

Early Language Intervention

September 2006 Newsletter



Dear ELI Parents,

Welcome back to everyone for what we hope will be another great year at ELI. We have many new families with us and several new members of staff.

✚ Staff

We have a number of new staff you have been seeing over the past few weeks. Miriam O'Neill joins us in Bray, Perrine Cahill in Monkstown and Urszula Jagielka in Stillorgan. Miriam has a certificate in Psychology and has completed 2 – 5 year old parenting courses. Perrine graduated from UCD with an honours BA degree in Linguistics and French. Urszula has obtained a Master of Psychology Degree with a specialization in Clinical Psychology.

✚ ELI Blanchardstown

As many of you know we have opened a new ELI preschool in Blanchardstown. It is almost full and we are delighted to be able to serve parents and children in this area of Dublin. We will also have an ABA classroom in Blanchardstown and we currently have room for 1-2 more children in that class. We have a full complement of staff in Blanchardstown. Jenny Corcoran, who has been working in Stillorgan since January, will manage the playgroup initially. Ronda Barron will manage the ABA classroom. Ronda joins us from an ABA school and has several years training and experience working with children with autism and with ABA.

✚ Pre-School Spaces

We have a limited number of pre-school spaces available in some of the schools. If you are aware of someone who would benefit from ELI, please have them contact Adrienne at 202 0489.

✚ Upcoming events

- ❖ We have organised parent meeting for this term on the following dates:
 - o Bray: Thursday, 21st September @ 7:30pm
 - o Blanchardstown: Tuesday, 26th September @7:30pm
 - o Monkstown & Stillorgan: Wednesday, 27th September @7:30pm(to be held together in Monkstown Community Centre as the Stillorgan room is not available to us after hours)
- ❖ (Parents, please note that this is an information meeting, a chance for you to meet the supervisors and hear about the preschool curriculum and schedule in general. It is **not** intended as a time to talk about individual children. Meeting will be scheduled later in the year about individual goals and needs of the children.)
- ❖ We have scheduled another behaviour training course. The course runs for 8 weeks and covers all of the behaviour principles. This course is not just for parents of children in the ABA classrooms (though parents of children on ABA programmes are expected to attend). It is for managing the behaviour of all children and includes looking at what keeps behaviour happening and why. It also will give you ways to manage difficult behaviour and will include how to design and implement a plan for the reduction of behaviour that you don't want to see. We hope to see many of you at this valuable course. The start dates are as follows:
 - October 4th 7-9pm, Monkstown Community Centre
 - October 5th 9:30-11:30am Monkstown Community Centre(both to run for 8 weeks. The same information is repeated on the 5th so that we can accommodate as many parents as possible. You attend either the 4th or the 5th- not both training sessions.)
 - January 23rd 7-9pm, ELI Blanchardstown
 - January 24th 9:30-11:30am ELI Blanchardstown

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(both to run for 8 weeks. This course is repeated on the 24th so that we can accommodate as many parents as possible. You attend either the 23rd or the 24th - not both training sessions.)

- ❖ **The Behaviour Day**, a one day overview of behaviour principles, run by Deirdre and Triona will be on November 11th. This day is a basic day for behaviour principles and intervention and is geared for parents, SNA's and teachers of special needs children in mainstream settings. More information will be available shortly on our website: www.eli-ireland.com.
- ❖ **The Language Day**, a one day overview of language development and intervention run by Deirdre and Sharon will be on the 25th of November. This is a day that includes development of normal language; what a language delay is and simple strategies that you can use to facilitate language in a child with delay. More information will be available shortly on our website: www.eli-ireland.com.

🚧 Fundraising:

We will be planning our fundraising efforts for 2006-07 over the coming weeks and will be looking for volunteers to assist us.

Our final event of the past year, the Women's Mini Marathon, was completed over the June Bank Holiday and a number of entries carried the ELI colours. The total amount raised for this event was just over €3,000. The voucher for two nights B&B goes to Mary Dowling for raising the most cash, over €1,000!

🚧 Marketing

If there are any parents out there who have connections to media outlets we would love to hear from you. We would love to get some airtime or print on our new branch.

🚧 TCD Study

Tara Murphy BA BSc is conducting a national study in the area of autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) and more specifically, on parents' information needs as part of a PhD in the School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin. It is hoped that results from the overall study will help local and national service providers and voluntary organisations across Ireland to develop and offer parents of children with ASDs a more effective information service. Tara is looking for parents of children aged between 4-16 years to complete an anonymous survey. Parents can contact her at tmurphy3@tcd.ie or on 087-4119278 (m)/ 01-8963912 (w). The closing date is September 29th 2006.

🚧 Reminders

- ❖ Please put your child's name on his/her coat. We are actively teaching "mine" so we need to know what belongs to who.
- ❖ Please don't bring your child to school if she/he is sick.
- ❖ If your child is staying for ABA in the afternoon, make sure that his/her lunchbox is marked with their name.
- ❖ Please be on time. All of the playgroup time is allocated for intervention so for your child to get the maximum out of the time in the group.
- ❖ Please watch out for the dates and times of the parent meeting. There will be a meeting for each playgroup each term.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

Deirdre M. Muldoon