



We're on the web!!  
[www.roscommonchildcare.ie](http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie)

# Roscommon County Childcare Committee



## Foreword from the Manager



For many of us this is the beginning of a new era in childcare with the rollout of Síolta (see page 7) and the introduction of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, a capitation payment for the provision of a preschool place for eligible children paid to the service rather than the parent. Nationally, there has been an uptake of about 80% of services and 80% of eligible children. In Roscommon, 97% of services joined the ECCE scheme. On behalf of Roscommon County Childcare Committee I would like to thank the providers who joined the scheme for all their hard work in preparing for the January start. Understandably there have been some teething problems but by engaging with the scheme and working together we can identify and rectify these issues. The OMCYA have sent us a draft timeline for the continuation of the scheme. This timeline is outlined adjacent. Please bear in mind that this is a draft and may be subject to change.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter and find it informative. Myself and the RCCC team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the coming year. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this exciting time of development in childcare.

Irene Cafferky, Manager.

### Timeline for 2010 ECCE

**February** – parents who wish to enrol or transfer their child to another service or to increase the number of days their child attends, your service must complete a parental declaration form and a transfer form, which you submit to the OMCYA by 5 March.

**March 2010:** Information Packs will be sent to all notified pre-schools inviting them to apply for the ECCE scheme in September 2010. CCSS services will also be invited to apply for the CCS/ECCE schemes.

**April 2010:** Closing date for the applications of the ECCE/CCS - 30th April

**May 2010:** The OMCYA will issue contracts to services for signature and return.

**June 2010:** Information leaflet for parents of qualifying children in September 2010 will be issued by the OMCYA.

**July 2010:** Information Packs re the September 2010 ECCE/CCS electronic returns will be issued by OMCYA to all participating services.

**September 2010:** Reference week for Return is expected to be 6th-10th September

**October 2010:** Parents to complete parent declaration form if they wish to enrol their child in January 2011.

**November 2010:** January returns to be returned to the OMCYA no later than 12th November 2010

*These dates are the expected timeframe for 2010 and may be subject to change.*

\* from January to June 2010 sessional services are paid for 115 days (23 weeks) this includes 4 Bank Holidays. You are required to open for 111 days, unless you have agreed to open in conjunction with the local primary school.

### Special points of interest:

- ☺ ECCE Scheme
- ☺ Síolta & Aistear
- ☺ Childminding
- ☺ Training

### Inside this issue:

Childminding week	2
Pyjama Day	3
Childminders Grant & Vol Notification	3
Aistear	4
Reggio Emilia seminar	5
Playground stencils	5
Training Schedule	6
Síolta	7
Childcare Awards	8

# Childminding Week – 20th - 26th March 2010

**Celebrating Childminding Week with Roscommon County Childcare Committee**

**Theme: Kidz Just want to have Fun - Lets Get Out and Play!**

Play is a very important part of child development and helps children make sense of the world around them. Outdoor play has many benefits allowing children more freedom and physical exercise which has an overall health benefit to children and adults. Play allows children to:

- Learn through their own direct experience
- Develop confidence in their own ability to make sense of the world
- Extend skills/abilities by testing them out in a range of situations
- Take risks and learn from their mistakes
- Progress by building on existing knowledge and understanding
- Express feelings and ideas
- Recreate what they have felt and experienced
- Resolve conflicts both intellectually and socially
- Enjoy fun and laughter with their peers and adults
- Draw on a range of resources to achieve their intentions, developing a flexible and open-ended approach to problems and use their imagination to find solutions
- Initiate, carry out and review their own projects
- Encourages deeper interest
- Use their senses as a means of exploring the world



## Childminding Week Events

### Monday 22nd March

Music with Jo Jingles and coffee morning  
from 10.00am to 12pm  
in Upsie Daisies Fun Factory,  
Lanesboro Road, Roscommon

**Afternoon fun**

### Monday 22nd March

Music with Jo Jingles 2.30pm  
Lough Key forest Park  
Boyle Co. Roscommon

### Wednesday 24th March 2010

Visit to Tullyboy Farm, Boyle Co. Roscommon

### Saturday 27th March 2010

Conor Lambert Puppet Show.  
"Badger's Birthday"  
Monksland Community Centre  
Monksland  
Athlone Co. Roscommon

