

## Innovative ways to develop and run family learning programmes

Wednesday 27 November, 9.30am to 3.15pm

**The Richmond Centre, 1 North Brunswick St, Smithfield, Dublin, D07 TH76.**

**9.30 Tea, coffee and registration.**

**10.00 Chair: Welcome and introductions.**

Dr Lána McCarthy, Assistant Lecturer, Literacy Development Centre, South East Technological University (SETU).

**10.15 Updates and discussion on family learning elements of Ireland's Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy 2024 – 2033 and Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy.**

- Colleen Dube, National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
- Jane Heffernan, Quality Support Coordinator, Quality Unit, Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare Division, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth;
- Karen Murtagh, Assistant Principal Officer, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit, Department of Education; and
- Yvonne McKenna, Director, ALL Strategy National Programme Office, SOLAS.

**10:45 Traditional storytelling in the age of distraction: The importance of traditional narrative in a 24/7 plugged in digital world.**

Niall de Burca, Scéalaí / Traditional Storyteller.

**11:10 Bridging home and school: The vital role of school libraries in family literacy.**

Kathleen Moran, National Coordinator, Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) Demonstration Library Project.

**11.30 Go to workshops**

**11.45 - 1.00 Morning workshops.** Please select **one** morning workshop.

**(a) Storytelling as a tool of education: Unleash your inner storytelling ninja!**

A nuts and bolts workshop on using traditional storytelling to uplift and inspire all ages.

**Facilitator:** Niall De Burca, Scéalaí / Traditional Storyteller.

**(b) Capitalising on teenage talent to promote engagement in learning.**

The Limerick City online Buddy Reading programme - This programme was devised to develop leadership and engagement in Transition Year students. It's a partnership between primary and second level schools, the School Completion Project and Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support. It helps social engagement and promotes attendance and participation in school.

**Facilitator:** Tracy Fitzgerald, Home School Community Liaison Coordinator, Our Lady of Lourdes National School (NS), Limerick.

**(c) Cooking-up literacy and developing family literacy together**

Cook and Book Club - A family literacy program that combines storytelling and cooking, allowing parents and children to create recipes inspired by the weekly story. We will explore the planning and facilitation of our Family Resource Centre's (FRC) Family Literacy Enhancement Programme. We'll outline how Teach na nDaoine FRC worked with Monaghan Library and Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (ETB).

**Facilitators:** Gail Townrow, Community Aftercare Worker and Ciara Ní Chionnaith, Project Worker, Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre, Monaghan.

**(d) Trav Story Sacks**

This workshop will showcase the Traveller Story Sacks that were created by Traveller women in Donegal in collaboration with Donegal Travellers Project, Donegal ETB and Donegal County Library. The aim is to promote culture, inclusion and enhance literacy skills. It will also explore how to engage new groups and people on projects.

**Facilitators:** Pamela Cullotty, Family Links Worker and Maureen Friel, Trainee Family Links Worker, Donegal Travellers Project.

**(e) Empowering families: How school librarians and teachers can support literacy at home.**

Participants will explore collaborative approaches to engage families in literacy activities, share resources that empower parents, and create a supportive reading culture at home. We'll discuss how school staff can serve as key facilitators in connecting families with resources, programmes and supports that encourage literacy development. The workshop will illustrate the profound impact that librarians and teachers can have on nurturing lifelong readers and learners.

**Facilitator:** Kathleen Moran, National Coordinator, JCSP Demonstration Library Project.

## 1.00 Lunch.

## 2.00 - 3.15 Afternoon workshops. Please select **one** afternoon workshop.

### (f) **Esker Eats: Engaging EAL\* parents and building cultural bridges through cooking.**

This workshop will demonstrate how projects like 'Esker Eats' can bring together EAL parents and the wider school community. This project highlights the significant impact of parental involvement on children's success and parents' own sense of belonging. The session will focus on overcoming barriers, including language. Participants will discover how cooking and cultural storytelling can encourage EAL parents to engage in school life, reduce anxiety, and build a stronger connection with educators. \*Note: EAL is English as an Additional Language.

**Facilitators:** Linda Boland-Quigley, Esker Educate Together National School, Lucan, Co Dublin and Cecelia Moran, Tutor, Clondalkin Adult Education Services.

### (g) **Capitalising on teenage talent to promote engagement in learning.**

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### (h) **Read to Succeed programme.**

This programme helps parents to engage with their children in active reading, using read-aloud techniques and activities that involve all of the senses. It uses both reading aloud and storybags to allow children to act-out the story for parents. The workshop will also discuss the Home School Community Liaison input and reaction to the programme in their schools -

**Facilitator:** Sharon Murphy, Adult Literacy Tutor, Louth and Meath ETB.

### (i) **Teaching STEAM\*\* to young learners and their families.**

This is a workshop about teaching people how best to work with children and their families in a science and technology setting outside of the main classroom. The workshop includes practical ideas and activities. \*\*Note: STEAM is Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.

**Facilitator:** James Ryan, STEAM Tutor, Limerick and Clare ETB.

**(j) Learning to support children in Primary School QQI Level 3 Special Purpose Award (SPA) – Tutor Pack.**

The workshop will offer an overview of the Tutor Packs for the four minor awards of the SPA. The packs contain resources and all required assessment worksheets under each of the MIMLOs (Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes) for the following awards:

- (i) 3F22043 Supporting Primary School Children: Learning,
- (ii) (3F22043 Supporting Primary School Children: Literacy,
- (iii) (3F22043 Supporting Primary School Children: Digital Literacy and (iv) 3F22043 Supporting Primary School Children: Maths.

We'll look at the website page for sharing the tutor packs and worksheet templates. We'll discuss how to create and share your own worksheets and how to share resources. And we'll consider the SPA and process for a centre obtaining access to, and validation of, the award.

**Facilitators:** Thomas Farrell, Programme Development Officer and Carmel O'Neill, Adult Literacy Tutor, Kilkenny and Carlow ETB.

**Getting to the conference:** While there is no parking at **The Richmond Centre**, there is a LUAS tram stop (Smithfield) nearby. There are also other public transport options.

Also, we are pleased to say there is no registration fee. However, we would be delighted if you would **become a NALA member**.