

Laois Childminder Newsletter April 2022

What's Happening:

- **Upcoming Childminder Network**
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Interested in childminding in your own home?

Free Online Information Session ON Tuesday 17th May

7:30 – 8:30pm

To book your FREE place:

Email: m.nolan@laoischildcare.ie or call 057 8661029 for more information



Are you Childminding or thinking of becoming a Childminder?

Why not log onto our FREE online event for more information. This event is open to a range of counties and will provide information, knowledge, and questions from those who are currently childminding and those to wish too. It is a great opportunity to link in and make connections.

- **Book Bag Collection**

Calling all childminders and those who wish to become a childminder minister Roderic O’Gorman has launched the Little Libraries Initiative – Free Book Bags for Childminders in conjunction with the National Action Plan. As part of the Launch.

The Childminding Little Libraries Initiative - supports childminders to develop little libraries in their homes with quality book titles in English and Irish. The focus of this initiative is to support early language and literacy development, and the establishment of links between childminders and libraries.

A reminder to all, have you collected your Little Libraries book bag? Please contact Michelle at m.nolan@laoischildcare.ie to arrange to collect your FREE bag.



- **Ukraine Response and Supports**

We have all witnessed the devastating impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the unfolding humanitarian crisis as more and more people are forced to flee their homes. We all want to do what we can to help those in need.

At both local and national government level in Ireland provisions are being made available to give Ukrainians fleeing the conflict a warm welcome. At local level City and County Childcare Committees are supporting Ukrainian children and families with access and participation to Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) services. We know that many ELC/SAC services have already welcomed children and families into their settings and many more will do so over the coming weeks and months. Every ELC and SAC setting is different and service providers will need to use their professional judgement in determining how best to welcome and support children and families from Ukraine while ensuring high quality practice to support children's well-being, learning and development.

The well-being, health and safety of children, their families and those working in the sector is a priority. This web-page provides guidance and signposting for service providers on the supports and resources available to ELC and SAC services.

More resources will be added to this web-page over the coming weeks. You are therefore advised to check for updates.

<https://first5.gov.ie/ukraine-response>

- **Activity Idea**

Water play is fun and gives lots of opportunities for learning. Water play is a versatile activity which can occur indoors or outdoors.

Water play enhances physical development, creates opportunities to support language development and is a fun way to experiment with mathematical and science concepts such as volume and weight. Empty bottles, cartons and tubs of various sizes offer opportunities for the child to practice filling and pouring. It allows the adult to add mathematical language such as sink/float, empty/full, heavy/light, or more/less. Water play is a physical experience which encourages eye/hand coordination through squeezing, stirring, squirting, and splashing, as well as introducing new words.

For more information visit <https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/pdf/water-play.pdf>



Playing with Water

Water play is fun and gives lots of opportunities for learning. Water play is a versatile activity which can occur indoors or outdoors.

What you will need:

- Clean water
- A tub/basin/sink
- An old towel for the floor
- Some dry clothes
- Household items (jug, spoons, sponges, cups, bottles, tubs)

Water play can be washing toys in a basin of water, setting up a toy car wash or enjoying bath time. Supervision is always needed when a child is playing with or near water.



Suggestions to extend learning

- **Bubbles.** Add some washing up liquid to water. Explore the bubbles – feel them, look at them or leave some bubbles on a surface for your child to explore in their own time. Talk about what is happening to the bubbles as they touch and move them about. *How do they feel? What happens when they burst? What happens if we add more water?*
- **Practice washing toys** such as a doll, doll's clothes, dishes, cars.
- **Add colour to water.** Washing up liquid, hand soap or food colouring will change the appearance and texture of the water.
- **Explore items that can float or sink** in the water e.g. ice cubes, leaves, bottle tops, sponges, pebbles, bath toys.
- **Opportunities to discuss important topics** with your child e.g. water safety or hand hygiene.
- **Provide lots of items for water play** and ask your child what they would like to add to the water play. Other household items that can be added to water play are:
 - Funnels
 - Cups/bowls/jugs
 - Scoops
 - Spoons
 - Sponges
 - Sieve/colander
 - Paint
 - Food colouring
 - Paintbrushes.



What is my child learning?

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An Róisín Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lámháiritheacha agus Oige Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

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