



## A Word From the Manager

Welcome to the first edition of our online newsletter for 2014. Following on from our feature in December on outdoor environments we have included an article on Mud Kitchens. We have also centered our theme around Reuse and Recycle in this edition featuring ReCreate an existing new resource to the ECCE sector, where we have negotiated a deal for Kildare Providers, more details below. We have also been in contact with Weee Ireland and have received a delivery of recycling battery boxes for ECCE services, see page 4.

We have included details of an innovative initiative developed by Kildare Library services, Play 2 Read, where library staff, parents and pre-schools work together to prepare children for learning to read at school providing a vital head-start for children in the year before they start school. We, at KCCC would encourage pre-schools to make contact with the Play2Read pro-

gramme which is free of charge and a way of engaging parents in their child's learning. Kildare Library Service will be speaking at our upcoming information session on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Naas Library.

The first couple of months have been as busy as ever for the ECCE sector.

Kildare CCC have been working hard behind the scenes as part of Childcare Committees Ireland (representative group of all CCCs) feeding in to and proposing improvements to the Programme Integration Project (PIP) which is being undertaken by Pobal with a view to integrating the administration of the National Programmes, ECCE Scheme, Community Education and Training Scheme, Afterschool Childcare Scheme and Community Childcare Subvention scheme ultimately easing the administration burden on ECCE services.

In late 2013 two key initiatives were announced by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald to

advance the Quality agenda announced in the aftermath of Prime-time "A Breach of Trust".

A Learner fund has been secured to enable ECCE practitioners to meet the legal qualification requirements of the ECCE scheme, where ECCE room leaders will be required to hold a minimum of a FETAC level 6 in Childcare. The National Quality Support Service was announced which will see a number of mentors recruited nationally to provide quality supports to Full-Day care services.

KCCC as part of CCI have made submissions to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on how these initiatives can be rolled out locally and we are waiting on decisions to be finalized in order to proceed. We will keep you all up to date on developments via email and our social media sites so be sure to follow us on twitter and like us on Facebook, details below.

### ReCreate—Facilitated Tour on Saturday 29th March 2014

You can read all about the work of ReCreate on Page 3 of this Newsletter.

To find out more about the facility, please join KCCC on a FREE tour of ReCreate to take place at 11am on Saturday 29th March 2014.

All Kildare Providers attending will receive 10% off the cost of their order on the day.

Please contact us to book your place on 045 861307.

Kildare County Childcare Committee, Unit 14, Clane Shopping Centre, Clane, Co Kildare

Tel 045 861307

Fax 045 982411

Email [info@kildarechildcare.ie](mailto:info@kildarechildcare.ie)

Web [www.kildarechildcare.ie](http://www.kildarechildcare.ie)

Twitter [@Kildareccc](https://twitter.com/KildareChildcare)

Find us on Facebook Kildare County Childcare Committee

# Making a Mud Kitchen!



Earth and water are probably the most intriguing things to the developing mind of a young child. Playing with nature has a deep importance and endless possibilities for well-being, development and learning.

A mud kitchen includes the much loved home corner from the indoor environment, which is enriched and extended through being outdoors.

Mud kitchens do not need to be fancy nor do they need to cost much to create. You simply cannot beat creating your own bespoke kitchen from recycled, begged and discovered items and the best part is these can be created in collaboration with the children who will be using them.

Not only is a kitchen a lovely familiar link to children's own 'home' setting. This sort of familiar, secure play offers up lots of opportunities for cooperative play and interaction as well as a million other things.

## Some of the benefits of Mud Kitchens:

Develop Imaginative skills

Develop receptive and expressive language

Develop Role play and interactions

Problem solving Skills

Joint Planning and negotiation

Development of fine and gross motor skills such as:

- Filling, Pouring, Emptying, Transferring, Sorting, Whisking, Mixing, Splating, Counting, Mashing, to name but a few, therefore it is worth considering how you will resource your space to support these skills.

## Resources:

- What you put in your kitchen is up to you and the children. If you can find an old cabinet or dresser, the children will have a place to work and store materials. Old pots and pans, mixing bowls, spoons, utensils, funnels, and other kitchenware give the kitchen an authentic feel and offer lots of different opportunities for play.



## Useful Information:

*Jan White's website focusing in natural play, with specific information about mud kitchens*

<http://janwhitenaturalplay.wordpress.com/>



A new business venture in Dublin is making a huge impact, not only for members, but local businesses alike. ReCreate is an innovative idea, where local businesses can dispose of their surplus materials, which can then be used for arts and craft ventures for not only childcare settings, but schools, theatre groups and the elderly. This is allowing for affordable, creative materials to be reused for people of all ages and abilities in a resourceful way, and at the same time helping to protect the environment.



