



TTT

Kildare Library and Arts Services

Toys, Technology and Training Project 2016

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This series of TTT talks and workshops has been organised by Kildare Library Service as part of our Toys, Technology and Training Project and is funded by Kildare County Council.

What is the TTT Project?

Kildare Library Services would like to inform you about our specialised Toys, Technology and Training Project. The collection is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs. Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas Libraries this specialised collection of toys, software and assistive technology can be accessed free of charge in branches throughout the county and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any Kildare library. Items in the catalogue can be requested or renewed online and collected by the borrower at their nearest branch library.

Membership is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in County Kildare. Contact the libraries listed below for further terms and conditions of use.

This Toy and Technology collection has been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with therapists working in the community.

The Project also includes the Training element of "TTT" which is our annual series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

For up to date details of future talks and events relating to the TTT Project please email us and ask to join our mailing list at leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie

Attendance at all of the events is free of charge and open to everyone but advance booking is required. Please contact the library where the talk is happening to book your place.

Athy Library:

Tel 059 8631144 • Email: athylib@kildarecoco.ie

Kildare Town Library:

Tel 045 520235 Email: kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie

Leixlip Library:

Tel: 01 6060050 • Email: leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie

Naas Library:

Tel 045 879111 • Email: naaslib@kildarecoco.ie

Newbridge Library:

Tel 045 448353 • Email: newbridgelib@kildarecoco.ie

Guest Speaker to Launch TTT Programme for 2016

Gareth Noble

Gareth Noble, solicitor, has a particular interest in juvenile justice and currently heads up his firm Kelleher O'Doherty Children's Law Department. Gareth is recognised as one of Ireland's leading litigators in the area of children with disabilities. He has successfully represented many families in challenging the law in respect of Domiciliary Care Allowances, Carer's Allowance and services for children.

Gareth also acts in Education Law cases for children and families in respect of school bullying, disciplinary issues and other educational law entitlements. He has also provided advice to educational institutions on policy formation and implementation. Gareth has represented clients before the Residential Institutions Redress Board in respect of children in the care of the state and before the Private Residential Tenancies Board in relation to housing disputes.

He is a member of the Irish Penal Reform Trust and has lectured in Criminal and Constitutional law, Child Law and Human Rights law.

Gareth will discuss how the laws that ensure the rights of children and their parents can be protected and enhanced. He will draw on his experiences with various state agencies and the courts in informing parents how to ensure entitlements for their children can be progressed.

Naas Library: 26th January 7pm

Leixlip Library: 4th February 7pm



Behavioural Therapy with Audrey Cully

Challenging Behaviour

This talk will include all aspects related to challenging behaviour, why it occurs and how to deal with it. Challenging behaviour does not occur for no reason, it has a communicative function. Using specific strategies and tools it is possible to find out why problematic behaviour occurs.

During this talk Audrey will cover:

- Why challenging behaviour occurs
- Functional assessment/analysis
- Reinforcement of challenging of behaviour
- Preventative Strategies
- Strategies on how to respond to challenging behaviour when it occurs including teaching appropriate skills that serve the same function as the challenging behaviour.

Naas Library: Tuesday 2nd February 7pm

Leixlip Library: Thursday 12th May 7pm

Athy Library : Tuesday 4th October 7pm

Adam Harris, Founder of AsIAM.ie

Empowering People with Autism

Adam Harris is the 20 year old founder of AsIAM.ie, Ireland's online support and advocacy service for those affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions. Adam founded AsIAM in response to his own experiences of living with Aspergers Syndrome and the need for greater public awareness of Autism.

A member of the NCSE Consultative Forum, Adam is a frequent commentator on Autism on national television, radio and print media. Adam has also spoken, on the need to change societal minds and hearts towards Autism, internationally at conferences in the United States, Morocco and the United Kingdom.

During the session, Adam will give an insight into his experiences of Aspergers Syndrome, the work of AsIAM.ie and the role a community can play in empowering people with Autism. Parents, professionals and young people are invited to meet Adam and hear his own positive and inspiring story about living with Aspergers.

Naas Library: Thursday 18th February 7pm

Leixlip Library : Thursday 5th May 7pm

Catherine Sweeney, SESS Associate

Practical Tips and Strategies for Parents of Children with Dyspraxia/DCD/ASD/SpLD

This informative talk will summarise the typical characteristics of children with Dyspraxia/DCD which often overlap with the characteristics of other Specific Learning Disabilities (SpLD) and Autistic Spectrum (ASD). Practical intervention strategies will be suggested for parents to support their children with Dyspraxia/DCD. A wide range of up to date and helpful resources including equipment, books, videos, websites and Ipad Apps will also be presented and discussed.

