

As a Childminder if you are minding 3 or less children you now have the opportunity to *voluntarily notify* that a service is being provided and you can do so by contacting your Childminding Advisory Worker at Leitrim County Childcare Committee.

The process of Voluntary Notification is one of Self Evaluation based on the National Guidelines for Childminders. Voluntary Notification benefits Childminders by opening up access to a range of supports including information, networking, training and grant aid.

It also benefits Childminder's who wish to; operate to high standards, have their work valued and recognised, avail of €15,000 Childminder Tax Exemption, remove feelings of isolation, contact parents seeking home-based childcare and one to one advice and support from the Childminding Advisory Worker.

**National Childcare Investment Plan Capital Grants**  
Under this strand of funding a Childminder can apply to up to €15,000 per new full-time childcare place created. Under the quality strand of this programme a Childminder can apply for up to €5,000 per full-time childcare place to carry out essential renovations which will improve the quality of the service currently being provided. For more details contact your Childminding Advisory Worker.

**Introduction to Childminding**  
An "Introduction to Childminding" course is currently being organised for September starting Monday 15th it looks as if this course will be run in Carrick-on-Shannon as most enquiries are coming from this area. Watch local press for details.

**Coffee Mornings**  
Currently we have two networks up and running one in Fenagh Visitors Centre and Soft Play Area in Fenagh and one in the Depot in Dromahair. Both coffee mornings are well attended and it provides Childminders, with an opportunity to speak to other Childminders share ideas and build up networks for the children in their care and they are provided with an opportunity to play with other children. It is hoped to set up a coffee morning/network in Kinlough so watch local press for details!

**Creative Resource Manual**  
Is currently being prepared, the thinking behind this manual is to provide Childminders with ideas and resources for Arts & Crafts within their setting. It is currently in draft form if you have any ideas/resources you feel would add to the value of the resource please send them in to be included!!

**Dates for your diary:**

- \* Thursday 11th September: Coffee morning/Arts & Crafts workshop in The Depot, Dromahair, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- \* Monday 15th September: Coffee morning in Fenagh Visitors Centre & Soft Play Area, Fenagh, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- \* Monday 15th September: Introduction to Childminding Course – details to follow.
- \* Saturday 27th September: Trip to Connaught Creative Resource Centre, Castlebar – details to follow.

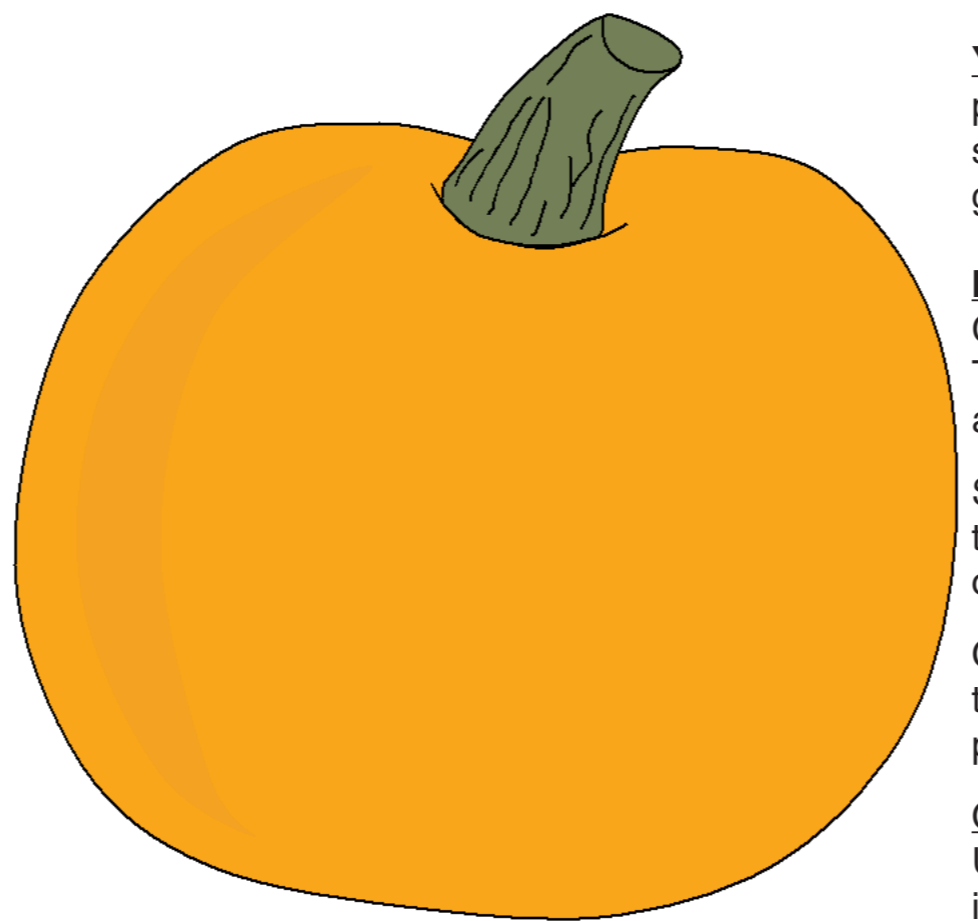


### Pumpkin Time

Pumpkin time is here again,  
Time to play trick or Treat.  
Pumpkin time is here again,  
Our Spooky friends we'll meet.