*The mission of ReCreate is to divert end-of-line materials from landfill by collecting and redistributing discarded goods as low cost supplies for art, education, and social services in our Creative Resource Centre. The educational mission is to increase creativity and lateral thinking, while at the same time raising awareness of school children and the general public regarding materials*

The ReCreate Centre first started taking products in July 2013 with the resource centre opening on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Workshops are available to all either, on site (Ballymount Industrial Estate, off M50) or one of ReCreate's fully trained professional artists can attend your premises. Upon arrival at the centre, the friendly and helpful staff, will show you around the setting explaining the different materials and how they can possibly be used. For example KCCC staff members were shown how old inhalers (which had been cut up), could be glued and used as mosaic material. Medical piping which due to minor defects couldn't be used for their original purpose would make great additions to the water play table. Even trays and cups originally meant for an airline company is available for role play. We came away from ReCreate with not only many types of equipment and art supplies, but with a wealth of ideas for future play and art activities. The selection of products, are varied and all with potential. The only stumbling block is your imagination.



**For more information contact ReCreate at 01 456 8798**

**Or see [www.recreate.ie](http://www.recreate.ie)**



Please find below a list of upcoming talks as part of Kildare Library Service Toys, Technology & Training Project. All talks are free of charge and open to everyone but please book your place in advance at the relevant library. All talks are by Dorothy Anderson, occupational therapist.

**Naas Library 045 879111**  
**Leixlip Library 01 6060050**  
**Kildare Library 045 530626**  
**Athy Library 0598631144**

### *Study Skills for Teens with Dyslexia*

- Thursday 20th March  
7pm (Kildare Library)

### *Transitioning from Primary School for Children with Special Needs*

- Thursday 6th March 7pm  
(Leixlip Library)
- Thursday 13th March  
7pm (Naas Library)

### *Can I Play Too? A Demonstration of the new TTT Collection of Toys*

- Thursday 3rd April 7pm  
(Naas Library)
- Thursday 8th April 7pm  
(Athy Library)
- Thursday 1st May 7pm  
(Kildare Library)
- Thursday 8th May 7pm  
(Leixlip Library)

**Play2Read** is a Kildare Library Services project where library staff, parents and pre-schools work together to prepare children for learning to read at school. These sessions are designed to help children and their parents/carers to recognise and master 6 key pre-literacy skills. Research has shown that children with these skills, and who have positive reading role models have significantly higher reading levels than children who don't. It is a vital head start for children in the year before school and prepares them for formal education.

The story time takes the form of 4 sessions in the pre-school, with the option of the final session in the library. Our aim is to encourage parents to make reading and the library part of their routine and also to introduce the library to non – users. We also aim to show parents and children that libraries are positive, fun and free!

Library staff will facilitate the sessions and incorporate stories, songs and games with participation from the parents. It is important that parents/carers are engaged and commit to attending as these sessions illustrate ways to enjoy stories in the home.

The skills range from types of books, sounds, vocabulary, rhymes to narrative skills – The children will enjoy the sessions and library staff will share some tips about these skills and their importance.

Books have been chosen specifically to highlight these skills, and also to reinforce the Aistear curriculum.

After the 4 sessions the parents/carers will be equipped to continue teaching the skills in the home through various activities. Hopefully the importance of the skills and the way they can be mastered in a fun way will be shown. We also hope that the role of the library and it's services can be highlighted especially to those who may not have a reading culture. Parents as reading role models and a culture of reading in the home is the best start a child can have in preparation for formal learning. Above all we strive to show reading as a positive and fun activity that parents and their children can enjoy together.

If you would like your pre-school to get involved or would like more information, please contact Trina Coyne ([tcoyne@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:tcoyne@kildarecoco.ie)) or 087 9695524

## Bosco 'moves house' for the LauraLynn Spread A Little Sunshine Campaign

This year WEEE Ireland is hoping to, at least match, the €45,000 fund previously raised for LauraLynn, by increasing battery recycling in Ireland by 20% on last year! Every portable battery recycled by WEEE Ireland goes towards a monetary fund for LauraLynn. The money raised so far through portable battery recycling equates to 300 parent overnight stays and 300 music therapy sessions for children at LauraLynn. The average person uses the equivalent of 16 AA batteries every year. 57 MILLION batteries recycled since 2011 by WEEE Ireland as a part of the "Spread a Little Sunshine" campaign for Ireland's children's hospice

To get involved simply ask KCCC for a recycling battery box or bring your old batteries to us.

## KILDARE COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Invite you to an

# INFORMATION SESSION

For Childcare Professionals on

DATE:

THURS 20TH MARCH 2014

TIME:

7PM—9PM

LOCATION:

NAAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Harbour View, Naas (just off the  
Main Street)



## Play2Read



Kildare Library Services will be hosting an Information session on their Play2Read project. The project supports library staff, parents/carers and pre-school services to work together to prepare children to read at school. As part of the project library staff visit preschools for sessions with staff and parents/carers that incorporate stories, songs and games to help children and their parents/carers recognise and master six key pre-literacy skills.

