

PRESS RELEASE 05/07/2010

Report on 2nd annual County Roscommon Family Play Day held in Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle on 4th July 2010 by Irene Cafferky, Manager Roscommon County Childcare Committee

Play is what children do naturally, it's what all children like to do best and how they learn all about life. In an ideal world children would play in wonderful imaginative places full of nature and variety and with lots of imaginary characters. However, more often than not they spend most of their time indoors and when they do go out, it is all too often to rather limiting and un-stimulating spaces. The effects of traffic, fear of strangers, and our car dependent lifestyles are having a restricting effect on children's play environments and children's freedom to move around.

Irene Cafferky, Manager with Roscommon County Childcare Committee stated "This year our County Family Play Day in Boyle was organised to draw attention to these facts and to organise an event that would show some ways of facilitating children's play in an easy and inexpensive manner. This year the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs supported our county play day to coincide with the National Children's Play Day and lots of fun was had from a child's perspective. It was great to just watch the children's faces as they interacted during some of the events, they were immersed in and even joined in and learned a few moves from the Hip Hop dancers, and thoroughly enjoyed the soccer games co-ordinated by FAI/County Council officials, it was truly wonderful to see their enjoyment!!!!" *The numbers that registered with us on the day were:*

Children- 462

Parents- 289

Total registered: 751

Helena McArdle, Childcare Development Officer with Roscommon County Childcare Committee went on to say "that when organising our 2nd county play day, Roscommon County Council and Roscommon County Childcare Committee were more than happy to get involved and together our agencies co-funded the event with the support of Roscommon Sports Partnership. We want to sincerely thank these organisations for that interagency support and collaboration."

"The reason we organised a County Roscommon Family Play Day was to:

1. Raise awareness of the value of play to children within our county
2. Support the implementation of the County Roscommon Play Policy in conjunction with Roscommon County Childcare Committee, Roscommon County Council, Roscommon County Development Board and Roscommon Sports Partnership Company.
3. Have lots and lots of FUN both indoors and outdoors!!!!!!!!

Carmel Dunne, Childminding Advisory Officer with Roscommon County Childcare Committee acknowledged "that a lot of hard work has gone into organising the play day event where children and their families participated in a balloon race, The Big Blue Playbus, Teddy Bear Hospital, the activity centre, soccer, face painting, fun, games and races and a display of hip hop dancing. In today's world

we need to provide events like the play day to give children the opportunity to experience different types of play that will enhance their development and provide social opportunities to mix with other children and families in a fun and relaxed environment.”

Irene Cafferky thanked the following for making it such a success:

- Roscommon County Childcare Committee & Staff who continue to support the development and co-ordination of childcare in our county
- Roscommon Sports Partnership & Staff who co-ordinate the development of sport in the county
- Community & Enterprise Section, Roscommon County Development Board who oversee the development and implementation of the County's 10-year Economic, Social & Cultural strategy

Special thanks goes to:

- Mayor Luke Ming Flanagan for the official opening of our county play day
- Lisa Cafferky who co-ordinated the event on behalf of the sponsor agencies.
- Helena McArdle, Carmel Dunne, Roscommon County Childcare Committee and Sarah Mulligan, Roscommon Sports Partnership Company co-organisers.
- Mary Mullins Administrative Officer, Roscommon County Council
- The Manager & Elected Members of Roscommon County Council
- Adrian Carberry FAI/RCC development officer & Damon Kearney, Leitrim regional development officer
- Kathy Ewing RIDC playbus
- Sinead & Una for helping out on the day
- Staff of Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle
- Local Media
- The Children & Families who have attended our play day and donated to our charity

Finally, Irene wanted to say a special thank you to everyone who donated on the day to our chosen charity, The Children's Medical & Research Foundation at Our Lady's National Children's Hospital, Crumlin. ***There was over €900 collected on the day.*** We hope that this donation will have a lasting effect on the care and treatment and prevention of childhood illnesses at Our Lady's National Children's Hospital Crumlin. From our donation we hope that in County Roscommon we have made a small difference to children's health nationally.

For further information on any aspect of childcare you can contact Roscommon County Childcare Committee on 094 9622540 or e-mail us at info@roscommonchildcare.ie

[Website: roscommonchildcare.ie](http://roscommonchildcare.ie) where a full report and photographs of the Play Day can be viewed.