

[Book Here](#)

These classes, whilst based around fun, are designed to work on skills such as fine & gross motor skills, communication, social skills, fundamental sports skills, balance, coordination, positive mental health skills and much more, BUT as far as the children know, they are just having fun in an inclusive environment, designed to ensure they thrive and reach their own goals.

Classes will be made up of activities & games to get children moving, working on social skills and having fun. The games will focus on things such as fine & gross motor skills, fundamental sports skills, coordination, strength, agility, communication skills and much more. The classes will be made up of obstacle courses, parachute fun, imaginary play, group activities and lots more.

The classes are aimed at children aged between 5 to 10 years with a maximum of 10 children in each class.

Sibshop

🕒 05.04.2025
2pm

📍 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)

Sibshops are fun workshops for siblings of children with special needs. They are lively, with games and discussions.

As well as having lots of fun this online Sibshop will provide a great opportunity for siblings to get together and chat about some of the difficulties and the positives of having a sibling with special needs.

The workshops are aimed at children aged between 8 to 12 years (inclusive) with a maximum of 10 children in the group recommended as this works best in order to give all the children a chance to contribute to the discussions and games.

Their sibling with special needs should be over 2 ½ years so that they can see and understand that their brother or sister has special needs.

Siblings experience the same joys and concerns as their parents yet have fewer opportunities to gain access to support. Often siblings do not want to burden their parents with their own worries. Sibshop Workshops are one way of offering them fun and the support they deserve.

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Kevin Prior, Everyday OT

🕒 08.04.2025
6.30pm

📍 Maynooth
Library

[Book Here](#)

Becoming a Sensory Detective: Understanding and Support a Child's Sensory Profile

This workshop will help you to develop a deeper understanding of sensory processing and its impact on children's daily lives. Participants will explore the different sensory systems and learn how to identify and support sensory needs effectively.

This workshop offers practical strategies to help children regulate emotions, enhance focus, and improve participation in daily activities.

🕒 13.05.2025
6.30pm

📍 Newbridge
Library


[Book Here](#)


Movement, Brain and Sensory Breaks: Understanding What a Child Needs and When

This workshop focuses on supporting children's self-regulation through practical tools and strategies. It provides an in-depth exploration of the benefits of incorporating Movement, Brain, and Sensory Breaks into educational and home environments

Occupational Therapy Workshops

with Kevin Prior, Everyday OT


 15.05.2025
6.30pm

 Celbridge
Library

[Book Here](#)

Empowering Children with DCD: Strategies for Success

This informative workshop offers valuable insights into Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) and equips parents with effective strategies to support their children.

 22.05.2025
6.30pm

 Athy
Library

[Book Here](#)

Empowering Kids: Strategies for Supporting Children with Daily Living Skills (Self-Care Skills)

This workshop will equip caregivers with practical strategies to nurture independence in their children. This comprehensive workshop provides actionable insights for fostering essential self-care abilities, such as dressing, grooming, eating, and toileting.

Cosmic Movers

A Sensory Dance Adventure

🕒 10.05.2025
10.30am

📍 Naas
Library

🕒 10.05.2025
2.30pm

📍 Leixlip
Library

[Book Here](#)

An interactive movement workshop designed for children with additional needs and their caregivers. Led by inclusive dance artist Jess Rowell, this playful and responsive journey creates space for curiosity and connection. Join the adventure and be transported to a magical realm where dance, colourful props, scents, and spacey sounds enhance the sensory experience. Participants are invited to explore and engage in their own unique way.

Let the cosmic adventure begin!

Music, Lights, and Rhythm

The workshop will incorporate rhythmic elements, soft lighting, and music to enhance the sensory experience. The music will be kept at a comfortable volume, with no sudden loud sounds or flashing lights.


For children aged 6 to 12 years with additional sensory needs.


Workshop length is 45 minutes, with time before and after for settling and relaxing

Behaviour Support for your Neurodivergent Child

with Eimear Kelly

Session 1

 13.03.2025
7pm


 Kildare Town
Library


[Book Here](#)

Understanding Behaviour Needs and Tools to Create a Behaviour Support Plan for Home.

This opening session will provide an overview of neurodiversity and autism. We will look at behaviour from a needs-based, communication-based and functional perspective. We will explore tools and strategies that can provide an understanding of why a behaviour is happening, how the environment can impact behaviour and what is the communication attempt behind that behaviour. When we know what is driving the behaviour, we can then create a plan of individualised and person-centred strategies that can support that young person.

Session 2

 27.03.2025
7pm

 Kildare Town
Library

[Book Here](#)

Practical Strategies Part 1


This session will explore the importance of proactive strategies, proactive meaning before the behaviour occurs. Proactive strategies can be used to enable the young person to engage in behaviours that will support and increase their quality of life, wellbeing and their feelings of happiness, confidence and independence. Proactive strategies can also be used to decrease the levels of overload, anxiety or overwhelm felt in certain situations.


Behaviour Support for your Neurodivergent Child

with Eimear Kelly

Session 3

Practical Strategies Part 2

 03.04.2025
7pm


 Kildare Town
Library


[Book Here](#)

This session will explore the importance of reactive strategies, reactive meaning after the behaviour has occurred. Reactive strategies can be used when the young person is already feeling overloaded, highly anxious or overwhelmed. These strategies can support the young person to return to a regulated and relaxed state, while providing them with a sense of validation, compassion and a feeling of safety.

Session 4

Putting the Plan Together and Q&A (workshop on attendee's specific needs)

 10.04.2025
7pm

 Kildare Town
Library

[Book Here](#)

This final session will look at putting all the strategies together so that attendees will leave the training with a workable plan that they can use at home. We will look at real life examples of how behaviour support strategies can be implemented, along with skills on how to adapt and change the plan depending on the evolving needs of your child. The session will finish with a Q&A on attendee's specific needs and questions.