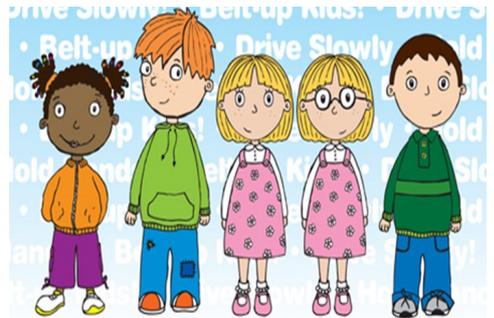
*"What a fun opportunity to help support us in developing children's literacy skills and provide opportunities to support parental engagement and community involvement in our childcare services!!"*

RSA

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority

## Simon and Friends

"Simon and Friends" is a fun, educational road safety programme for children aged five and under. The resource includes a colourful case with four illustrated storybooks, an audio CD with songs and recordings of the stories, as well as an accompanying guide for teachers. There are additional activities, games and songs to support the stories and communicate important road safety messages to children in an enjoyable way.



*"This training session and this invaluable teaching resource is free of charge to interested pre-schools."*

Links to "Siolta" and "Aistear" for both programmes will be provided on the night by KCCC

### Schedule

7.00-7.15	Arrival & Registration
7.15-7.45	Play2Read
7.45-8.00	Refreshments
8.30-9.00	Simon and Friends

### RSVP IS ESSENTIAL

places are limited

Contact KCCC on 045 861307

by Tuesday 18th March 2014

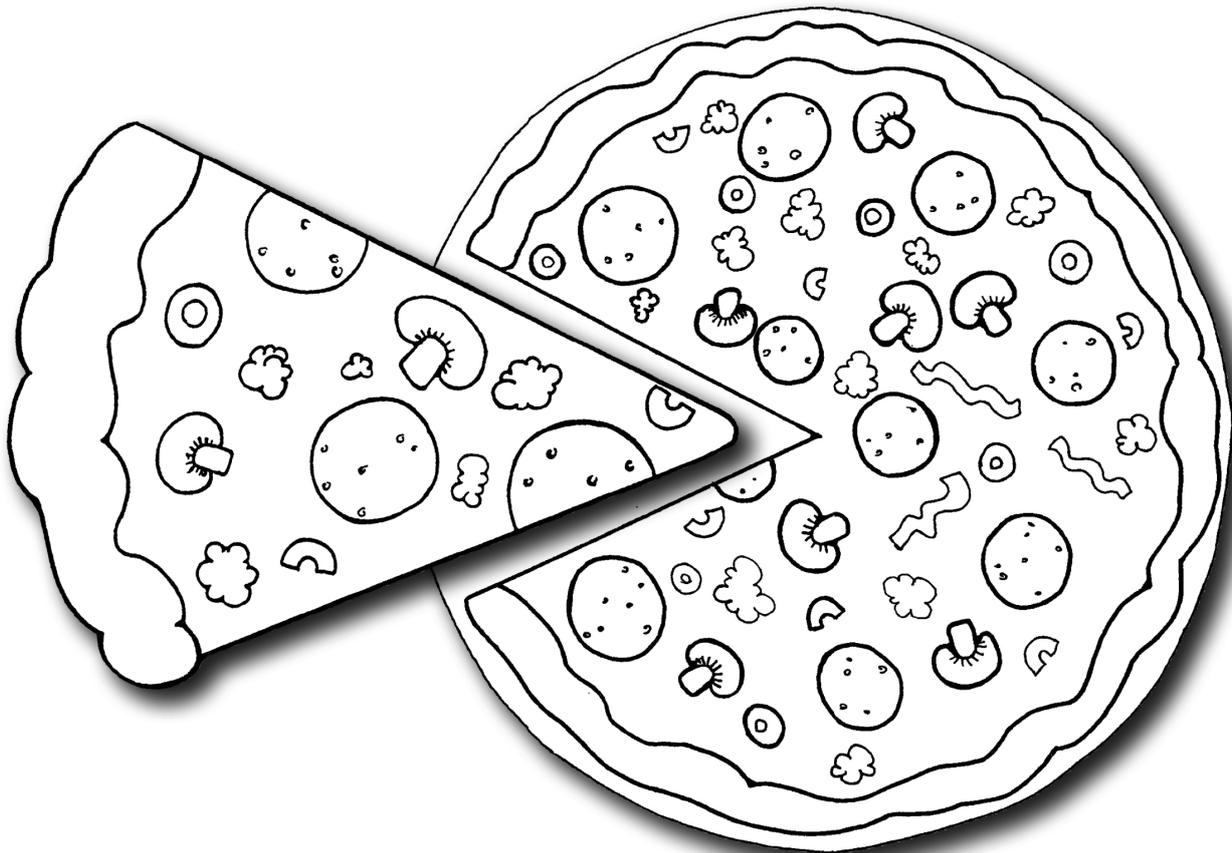
To reserve your place

KCCC ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT CLANE ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2014



**Domino's Pizza, Naas & Clane St. Patrick's Day Festival, 2014**

*Design & Colouring Competition*



***Colour the Pizza, all the Toppings and the Pizza Pan***

Please ensure that you put your Name, Age and Contact Details on the back of this page.

Age Groups: 0-6 years, 6-10 years & 10-14 years.

Final Closing Date: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Return your entry to *DOMINO'S Pizza, Naas* or *McKenna's Hardware, Clane* on or before final closing date.

Prize winners will be announced on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Award Ceremony in the *Westgrove Hotel*.

**Judge's Decisions are Final.**