Naas Library: Thursday 11th February 7pm

Leixlip Library: Tuesday 19th April 7pm

Counselling and Mental Health with Michael Ryan

Mental Health Management for Teens and Adults with Asperger's, Autism, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia or ADHD

This talk will look at an overview of the conditions and syndromes. It will outline what are the signs and symptoms of mental ill-health and when to become concerned. Michael will outline strategies for the stressed person, as well as self-care for the caregiver and suggestions to prevent future stress for everyone.

Leixlip Library: Thursday 14th April 7pm

Naas Library: Thursday 12th May 7pm



Amy Smyth, Information Officer from Dyslexia Association of Ireland

What is Dyslexia?

In this talk Amy will explain what Dyslexia is, the causes and what a parent/teacher can do to make life easier for someone with Dyslexia.

Amy will also cover how to:

- Get an assessment for a child or adult with Dyslexia,
- Common indicators of Dyslexia
- Dyslexia in school and technology that may help dyslexic children in their day to day and school life.

There will also be lots of time for questions.

Naas Library: Tuesday 17th May 7pm

Leixlip Library: Thursday 8th September 7pm

Anita Ghafoor-Butt, Training and Development Manager, Irish Family Planning Association

Speakeasy © Talking to Your Children about Growing Up

Many parents fear the time when their child starts reaching the years of puberty. They may also dread the time when their child starts to take an interest in others where intimacy is involved on an emotional and sexual level. This can be even more difficult for parents of children special needs or children who have issues with social skills.

We all want to protect our children from the negative consequences of life, and at this time the whole issue of protecting our children and giving them the space to develop as adults may become all the more confusing.

Anita will talk about elements of the Speakeasy © course which is delivered by the IFPA and is designed to provide parents of any age child with an opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and confidence in talking to their child about relationships, sexuality, growing up and keeping safe.

Leixlip Library: Thursday 29th September 7pm

Naas Library: Thursday 27th October 7pm

Speech and Language Therapy Lectures with Catherine Sheahan

Speech and Language Therapy for Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder/ Dyspraxia

Catherine will give a talk aimed at parents of children with Dyspraxia which will cover issues that can arise with language, literacy and organisation of written work in school. She will talk about the role of Speech and Language Therapy in finding solutions for these problems.

Topics covered include:

- Error patterns in children with verbal dyspraxia
- Tips and strategies to promote single sound productions
- Blending sounds into syllables
- Core vocabulary
- Increasing word length
- Language difficulties in children with DCD and recognising signs of language difficulties
- Organisation of language to generate stories and write essays

There will be time at the end of the talk for questions from the audience.

Leixlip Library: Tuesday 8th March 7pm

The Building Blocks of Language

Children diagnosed with ASD often have difficulties in preverbal skills, with turn taking, joint attention, eye contact, play, imitation and communication interaction. This workshop will explain each of these difficulties so parents can map their child's ability in each area. Practical strategies will be discussed to develop your child skills in each of these areas. This is an interactive workshop where parents will be able to develop specific goals for their child with the support of the SLT.

Naas Library: Thursday 20th October 7pm



Play Therapy with Arlene Naughten

Play Therapy – Sugru (Arlene Naughten, Therapeutic Play Practitioner)

Arlene will give a talk on the benefits of Play Therapy which is a beneficial process for all children who may be experiencing any type of social, emotional, cognitive, physical, psychological or educational difficulty. Therapeutic play is recommended for an array of difficulties including social/academic underachievement; elective mutism; bereavement issues; disturbed sleep; aggression; addiction disorders; problem attachment styles; any type of abuse; difficulties adjusting to separation or divorce; and inappropriate emotional responses etc.

Naas Library: Thursday 25th February 7pm

Leixlip Library: Thursday 26th May 7pm

Mindfulness - Sugru

Mindfulness is the act of experiencing life in the moment and gives the gift of a more fulfilling stress free day through core breathing. The talk offers an insight into the benefits of mindfulness parenting and other basic techniques.

Athy Library: Tuesday 8th March 7pm

Occupational Therapy Lectures/ Workshops with Dorothy Armstrong

Helping primary school children with issues such as Dyspraxia, Asperger's, ADHD / ADD, Down Syndrome prepare to transition to secondary school.

