

Newsletter



ABC Community Conference In partnership with Children & Youth Action Group (CYAG) and ABC Grangegorman

We had a fantastic Community Conference on Friday, 24th October, exploring Family Support as an Early Intervention Approach. The day was full of inspiring speakers, engaging discussions, and hands-on workshops that brought the community together.

The morning was warmly guided by Geraldine Nugent (Aosog), who kept the programme running smoothly. Guest speakers Grainne McKenna (DCU) and Se Fulham (Springboard Project, Navan) shared insights that sparked meaningful conversations during the Q&A sessions.

Participants also enjoyed interactive workshops in movement & dance, spoken word, and art collage, giving everyone a chance to learn, create, and connect.

We also celebrated Fidelma Bonass, Tusla Child and Family Support Network Coordinator, who is retiring after over 35 years of service to the ABC Grangegorman community. Geraldine led a special farewell, and everyone joined in singing a song to honour Fidelma's amazing commitment. The morning was full of energy, creativity, and collaboration. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the conference such a success!



Halloween Highlights



Halloween was a lively time across all our projects, with midterm activities and trips keeping everyone busy.

Aosóg kicked off the week with an exciting visit to Carlingford Adventure Centre on Tuesday, 28 October, staying on to enjoy the Adventure Lights. On Thursday, Aosóg held a Talent Show and Halloween Party, bringing the week to a fun-filled close for their participants.



Youth kept the spooky spirit alive with Farmaphobia on Wednesday, 29 October, and hosted their Haunted House on Wednesday and Thursday nights — it was seriously spooky!



Check out their Instagram for some hair-raising photos. The CYAG Halloween party took place on Friday, 31 October, hosted by Bradóg Youth Services. Young people from six projects joined in for fancy dress, crafts, bingo, dance-offs, goodie bags, and prizes galore — a fantastic end to a week of festivities.

Other projects, including Step by Step and SCP, also ran exciting midterm events during the week.

Looking ahead, Aosóg families have a trip planned to Wild Lights at Dublin Zoo on Friday, 28 November, with 100 participants booked to see the Kaleidoscope of Colour.

-As with most of our activities, this one was just for Aosóg families



Doodle Den Community of Practice (COP) Day

hosted by Early Learning Initiative at National College of Ireland on 21st October, with facilitators from Grangegorman in attendance. The session focused on data collection, highlighting how feedback from last year informed this year's data collection plan. It also provided an opportunity for facilitators from Grangegorman and ELI to deepen their understanding of data collection and engage directly with the research team.



Feedback from participants GG 2024/2025:

"Doodle Den has really made a difference. I can see it in his confidence, he will try his best to read words he doesn't know. It's great to see him sounding out the words and then reading it. Then reading the sentence, then the page and then the little book." [Parent]



"Since he started Doodle Den, he has been all chat about authors, illustrators, stories and books. I think Doodle Den is a fantastic thing for children it really supports them in their learning." [Parent]



"She loves Doodle Den, it is such a great programme. It has brought her on in leaps and bounds." [Parent]

National Home Visiting Day

Members of the ABC Grangegorman Consortium were delighted to attend this year's National Home Visiting Day, hosted by the National College of Ireland on Wednesday, 15th October 2024.

This year's theme, "Home Visiting: Where Connection Builds Community," celebrated the important work of the Home Visiting Alliance (HVA) — a collaboration of five Irish early childhood home visiting programmes supporting families and children across Ireland. Together with Tusla's National Home Visiting Programme, the day highlighted how home visiting strengthens families, builds relationships, and connects communities — one visit at a time.



Webinar- Tackling Child Poverty From the Personal to the Political



TACKLING CHILD POVERTY: FROM THE PERSONAL TO THE POLITICAL

WITH DR. KEETIE ROELEN



On Friday, 17th October, the ABC Programme hosted the webinar Tackling Child Poverty: From the Personal to the Political. We were thrilled to welcome 220 attendees on the day, with 427 people registered overall. The session opened with Bernie Lavery, ABC Programme National Manager, followed by presentations from Dr. Keetie Roelen, Dr. Anna Visser, and Jeffrey Shumba. They shared their expertise on child poverty, social protection, and wellbeing, offering both research insights and practical ideas for tackling poverty in Ireland. The webinar took place on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, making it a fitting moment to join the discussion and explore ways to combat child poverty together. For anyone who couldn't join, all presentations were shared with registrants after the webinar, so everyone could access the information and stay involved.

Contact Us:

For more information on programmes and supports available in your area, please contact: eli@ncirl.ie.

To keep up to date throughout the year, please connect with us:

Website: <https://grangegormanabc.com>.

Instagram: [grangegormanabc](https://www.instagram.com/grangegormanabc)

