

Family Learning conference 2023

Strengthening relationships between home and community

Thursday 23 November - 9.30am to 3.30pm

The Richmond Centre, 1 North Brunswick St, Smithfield, Dublin, D07 TH76.

There is **no fee** for attending this conference.

9.30 Tea, coffee and registration.

10.00 **Chair: Welcome and introductions.**

Niall Rabbitt, Integrated Services Manager, Tusla Education Support Services

10:10 **Strategies that worked well for us to foster a positive and inclusive family learning environment.**

Pamela Quirke and Ann Marie Sweeney, Family Learning resource workers, Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB)

10.30 **Overview of new QQI level 3 Learning to Support Children in Primary School special purpose award: Accreditation opportunities for parents in your school or centre: The development process and how the new award can be implemented. Programme development group with ten ETBs involved, led by Kilkenny and Carlow ETB.**

Sarah Barron, Adult Education Officer, Kilkenny and Carlow ETB (KCETB), Thomas Farrell, Programme Development Officer, Quality Assurance, KCETB and Mary McGrath, Adult Literacy Organiser, Swords, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB.

10.50 **'Settling into Second Level': A parent and tutor pack to support your child's transition to second level.**

Arlene Doris, Adult Educator, Adult Literacy and Family Learning provision, Limerick and Clare ETB

11.10 **Coffee break.**

11.30am – 1.00pm: Morning workshops

Please select **one** morning workshop.

(a) Preparing for Primary School: A guide for tutors and parents

A programme designed and facilitated by Limerick and Clare ETB to support parents whose children are starting primary school. This guide provides practical tips, ideas and resources for a smooth and happy transition from pre-school to primary school - Eva Stenbridge and Laura Barrett, Adult Educators in Family Learning, Limerick and Clare ETB.

(b) Family Learning – ‘The why and the how’

Providing accreditation opportunities for parents - Sarah Barron, Thomas Farrell and Mary McGrath.

(c) Art with refugees and ESOL families

The importance of using art to encourage learning for refugees and accrediting the programmes - Mary Khalil, Tutor, Limerick and Clare ETB.

(d) Unleash your creativity

Empowering Family Learning facilitators for dynamic teaching and learning sessions - Pamela Quirke and Ann Marie Sweeney.

(e) Unlocking the power of clear communications with parents

In this workshop we will share insights and strategies for successful collaborations with parents in order to reach shared goals - Ashlean McGeehan, Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Coordinator, Finn Valley College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal and Adele McElhinney, Regional Adult Literacy Coordinator, Donegal ETB - Further Education and Training Services.

1.00 Lunch.

2.00pm - 3.15pm: - Afternoon workshops

Please select **one** afternoon workshop.

(f) Storymaking and Creative Writing with Fighting Words: At Fighting Words we aim to empower everyone's creative voice and believe that encouraging and supporting creative expression builds resilience and confidence, as well as literacy, numeracy and oracy skills. This workshop will allow you to engage in a story making and creative writing workshop yourself, thereby enabling you to understand the potential this medium holds. You will get the chance to write, share, and receive feedback, all in a safe and encouraging environment. We will also discuss how you can use our approach and techniques to support children, teenagers and adult learners – Colm O'Cuanachain, Director, Fighting Words.

Note: The 'Introducing parents and carers to the skills involved in reading' workshop has been cancelled. The 'Fighting Words' workshop is replacing it.

(g) Intercultural school cookbook project

Kilkenny Adult Literacy Service working with St. John's Junior and Senior Schools, Kilkenny - Cooking up culture: Valuing the importance of cultural diversity and how to celebrate it through food. We take a closer look at the planning and facilitation of a Kilkenny and Carlow ETB family learning project that resulted in a school cookbook - Carmel O'Neill, Family learning and literacy tutor and Rachel White, Family learning and ESOL tutor, Kilkenny and Carlow ETB.

(h) Hug Your Book© Programme

This Youngballymun programme is for parents who want to make reading fun and learn new ways to support their children's reading and writing skills. The programme is a book club where parents bring books to life for their children. The aim is to help your child develop a love of reading, writing and talking from birth all the way through primary school by taking part in fun and rewarding activities - Lána McCarthy, Family and Community Literacy Coordinator and Justyne McDonagh, Community and Family Literacy Development Worker, Youngballymun, Dublin.

(i) Learning for my child

Supporting parents to practice reading at home – Michelle McGrane, ESOL Literacy Provision Coordinator, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB.

(j) 'One Book, One Film for All'

Based on Cartoon Saloon's WolfWalkers © - This was a collaborative Family Learning project between Kilkenny and Carlow ETB (Adult Learning Service and Adult Literacy for Life), Cartoon Saloon, Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) and other agencies. It will include tips and suggestions for collaboration, as well as ideas on how to engage adults and children on an exciting project - Helen Walsh, Regional Literacy Co-ordinator, Kilkenny and Carlow ETB and Nickie Egan, Integrated Services Manager (Kilkenny, Carlow, Cork, Waterford and Kildare), Tusla Education Support Services.

Registration fee: There is **no fee** for attending this conference. We would be delighted if you joined NALA. [We'd be delighted if you joined NALA as a member.](#)

Note: Parking is not available at The Richmond Centre. There is a LUAS stop (Smithfield) nearby and other public transport options.

[Register for the Family Learning conference](#)