Active Kids Academy | activeacademy.ie

Lisa Redmond runs Active Kids Academy, a company providing fun & fitness for children of all abilities. With over 20 years of experience working with children with additional needs and in the fitness industry, Lisa has combined both her passions to bring individual programmes to children and their families.



Dr. Dorothy Armstrong | dorothyarmstrongconsultantot.com

Dr Dorothy Armstrong (MSc PhD) is an expert occupational therapist who specialises in the area of neurodivergence (Autism, ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder / Dyspraxia). She works on projects to promote inclusion and delivers training, education and advice to organisations such as schools, community groups and businesses.

She has made television and radio appearances and is the author of the book 'The Next Adventure: Transitioning to Secondary School when you have Developmental Coordination Disorder'. More information about Dorothy can be found on her website above.



Stephanie Bolger

Stephanie Bolger is a children's Yoga teacher and Sensory Play facilitator specifically for neurodiverse children. She is a mother of four children and her two boys have Autism and intellectual delays. She has a personal interest in the nervous system which has guided her teaching, and she enjoys meeting families and providing children with a safe space for them to have fun and be themselves.



Sharon Curran

Sharon Curran (MSEN, BA Mont Ed, Dip Hort) is a Special Educational Needs teacher specialising in autism spectrum disorder. She has a background in Montessori education and a wealth of experience in teaching children with a wide range of learning disabilities.



Cosmic Movers | jessrowelldance.com

Jess Rowell Dance is a strong voice in inclusive dance and multi-sensory performance in Ireland. Based in Bray, Co. Wicklow, Jess is dedicated to making dance accessible, crafting immersive and engaging experiences designed to empower young people with additional needs.

At the heart of all of Jess's work is a commitment to collaboration and inclusivity. Every production is a shared journey, celebrating the unique perspectives of participants and audiences. From sensory-rich performances in theatres to creative workshops in schools and community settings, the work aims to foster connection, exploration, and expression for people of all abilities.



Eimear Kelly

Eimear Kelly (MSc) is a Behaviour Specialist and Psychotherapist in training with over 10 years of experience in supporting neurodiverse individuals (Autism/ADHD). Eimear is the founder of Aspire Behaviour Consultancy in Dublin, where she provides specialist behavioural support to individuals, their parents, caregivers and wider support staff to address behavioural concerns in the home and school environment.

Eimear is passionate about making meaningful changes in the lives of all individuals and is dedicated to supporting their well-being, quality of life, and independence.



Mary Moran | dcode dyslexia.com

Mary has been working closely with struggling readers for almost four decades. She was trained in the Orton Gillingham method in 1986, and she has used structured literacy to teach struggling readers to read and spell ever since. Recently, she designed and wrote her own structured literacy programme, i.e., the DcodeDyslexia programme, with unique and effective components, which focus on the child. It uses the approach and methods she has developed and employed successfully in her private practice as a dyslexia tutor, all of which are informed by evidence and research in the comprehensive body of work referred to as the Science of Reading.

Mary has delivered training through the Tralee, Clare, Meath, Waterford, Donegal and Athlone Education Support Centres over the past three years. Furthermore, she has trained specialist teachers in the UK through PATOSS



Kevin Prior | EverydayOTIreland.com

Kevin Prior is a Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist with over 15 years experience. He is the Co-Founder of Everyday OT, a children's occupational therapy products, education and services company. He has worked for Ireland's Health Service Executive in various Paediatric settings, he is also a loving father of four young children. Kevin is a member of the Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland, including the subgroup Paediatric Advisory Group and is registered with the professional governing body CORU.

His professional interests include play, play theory and sensory integration. Kevin's heart belongs to the world of play and its pivotal role in supporting children. His own personal journey of being both dyslexic and having a physical disability, provide him with a unique perspective and fuels his drive to better understand the needs of children and families and bring about inclusive change.



Sibshop Ireland | sibshopireland.ie

Linda Foley and Liz Fitzpatrick both work with children with an Intellectual Disability. Liz is a Registered General Nurse and an AMI Montessori teacher and has been supporting children (6–18 years) with special needs in mainstream education for over 20 years.

Linda is a Registered General Nurse and a Paediatric Nurse, and she runs a specialised pre-school for children from birth to 6 years. They are qualified Sibshop facilitators and Parents Plus facilitators. They have a huge interest in sibling support and are founders of Sibshop Ireland.

TTT User Feedback



Have found all the TTT talks extremely informative... I have learned so much from these talks



The programme has given me the opportunity to learn more about how my child's diagnosis affects them and their interaction with the world



I feel the programme really helps me to help my students



A great support & source of information



We found a fantastic sensory resource that helped A LOT in school



We found it's great to try out things that our OT said would be good for our son



A great resource for teachers



We have used the knowledge learned in talks and the equipment rented out via the library to assist in the development of our son who has autism





The **Let's Talk about Parenting** Programme is a FREE series of talks and workshops for parents, as well as professionals working with children and young people in County Kildare. The programme is provided by Kildare Library Service, funded by Kildare County Council, and supported by Kildare CYPSC and members of the multi- agency Kildare & West Wicklow Parenting Forum, with contributions by the HSE Primary Care Psychology Service and MABS, among others.

For more information on the Parenting Forum and the supports available in County Kildare visit parentingsupport.ie

Talks are a mixture of library in-house and online and certificates of attendance are available for CPD purposes.

Sign up to the LTAP events newsletter at this link (just select your local library):
kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter



Kildare Library and Arts Services

Toys, Technology and Training

Free Talks and Workshops

Awareness • Education • Inclusion