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with this population. It will cover issues such as:

- The issues that are challenging when transitioning to secondary school
- The preparation needed to prepare the child for the transition
- Strategies that will help with organisation and secondary school readiness
- Strategies to promote inclusion once the student is there

Kildare Library: Thursday 25th February 7pm

Athy Library: Tuesday 10th May 7pm

Anger Management and Strategies for Managing and Preventing Aggressive Behaviour

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with conditions such as Asperger's syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder or those with anger issues. It will cover the following issues:

- What makes some children more susceptible to angry outbursts
- Strategies to help children manage their anger
- Diet, exercise and staying calm
- Dealing with aggressive or violent behaviour

Naas Library: Saturday 5th March 10am

Kildare Library: Thursday 22nd September 7pm

An introductory workshop for teenagers and their parents on how to manage stress through challenging our thinking

Everyone feels overwhelmed and stressed at some time and it can be particularly hard for teenagers with special needs who are facing state exams, peer pressure and school pressure. This 3 hour workshop is aimed at these teenagers and their parents. Participants will be introduced to how their thinking may be impacting their stress levels and ways they can begin to change their thinking and manage life's pressures. Other methods of managing stress will also be discussed.

Leixlip Library: Saturday 9th April 10am

It's Too loud, Too Bright, Too Tight and the Seams on my Socks Hurt!: Helping Children with Sensory Processing Disorder concentrate and learn in an overwhelming world.

A Sensory Processing Disorder refers to a problem with processing sensory information, it is common for people on the autistic spectrum to have difficulties in this area but children can have these problems who have no diagnosis of any kind.

Examples of sensory processing problems include:

- Smells other people don't find a problem make the person feel sick
- Finding the noise of a Hoover or hand-dryer painful
- Needing to move or fidget constantly
- Becoming anxious or aggressive with light or unexpected touch
- Needing the labels to be cut off clothes

This talk will cover issues such as:

- What is a Sensory Processing Disorder
- Strategies to help children with problems in this area concentrate and learn in the classroom setting and when doing homework
- Introduction to some of the toys from the Libraries Toys, Technology and Training collection that are of use to children with these issues

Kildare Library: Thursday 14th April 7pm

Athy Library: Tuesday 27th September 7pm

Study Skills for older children and teenagers with Dyslexia

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, students with Dyslexia and teachers. This talk will help students learn how to prepare for exams and will cover issues such as:

- Understanding how dyslexia can impact studying
- Preparing to study
- Using your own learning style
- How to read to understand
- How to take notes
- Memory strategies

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 26th April 7pm

Athy Library: Tuesday 18th October 7pm

An Introductory workshop to DIR® Floortime for parents of children with autism.

DIR® Floortime is a Developmental (D), Individual-Difference (I), Relationship-Based (R) method of working with children with autism. It works by enabling the parent to work with the child at their developmental level and to enter the child's individual world in order to help the child relate better and learn from the world around them. Dorothy Armstrong will conduct a 3 hour introductory workshop for parents of children with autism and parents should attend without their children. Teachers and people who work with children with autism may also benefit from attending.

Naas Library: Saturday 21st May 10am

How to write a social story for your child with ASD

Social stories are written to help children on the autism spectrum to cope better with social situations. This talk will be delivered by Dorothy Armstrong and is aimed at parents, teachers and others who work with children with ASD. Dorothy will explain what social stories are, how they work and what the guidelines are for writing them. She will also discuss tactics for practicing what is learnt in the story.

Leixlip Library: Thursday 9th June 7pm

Enabling my Child with ADHD to reach their potential

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is primarily aimed at parents, although teachers and those who work with children with ADHD may also find this talk useful. Children with ADHD are frequently misunderstood and falsely labelled as badly behaved, this can lead to them developing low self-esteem with resultant mental health issues. This talk aims to promote ways to build and maintain their self-confidence and will provide parents with some practical strategies to help their child at home and at school.

Kildare Library: Thursday 16th June 7pm



Improving your child's social skills

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with conditions such as Asperger's syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) etc. It will cover the following issues:

- Developing good communication strategies
- Body language
- Dealing with conflict
- Maintaining friendships

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 13th September 7pm

Being Intellectually Gifted is a Special Education Need Too!

Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children who are intellectually gifted (exceptionally able). Being intellectually gifted in school is a special need that is under acknowledged and under resourced. This talk will cover the following issues:

- Who are the intellectually gifted?
- Difficulties encountered by intellectually gifted students in the school setting
- Twice Exceptional – being intellectually gifted with another special need
- How parents can help their intellectually gifted child
- Strategies towards full inclusion of intellectually gifted children in the classroom setting

Leixlip Library: Thursday 13th October 7pm

Helping Children with Down Syndrome develop their handwriting skills

Children with Down Syndrome have specific needs when it comes to developing their handwriting skills. This talk is facilitated by Dorothy Armstrong and will address the difficulties children with Down Syndrome may face when writing and offer solutions and methods for instruction. The talk is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with Down Syndrome.