## "Badger's Birthday"



**Booking essential for these events  
as places are limited  
Contact Carmel on 094 9622540**

# NCNA National Pyjama Day 2010

Friday 26th March 2010

NCNA National Pyjama Day 2010 was launched on 2nd February by this years ambassadors RTE presenter and journalist Miriam O'Callaghan and Caroline Harrington, wife of champion golfer Pdraig Harrington. All monies raised will be donated to the very worthy Make-A-Wish Foundation© which grants wishes for children 3-18yrs, living with a life threatening medical condition. In 2009 the NCNA National Pyjama Day raised an incredible €348,755!



Launch of 2010 NCNA National Pyjama Day

This could not have been achieved without the wonderful support of childcare providers nationally.

This year we hope to raise even more! The 2010 NCNA National Pyjama Day will take place on Friday 26th March 2010. To be part of this years event and to receive your NCNA National Pyjama Day Pack, please register by contacting, Jennie Cotter, NCNA Pyjama Day Project Promoter on 012807873 / 0872755675 or nationalpyjamaday@ncna.ie Register by the 12th March and you will be entered into a draw to win a 3 night stay at a 5 star natural retreat resort! See [www.ncna.ie](http://www.ncna.ie) for more details.

## CHILDMINDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT

This grant will be available until the closure of the National Childcare Investment programme 2006 - 2010 (NCIP) in December 2010. The NCIP Childminding Development Grant will continue to be administered by Roscommon County Childcare Committee. The maximum grant will be €1,000 and the grant can be claimed against validated expenditure on equipment, toys or

minor household adaptations. Childminders who did receive the €630 under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme may re-apply for a further €1000 under the NCIP. RCCC will require receipts showing expenditure. It is a condition of the grant that Childminders who are subject to the Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 2006 (minding four or more children) have notified

their service to the HSE Childminders minding three or less children can Voluntary Notify their service to RCCC. To avail of the grant childminders must be voluntary notified to RCCC. For further details on the grant and eligibility criteria, please contact Carmel Dunne Childminding Advisory Officer RCCC on 09496 22540

## Voluntary Notification Scheme for Childminders

Voluntary Notification is a scheme allowing Childminders who are not legally obliged to notify the Health Service Executive (HSE) to notify their services on a voluntary basis to the Childminders' Advisory Service of RCCC, which runs this Voluntary Notification and support scheme on behalf of the HSE. Childminders exempt from the Child Care (Pre School Services)

Regulations 1996 & 2006 and not currently required to notify the Health Service Executive includes Childminders who mind three or fewer unrelated preschool children at any time and Childminders involved in after school care.

**Benefits:**

It allows Childminders to:

- avail of the support and information provided by the Childminder's

- Advisory Service, including a home visit,
- participate in training and childminding networks,
- apply for the Childminders' Development Grant,
- claim the Childminders' Tax Exemption
- Have their service listed on RCCC website.

# Congratulations to the following new services



**Derrane Pre-school, Derrane, Roxboro, Co. Roscommon**



**Croghan Fairy Bush, Croghan, Co. Roscommon**



**First Steps Montessori,  
The Glebe, Athleague, Co. Roscommon.**

## Aistear



On October 22nd 2009 the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) launched Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework at [www.ncca.ie/earlylearning](http://www.ncca.ie/earlylearning). NCCA developed Aistear in partnership with the early childhood sector through extensive research, consultation, planning and development. Practitioners, children, parents, people in education and training, researchers, and policy makers

worked together to ensure that Aistear builds on practice in early childhood settings and is informed by research.