See the costumes we have on,  
Monsters, ghosts, goblins too.  
See the costumes we have on,  
Hear us all shout "BOO"

## Pumpkin Face Cut and Paste Craft



**YOU WILL NEED:**  
paper  
scissors  
glue

**INSTRUCTIONS:**  
Cut out the pieces opposite.  
This step may require adult assistance.

Set all the pieces out on the table and allow the children to design their pumpkins.

Once the child is happy with their face, they can glue their project together.

**Options:**  
Use the pumpkin template, but instead of the face pieces, provide child with a piece of black paper and allow them to cut out their own eyes, nose and mouth.

*Hint: he should look like this when finished -->*



## Children's Day

On Sunday the 6th of July Leitrim County Childcare Committee hosted a Children's Day in Drumshanbo from 1pm to 4pm at Acres Lake Amenity on the Carrick Road. This was a free event offering a variety of activities for families and children of all age groups. Activities on the day included an inflatable slide, penalty shoot out and basketball target. There was also a DJ and face painters. The 5 to 12 year olds enjoyed relays and an obstacle course and the under 5's took part in parachute games, so there was plenty to keep all age groups entertained. Approximately 350 children and adults from all over the county attended on the day. The aim of the Children's Day was to provide an opportunity for families to spend time together and Leitrim County Childcare Committee welcomed all families to the event including new communities living in the local area. Paschal Mooney Chairperson of Leitrim County Childcare Committee welcomed members of the Kurdish Community and all those from Sliabh an Iarainn, Ballinamore. He thanked Leitrim County Council for the use of the venue and all those who travelled to attend the day. Sunday the 6th of July was National Play Day and Leitrim County Childcare Committee continually promotes the importance of play in children's lives and so the day was a celebration of Play. It is hoped that this day will become an annual event.



Families enjoying themselves at the Children's Day



Children taking part in some of the Activities at our Children's Day

## Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS)

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) recently forwarded information to all County Childcare Committees in relation to the CCSS. The OMCYA recommend that where a service has relatively low operational costs in comparison with the CCSS subvention rates and as a result, would have very low or no fees arising for Band A parents, it may charge a minimum fee provided this does not exceed €5 per week. (In a limited number of cases it is possible that Band B or possibly Band C parents may also be affected by this minimum fee provision). The fee income generated for services in such cases (i.e. €5 x number of subvented parents) can be treated as the equivalent of "top up" funding and will result in a reduction in the operational costs. The following is an example of how this would apply:

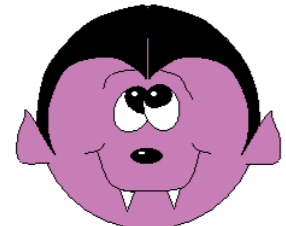
**Normal Application:**

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
Subvention of €33 Fee: €0	Subvention of €23 Fee: €10	Subvention of €15 Fee: €18	No Subvention Full Fee: €33
Subvention of €50 Fee: €0	Subvention of €35 Fee: €15	Subvention of €22.50 Fee: €27.50	No Subvention Full Fee: €50

**Minimum Fee Charged:**

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
Subvention of €33 Fee: €5	Subvention of €23 Fee: €9	Subvention of €15 Fee: €17	Reduced Cost €32 Full Fee: €32
Subvention of €50 Fee: €5	Subvention of €35 Fee: €13	Subvention of €22.50 Fee: €25.50	Reduced Cost €48 Full Fee: €48

The OMCYA state that if a service has the fee policy already approved and they would like to revise it taking into account the provision outlined above, they may forward a revised fees policy form to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.



## Halloween Word Search

N R X G N E E V L Z Y Y E H R  
I V X N S I R M G J N D G X E  
E B Y I G T K I U H R N N R B  
T R G V D A A P P T P A A C O  
S O X R B R I E M M S C R M T  
N O D A A C B U R U A O O O C  
E M E C R L H R Q T P V C N O  
K R E D I P S I N O O M B S G  
N W I T C H L V L B M L R T H  
A O O D S U I W D D A Z F E O  
R D X F O P D J B C R L P R S  
F K P H Z W O I K E J E N D T  
R P G X A B K O E N W O N F D  
B U Y M M U M G K C B M H Q V  
E G Y R T T G S F Y Y B B S T

Can you find all the words below in the wordsearch to the right?

