



Ardfinnan Community Playschool
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CORE FUNDING

QUALITY ACTION PLAN 2023/2024

Exploring Language

Using play to develop speech and language skills

Service Name: Ardfinnan Community Playschool

Service Number: 09TS0040

Type of Service: Sessional

Quality Action Plan

Ardfinnan Community Playschool is committed to providing a quality open welcoming child centered service, where children will grow and learn in a safe environment. Our emerging play curriculum supports each child's curiosity about the world around them, supporting their development through planned learning, spur-of-the-moment learning, adult and child led learning.

Our Early Years Educators are fully qualified and are all eager to continuously upskill, enjoying taking part in courses that are relevant to our service. We received our second Síolta Award scoring 4 on all standards in 2022, something we are very proud of. In 2023 we were recognised as a Healthy Ireland Early Learning and Care Service having completed the Better Start Programme. We have also had our Tusla Inspection in March 2022 which was also a great success.

This year we are focusing our QAP on exploring languages within our playschool. As Educators we understand that there are many different methods of communication and different levels of ability at all ages. We hope to develop our curriculum around supporting the development of language through play thereby giving children a voice, listening to their suggestions, and developing our curriculum around their interests.

To achieve our goal, we will use the Communication House model to help support each child's language expression and comprehension, building on language foundations such as attention, motivation, symbolic play, listening and turn taking. We plan to participate in language courses, liaise with therapists and communicate with parents. All staff will be supported to achieve our goal, staff meetings every Monday to access any issues, set a plan for the week ahead and pass on any information from Lead Educator to all staff in relation to child developments, CDP courses, changes to the curriculum and more. Our committee are on board and are eager to support us, allowing staff time to attend courses and regularly meeting with staff to discuss any issues.

Company Registration Number: 422929 CHY No.: 16937 Registered Irish Charity No.: 20062132

Our mission is "To provide high quality, affordable and accessible early education to children aged from 2 years 6 months in our local community"

Going forward we would like to:

Develop language, speech, cognitive and social skills by:

- Supporting all children with their language development through play, encouraging interactions between children and educators, interactions with other children and forming friendships. While playing we are interacting, practicing our speech and language.
- Discovering, creating, and problem solving while we play, our educators provide resources to stimulate our curiosity and support our emerging interests
- Encourage children to ask questions, supporting their language development and critical thinking skills. We recognise that children who question are taking an active part in their own development, figuring out how their world works by seeking information. This is also an important form of communication
- We encourage them to tell us about themselves, talk about what they are playing/drawing/doing, their ideas and their reflections.
- Recognising and naming our feelings, sharing, turn taking and resolving conflicts with the help of our educators
- Our educators use observations to plan for change, allowing for the development to new skills which are more varied and complex as the children grow, adapting the curriculum to include all emerging interests as the children develop and change.

Supporting Bilingual Children:

- Following Aistear guidelines our educators will engage with parents on a regular basis, encouraging them to speak their language to their children, reassuring them that we will help their child with English by putting strategies in place to support their child as they learn English
- Become familiar with some words in the child's natural language that can help them settle in playschool and also help them to communicate their need to us such as using the toilet, talking about mammy or daddy, a favourite toy or help with lunch.
- Using signs in the child's language as well as English to show things around the playschool, such as our Welcome sign, the toilet sign, toys and lots more will include all languages spoken in our playschool,
- Include each child's cultural experiences in our curriculum, celebrate their festivals, explore food from their country, look at the map to see where their family are from, include their flag in our celebrations and lots more.

Supporting Children with language difficulties or are nonverbal:

- Educators will work closely with parents, speech and language therapists and all involved with the child's care to ensure the best care and support is given to each child,
- Encourage play and social interactions that includes learning language.
- Focus on nonverbal communication with each child, our educators recognise that gestures are a great way of communication between children and are also a way of the child showing us what they want or need. Educators will liaise with parents to understand these gestures and are able to respond positively to the child
- Educators will also engage in gestures such as nodding our heads when saying "Yes", pointing to an object saying "Look", etc.
- Educators will use simplified language, encouraging the child to repeat after them, "would you like to play ball" then point to the ball repeat the word "ball". Speak clearly and give the child time to respond, listen for all sounds and praise all attempts.
- Liaising with parents and therapists' educators will use visual aids to help children communicate, pictures on all presses to show what's inside, picture instructions on hand washing and using the toilet in the toilet area, etc. are all helpful to all children attending

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Introducing Irish and Irish culture to our preschoolers:

- This year we are hoping to build past experiences speaking Irish, having participated in “Seachtain na Gaeilge” over the last few years the children have really taken to using some “Cupla Focal” and we hope to introduce some Irish words into our curriculum for the year rather than 2 weeks.
- We hope to be inclusive of all when we celebrate each child’s cultural identity as we move through the year.
- Educators will familiarise themselves with Irish words before introducing them to children
- We will keep it simple such as, “I think it’s time we had our Lón” (lunch). “Slán” (goodbye)
- Songs such as “rollaí pollaí” and “cát dubh” are great fun to sing, we don’t realise we’re learning Irish

To achieve our goal, we will:

- Engage with Better Start Quality Development Service, Tipperary County Childcare, Early Childhood Ireland and more to participate in all relevant courses to build on their knowledge of language development
- Engage with parents as to what they would like us to do to help their child’s language development
- Engage with therapists in how best to help a child move forward in their development

Exploring Language – using play to develop speech and language skills

Where our focus will be:

Children	Parents	Educators	Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus on their language development through play ➤ Introducing their interests into our curriculum ➤ Listening to their opinions and valuing their ideas ➤ Exploring methods of play to expand their language knowledge, ➤ Develop their love for learning with play-based games that draw on their curiosity ➤ Games such as “what time is it Mr. Wolf” and “who’s under the blanket” are great fun but also encourage language skills and mathematical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engage with parents regularly giving up dates on their child’s progress, answering any concerns they may have and adapting our curriculum to best suit the needs of each child ➤ Our emergent interest board allows parents to add any new interest their child may have or any learning they would like included in our curriculum, ➤ Working with parents whose children are non-verbal creating a system of communication that works best for their child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Educators will engage in courses that will enhance their knowledge of language development e.g. Let’s Talk Speech & Language Therapy, Hanen and more ➤ Put practical supports in place for children who are nonverbal in the form of pictures etc to support speech and language development ➤ Liaise with parents and complete observations so as to positively support each child’s development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with educators by providing funding and time where needed to complete courses which will benefit all. ➤ Work with educators and administration to review and update any and all policies and procedures on a regular basis.

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NOTES:

OBSERVATIONS:

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