This new framework is for all children from birth to six years. Aistear sets out broad goals for children's learning and development. Guided by these goals, the framework gives practical information, ideas and suggestions to help adults provide experiences for children that are motivating and challenging as well as fun and exciting. Aistear can be used by practitioners in a range of Early Childhood Care and Education settings and even by parents in the home. Highlighting that children learn in many different ways, the framework makes use of four interconnected themes to describe the

content of children's learning and development. These themes are Wellbeing, Identity & Belonging, Communicating and Exploring & Thinking. Aistear emphasises the vital role of play, relationships and language in children's learning and development thus providing a guide to using play, interactions, and partnerships to promote children's learning and development. In conjunction with Síolta, Aistear can provide practical support and guidance for practitioners. For more information visit the NCCA website at [www.ncca.ie/earlylearning](http://www.ncca.ie/earlylearning)

# RCCC Continuing Professional Development Seminar

## The Reggio Approach to Childcare

Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia Municipal Preschools for 25 years. During these years she shared her experience in seminars and workshops in Italy and abroad. She also worked on the creation and consequent updates of "The Hundred Languages of Children" travelling exhibition of the municipal Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools of Reggio Emilia.

Currently Amelia is the International Network Coordinator for Reggio Children. She is responsible for the promotion and development of initiatives and international liaison in Reggio Children/ International Centre, Loris Malaguzzi. She is also the Reggio Children liaison for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA).



Last Year the NCNA was delighted to announce that it had been invited to represent Ireland on the Reggio International Network. This will mean much greater access to Reggio resources, materials and study trips for NCNA providers.

The NCNA Reggio Emilia network, in conjunction with Roscommon, Westmeath and Longford County Childcare Committees, is delighted to offer the following seminar:  
March 30th The Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone 7.30pm-9.30pm

**Images of Reggio Emilia**, a presentation of case studies, using video and photography, of the work of the infant and toddler centres in Reggio Emilia. The seminar will explore the Reggio Emilia concepts of 'the environment as the third teacher', and 'the competent child' and will outline for participants how this approach can be adapted for use in Irish early education and care settings.

This seminar is suitable for practitioners, students, trainers and regulators, policy makers and others involved in early Childhood Education and Care. Fee €15 per person. Please contact Kelly on 01 4601138, Extension 3 to book your place. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

## Playground Markings Scheme

The Roscommon Sports Partnership in collaboration with the HSE Health Promotion Services, would like to inform you about a new initiative called 'Playground Markings'. The Roscommon Sports Partnership has the playground stencils which are available to your service on loan free of charge.

They can be used to paint many games including Hopscotch, A Maze, the Snail Game and an Activity Circuit. The service must cover the cost of the paint (long-lasting traffic paint)

which is approx €250 including delivery for all the games. This can be got from a company called 'Capiche', Space 5, 10- 13 Thomas Street, The Digital Hub, Dublin 8 or telephone 01 4535 805.

Each service will also receive an information pack which shows how to lay the stencils and different games involved. If interested please contact Sarah on 090 6630853 or sarah@rosactive.org

**Playground stencils are available to your service on loan free of charge**

# RCCC Training Calendar

Training	Date	Time	Cost
Paediatric First Aid	Saturday 6th March	9am-5pm	€30
Cooking with school age children	Monday 15th March	7-10pm	€20
First Aid refresher (FETAC level 5)	Saturday 20th March	9am-5pm	€30
Behaviour Management (0-3yrs)	Monday 22nd March	7-10pm	€10
Behaviour Management (3-8yrs)	Monday 29th March	7-10pm	€10
Child Observations	Monday 12th & 19th April	7-10pm	€10
Manual Handling	Friday 16th April	2-6pm	€10
Buntus Start Saturday	17th & Monday 26th April	10am-1pm	€10per person €50 per service
Buntus Start refresher	Subject to demand (contact Sarah Mulligan 090 6630853)		
Fire Safety	Friday 23rd April	2-6pm	€10
Raising Toddlers	Friday 30th April	2-6pm	€10
Child protection for childminders	Friday May 7th & Saturday May 8th	7-10pm 9.30-4.30	No charge
Child protection for practitioners	March & April (contact Joanna O'Reilly earlyyearssupport@ridc.ie)		
Child Observations	Monday 10th & 24th May	7-10pm	€10
Occupational First Aid(FETAC level 5)	Saturdays 15th, 22nd & 29th May	9am-5pm	€70
Behaviour Management 8th & 22nd September	Wednesday	7-10pm	€15
Child safety in childcare and in the outdoors.	Saturday 11th September	10am-2pm	€10
Workplace safety and Hygiene (FETAC level 5)	Saturday 18th September	9.30-5.30pm	€20
Team games and activities for school age children	Saturday 25th September (To be confirmed)	10am-2pm (To be confirmed)	(To be confirmed)
Communication with children for fathers	(To be confirmed)	(To be confirmed)	(To be confirmed)
Quality Awareness Programme	Subject to demand (contact Carmel Dunne CMAO 09496 22540)		
Art & craft with children	Limited sessions Contact RCCC 09496 22540 to book €50 per service		
Jo Jingles music with children	Limited sessions Contact RCCC 09496 22540 to book €50 per service		