- |              |         |         |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| black        | ghost   | pumpkin |
| broom        | ghoul   | spider  |
| candy        | monster | spooky  |
| carving      | moon    | treats  |
| children     | mummy   | vampire |
| costume      | October | witch   |
| Frankenstein | orange  |         |

## Childcare & Family Support Worker update

### Parents Seminar

In March of this year the Leitrim County Childcare Committee hosted a Parents Seminar for parents of children 0-6 years on the 1st of March in Carrick on Shannon. The day included workshops on The Importance of Play, Baby Massage and Caring for your Baby. Parents from all over the County took part and all enjoyed the day.



Photo on left Parents and Children taking part in activities at our Parents Seminar

### Parents Training

The Leitrim Childcare Committee in partnership with the Health Service Executive facilitated a Fas le Cheile Positive Parenting Course. 18 parents attended the 6-week Parents Training course for Parents of children of Primary School age. The training was held in Drumshanbo in order to facilitate parents throughout the County.

### Fathers and Children's Day

On the 17th of May 9 Fathers / Male Carers and 14 children attended Leitrim County Childcare Committees Fathers Day. This day was held in the Ballagh Center, in Rossinver. Fathers and children enjoyed candle making and designing and making their own cards and everyone went home with candles and cards they had made throughout the day.



Fathers/ Male Carers and children taking part in the candle making activity



Fathers / Male Carers and children enjoying making Cards

### After School Community Involvement Project

The After school Community Involvement Project was held in Dowra Afterschool in June. A number of members from the local Active Age group joined the Afterschool children and young people in a Card Making workshop. The afternoon was a chance for the younger members of the community to spend time with the Active Age group and all enjoyed the workshop.



Children from Dowra Afterschool along with the Active Age group in Dowra making Cards

### Parents and Children's Training

July the 6th was National Play Day. Leitrim County Childcare Committee support the importance of play in Children's lives. To support this a play workshop for parents and their children was held in Glencar Preschool. The aim of this workshop was to encourage parents to play and interact with their children.

## Childcare Support & Development Worker update

### Garda Vetting

The 2006 Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations requires all persons delivering a pre-school service to ensure appropriate vetting of all staff, students and volunteers who have access to children is carried out. Regulation 8 (2) states that vetting of all staff should be done by obtaining a reference from past employer, preferably the most recent employer reference, in relation to students and volunteers this can be done by obtaining references from reputable sources. In addition the Regulations require childcare services to acquire Garda vetting from An Garda Síochána-Garda Vetting Unit and in circumstances where Garda vetting is not available for staff, students and volunteers who have lived outside the jurisdiction, by ensuring that these persons provide the necessary police vetting from other police authorities. It is important to note that the Regulations state that such vetting procedures must be carried out prior to any person being appointed or assigned or allowed access to children. The HSE Pre-School Inspection Services also request that the relevant documentation in relation to the vetting of staff, students and volunteers be available on the premises. IPPA (the Early Childhood Organisation), NCNA (the National Children's Nurseries Association) and Barnardos have been designated as appropriate bodies through which pre-school services can apply for Garda vetting. Service providers who are members of IPPA or NCNA should

address their requests to those organisations as appropriate and all other providers should address their requests to Barnardos.

### Childcare Workers Relief Panel

Leitrim County Childcare Committee is currently forming a childcare worker relief panel. The database of childcare workers will be made available to all childcare services and the public for their use. If you wish to be placed on the relief panel please contact the office for an application form. If your name is placed on the childcare worker relief panel you will receive confirmation from the County Childcare Committee.

### Company Formation

All community childcare services in receipt of funding from Pobal were asked to become companies limited by guarantee by July 2008. Leitrim County Childcare Committee supported 7 groups in becoming limited companies.

### Child Protection Training

Leitrim County Childcare Committee held 2 child protection training courses earlier this year. Well done to the 27 participants from around the county who received their certification.

## Up - coming Events & Training

### Books for Babies

The Books for Babies programme is to encourage literacy in the home. This programme has been supported by the Health Service Executive and will aim to encourage reading in children from a young age. This programme will be rolled out in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE). Resources are limited however we hope to target as many families with new babies as possible.

### Manual Handling Training

A manual handling course will be run on the 4th of October from 10 am until 2pm, venue to be confirmed. Places are limited therefore if you wish to participate in the training please contact the office as soon as possible.