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 25th October 7pm

Helping my child who struggles with maths (Dyscalculia)

Dyscalculia is difficulty in learning or comprehending arithmetic, such as difficulty in understanding numbers, learning how to manipulate numbers, and learning maths facts. It is generally seen as a specific developmental disorder like dyslexia. Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children who experience Dyscalculia.

Topics covered will include:

- What is Dyscalculia and what causes it?
- What are the signs and symptoms of Dyscalculia?
- Computer programmes and games to help children with Dyscalculia

Naas Library: Tuesday 15th November 7pm

Understanding and Helping Children with Selective Mutism

Selective Mutism is a complex childhood anxiety disorder characterized by a child's inability to speak and communicate effectively in select social settings, such as school. These children are able to speak and communicate in settings where they are comfortable, secure, and relaxed. Dorothy Armstrong will deliver a talk which will include:

- Common characteristics of children with Selective Mutism
- Diagnostic criteria for a diagnosis of Selective Mutism and some of the underlying causes of this disorder
- Methods for helping children with Selective Mutism

Leixlip Library: Thursday 24th November 7pm



Biogs

Dorothy Armstrong

Dorothy Armstrong is an Occupational Therapist who works at 'Achieve', a private practice in Celbridge. She has both a degree and a Masters and is currently studying towards a PhD in the area of Dyspraxia. She is also a lecturer in occupational therapy at the National University of Galway.

Anita Ghafoor-Butt, Irish Family Planning Association

Anita is the Training and Development Manager for the Irish Family Planning Association and currently works with parents, carers and professionals to help facilitate the process of increasing sexual health knowledge, confidence and communication between them and their children, tweens, teens and young people. Anita also liaises with statutory, community and voluntary organisations to develop, and facilitate sexual health programmes at national level. From 2012-2015 she was the Ireland expert to the European Commission the Daphne III programme 'Keep Me Safe' which aimed to empower people with intellectual challenges to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse and exploitation across Europe.

Audrey Cully

Audrey Cully is a Behavioural Consultant who has over 12 years experience working in the field of special needs with a strong background in Autism. She has worked with children from 2 years old up to 18 years in both special schools and mainstream settings and works with children with Autism in their homes. She held the position of Behaviour Therapist within a special school and worked as a Behavioural Consultant. She has a Master's Degree in Applied Behaviour Analysis and is trained as an instructor of Professional Crisis Management.

Arlene Naughton

Arlene Naughton is a qualified Therapeutic Play Practitioner who founded and runs SUGRU therapy centre, Athlone which provides Play Therapy, Cognitive Therapy and Family Therapy. Her service designs individually tailored therapeutic support plans from a variety of evidence-based approaches, while also remaining respectful of the needs of each and every family.

Michael Ryan

Michael Ryan is a Counsellor and psychotherapist running Peace of Mind Counselling Services, who works with many students and young people with Aspergers Syndrome and Autism. He works in private practice with adults and with teenagers and children across a range of schools. Michael has a lot of experience of dealing with people who have neurological conditions and/or physical disabilities. He regularly speaks at national conferences on Asperger's/ASD topics.

Catherine Sheahan

Catherine Sheahan is a Speech and Language Therapist who founded and runs a private practice Caint Speech Therapy in Naas. Catherine commenced her professional career working with the HSE before subsequently joining the Speech and Language Department at the University of Sydney, Australia. She has lectured at the University of Limerick as a key member of the Speech and Language Therapy team in the areas of child speech disorders (including dyspraxia), phonetics and stuttering since 2004.

Amy Smyth

The Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) works with and for people affected by dyslexia, by providing information, offering appropriate support services, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness of dyslexia. Amy Smyth is the Information Officer with the DAI. Amy has a background in law and has previously worked for organisations in the area of widening access to education for young people. Amy is herself Dyslexic and relishes the opportunity to raise awareness of Dyslexia. Amy has a specific interest in the issue of a lack of self-confidence in Dyslexic young people and adults.

Catherine Sweeney

Catherine Sweeney has taught all class levels in Primary School both as a Class Teacher and a Resource Teacher in inner city Dublin and in Ennis, Co. Clare. She is past National Chairperson of the Irish Learning Support Association (ILSA) and continues to be Chairperson of Clare ILSA. She is an experienced ICT Tutor and is also currently a Special Education Support Service (SESS) Associate. Her M.Ed in SEN dissertation "Good Inclusive Practice for Children with Dyspraxia/DCD in Irish Primary Schools" was later published by the Dyspraxia Association of Ireland. She has presented countrywide to teachers, parents and SNAs on supporting children with Dyspraxia/DCD for many years.



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