All training is heavily subsidised by RCCC. Payment required to secure a place. All courses will run subject to demand and prior payment. Inquiries to RCCC (09496 22540) unless otherwise stated

[www.roscommonchildcare.ie](http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie)

# RCCC Síolta Quality Engagement Initiative

RCCC in collaboration with the National Childrens Nursery Association (NCNA) will host Síolta Cluster Network meeting for Childcare Providers, Practitioners, Childminders and management of childcare services, in the Abbey Hotel in Roscommon on the following Wednesdays.

March 3rd & 24th, April 21st, May 19th, June 16th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd and December 1st 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Síolta Peer Support Network meetings for Childcare Providers, Practitioners, Childminders and management of childcare services, will be held in the Abbey Hotel in Roscommon on the following Wednesdays;

April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd & 30th, September 15th, October 20th, November 17th and December 15th at 7.30 pm.

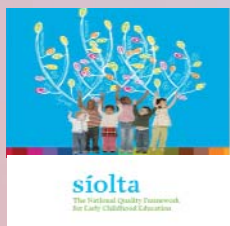
Síolta, the national Quality framework identifies the Principles of Quality as representing the vision which underpins and provides the foundation for quality practices in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Ireland. The general terms and conditions governing participation in the free pre-school Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme requires services to provide an appropriate educational programme for children in their pre-school year, which adheres to the principles of Síolta, the National Framework for Early Childhood Education. Services will be supported in meeting this requirement through the assistance of a Síolta Co-ordinator, funded for this purpose and supported by the staff of Roscommon County Childcare Committee (RCCC). Services must agree to accept on-site mentoring visits and advice from the Síolta co-ordinator and the staff of RCCC.

In the coming years RCCC will work collaboratively with the NCNA to support the implementation of Síolta in both full day and sessional childcare services in County Roscommon.

The aim of RCCC is to improve the quality of childcare in Roscommon by;

- Promoting and supporting the implementation of quality programmes in childcare facilities in County Roscommon.
- Promoting career potential within the childcare sector and enhancing career development opportunities for childcare workers.
- Ensuring recognised quality training standards for childcare workers and facilitating appropriate career progression opportunities. RCCC strive to meet this objective, in partnership with local, regional and national agencies, through the co-ordination of training, information sessions, seminars and workshops. Quality will be supported through
- Telephone support
- One to one on site support and mentoring visits
- Mail outs/Information Strategy
- Continuing Professional Development Opportunities/Seminar

For any information on the roll-out of the RCCC Síolta Programme, please contact us on 094-9622540





Recipients of Childcare Awards pictured with Board and staff members of RCCC, members of Roscommon VEC and Mayor of Roscommon, Tony Ward at the Annual Childcare Gala Awards night in the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen.

Disclaimer: This publication is intended as an information guide only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all information published, Roscommon County Childcare Committee cannot accept any liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions. Roscommon County Childcare Committee will bear no liability or responsibility, direct or indirect, for use or misuse, of any information in this publication.

**ROSCOMMON COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
**KNOCK ROAD**  
**CASTLERA**  
**Co. ROSCOMMON**  
**TEL: 094 9622540**  
**FAX: 094 9620878**  
**E-MAIL: info@roscommonchildcare.ie**  
**WEBSITE: www.roscommonchildcare.ie**

Funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.



Registered Office: Knock Road, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. Incorporated in Ireland, Company Reg. No. 360103  
 Roscommon County Childcare Committee is a FÁS Excellence Through People Employer.