



CDI Service Outputs for September 2014 – August 2015

Based in Tallaght West, the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) is funded under the Government's Area Based Childhood Programme 2013-2016 (ABC), which builds on the learning from the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme 2007-2013 (PEIP).

CDI aims to break the cycle of child poverty in areas where it is deeply entrenched and to improve outcomes for children and young people where these are significantly poorer than elsewhere in the State.

Following is a summary of topline outputs from CDI's work during September 2014 – August 2015. (Most of CDI's work is delivered in alignment with the school year calendar).

During this period CDI coordinated seven intervention programmes, five in Tallaght and two in Limerick. Six of the programmes were funded under the ABC programme and one through the Katherine Howard Foundation and the Community Foundation of Ireland.

Doodle Den

The Doodle Den literacy support programme was delivered to 285 children through 19 groups in Tallaght, Ballyfermot, Dublin City Centre, Limerick and Carlow.

An assessment of the service during the year found an average gain of 21% in the children's phonics, 54% in their writing skills and 56% in sight vocabulary.

Doodle Families

This is a new programme under pilot in three schools in Limerick during the year. It provides follow on literacy support after *Doodle Den*, focusing on family literacy.

The first phase of evaluation took place which focused on identifying and developing the best approach to implementing the programme.

Parental Support in Early Years

The programme's Parent Carer Facilitators worked with 578 families in the Tallaght West. 170 parents and 400 children were referred to various agencies for support.

The Parents Plus course was completed by 41 parents and five services ran parent and toddler groups attended by 46 children and 36 adults.

Chit Chat

There were 121 referrals to the Chit Chat early intervention speech and language service and 856 therapy sessions were attended.

Ten coffee mornings were attended by 80 parents and a speech and language booklet was produced together with the HSE and South Dublin County Childcare Committee.

Restorative Practices

Training in Restorative Practices was delivered to 550 people including: 314 in *Getting Started*, 117 in *Upskilling*, 65 in the *Summer Course for Teachers* and 54 in *Train the Trainer*.

CDI also continued to play a lead role in the development of Restorative Practices nationally.

Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI)

A needs analysis of services for 0-3 year olds in Tallaght was completed and the Report published.

A dedicated speed networking event took place with was attended by 56 different service providers. Public talks on peri-natal depression, attachment theory and domestic violence were fully attended.

Family Links

This is a new programme under pilot in Limerick prison, funded through the Katherine Howard Foundation and the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Training in child protection, community services and increased empathy was provided to 14 Prison Officers and Teachers. Parents Plus training was delivered to 20 staff including Prison Officers, Teachers and Community workers. Parents Plus was also provided to nine prisoners and their partners. Six finished the course and 20 children were involved.

CDI, December 2015.