### Trip to Connaught Creative Resource Centre

The second of our twice yearly trip to Connaught Creative Resource in Castlebar is currently being planned for Saturday 27th of September in time for Halloween, details to follow nearer the time!

### Bare Toed Dance Company Residency in North Leitrim

Leitrim County Childcare Committee and Leitrim Lifestart are joining forces with Leitrim County Council Arts Office to bring a very special dance residency to the north of the county in October. The Bare Toed Dance Company from Newcastle in the north of England specialise in creating dance performances for early years as well as providing creative dance training for parents and childcare workers. Workshops will take place over the weekend of the 18th and 19th of October. Throughout this weekend parents, dancers and childcare workers will have an opportunity to participate in a day of practice based workshops and some theoretical background illustrating the

Bare Toed approach to creative movement and dance with early year's groups and individuals.

In addition there will be an opportunity for children under 5 years and their parents to see "Bare Toed in the Garden" a 35 minute show which incorporates movement, play, dance, trapeze and music to create the magic of a year in a fantastic garden. Each performance is followed by a one hour workshop in which up to 30 children explore creative responses to the piece through music and dance.

The residency will also feature special training sessions for childcare services in the North Leitrim area. Venues and times for the performances and workshops will be confirmed nearer the time. Further information is available from Kate at Leitrim County Council Arts Office 0719621694, Trish at Leitrim Lifestart 0719856660 and Fidelma or Nicola at Leitrim County Childcare Committee 0719640870.

### School Aged Childcare Collaborative Initiative

October 15th is an important date for all working in or having an interest in the area of School Age Care when the exciting conference 'Developing Quality in School Age Childcare in Ireland' is to be held in the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth. Top national and international speakers will cover areas dealing with issues involved in working with older children. The new award, which is at Level 5, has been developed by a collaborative group consisting of Barnardos, IPPA, NCNA, TIDE, Limerick City Childcare, BCCN, Monaghan Partnership, Monaghan CCC and FAS, and will be launched at the conference.

Further information to follow and initial interest can be registered through training@barnardos.ie



## Early Years Health Promotion Worker Update

Siobhan Gray B.Sc. in Health Promotion and Public Health is the new Early Years Health Promotion Project Worker. Siobhan will work closely with the 14 childcare services on the project to help them promote healthy eating, physical and outdoor play for the children attending.

## Action Kids Physical Activity 2 day Training Workshop

Action Kids Physical Activity 2 day Training Workshop was held in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon on the 15th and 16th of April 2008. 27 staff representing childcare services in Co. Leitrim attended. The facilitators Val and David Sabin used a variety of teaching and learning strategies to assist staff in promoting and implementing age-appropriate physical activities to suit the needs of pre-school children. The training provided participants with a range of physical play activities for the development of spatial awareness, games, gymnastics and dance.



Group of Providers who took part in the Action Kids training in the Bush Hotel in April 2008.

## Outdoor Wonderland Conference

Siobhan and Sheila attended an Outdoor Wonderland Conference organised by the Clare County Childcare Committee and hosted in the West County Hotel Ennis in June 2008. The 3 key note speakers offered new ideas, interest and vision to childcare providers in planning outdoor activities such as looking at insects and bugs, wormeries, planting, going on nature trails, soil sampling and creating wildlife areas. This is a relatively new area to be explored and developed in the childcare setting. They stressed the importance of children learning through the natural environment and how best to utilise the natural resources we have on our doorsteps by bringing nature into the childcare service regardless of the limitations. Sligo and Leitrim County Childcare Committees will be hosting a similar joint conference in 2009 for childcare providers and parents.

## Childminder Advisory Worker's Update

### Childminder's Development Grant.

The Childminders Development Grant is designed to assist Childminders, already providing a childminding service in their own homes, to enhance safety/quality in the service through the purchase of small capital items, equipment, toys or minor adaptation costs. It may also give financial assistance to new or prospective Childminders with their initial set up costs. The maximum grant available is €1,000.

### Who is eligible to apply?

A Childminder who:

- \* is providing an existing service or proposing a new service
- \* provides or proposes to provide (not including Childminders own children) for at least 3 children on a part-time basis or 1 child full-time
- \* Is notified to the HSE or Voluntary Notified to Leitrim County Childcare Committee
- \* Has completed the Introduction to Childminding Course
- \* Provides proof of insurance
- \* Operates for a minimum of 2 years following receipt of the grant

### How do I apply?

Contact your Childminding Advisory Worker for an application form today!

### National Guidelines for Childminders: Voluntary Notification

A Childminder is a self-employed person who minds other people's children in the Childminder's home. If a Childminder minds more than 3 children (i.e. not yet attending national school) then he/she is obliged to notify the HSE of his/her childminding service.