

# 'In The Loop'



## CIP OBJECTIVES

**Consult** with those working to include disabled children in mainstream play and childcare settings.

**Compile a Profile** of the present level of inclusion of disabled children in childcare and play settings.

**Create Partnerships** with parents, disabled children, childcare providers, disability service providers and educators.

**Provide Training** to childcare staff, managers and members of voluntary management committees in the principles of inclusion, inclusive play practice and policy development.

Establish an **Inclusive Play Network**.

Deliver a **Training the Trainers** programme, to ensure the ongoing provision of training in inclusive play in Ireland.

**Develop a Manual of Best Practice** for childcare and play providers.

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## The Childcare Inclusion Programme

The Childcare Inclusion Programme (CIP) is an innovative Programme, within DESSA, the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency. The idea for the Programme originated from the 'Lets All Play' Seminar, organised by DESSA in April 2005. The seminar explored strategies for the greater inclusion of disabled children in childcare and play settings, with key stakeholders from the childcare and disability sectors. The Childcare Inclusion Programme is funded by the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, through the Enhancing Disability Services Programme, managed by Pobal. The Programme will endeavour to address some of the barriers to inclusion identified by childcare and play providers, through the provision of consultation, training, networking and policy development. The ethos of the Programme is that real inclusion supports the rights of all children, of diverse abilities, to participate actively in natural settings within their own communities.



## Its All Fun And Games.....

On the 9th, 10th and 11th October, 45 participants gathered in various venues around Dublin to be the first participants on the CIP Inclusive Play Training Programme. It began with a one day interactive training course called Play2gether, which is designed to introduce participants to the underpinning principles of Inclusive Play, through games and activities that promote inclusiveness.



**Participants on the Play2gether course in Tallaght, learning to offer activities, which ALL children can enjoy.**

The next phase of the training is a three day course called 'Everyone Can Play', which is an intensive training course for workers, who actively want to welcome and enable ALL children, disabled, and non-disabled, to play together. This is taking place during October and November.

The trainers: Playworks.uk & Alison John and Associates have over twenty years experience in developing & delivering high quality training across the 'Play Work', Early Years and Childcare Sectors in the U.K. & overseas. Training courses are designed within an inclusive context and are based on the social model of disability.



Childcare and Play Providers working around issues of inclusion at 'Valuing Your Voice'

"Inclusive Play is not about meeting 'special needs'; It is about meeting all children's needs in the same place and in a variety of different ways."

It Doesn't Just Happen: Inclusive Management for Inclusive Play

Philip Douch, KIDSactive 2002

## C.I.P. Listens and Learns.....

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, CIP hosted a consultation day 'Valuing Your Voice' in the ARK, Temple Bar, where providers and families were invited to come along, to discuss their experiences of inclusion and disability.

**The Morning Session** focussed on gathering information and listening to the experiences of childcare providers around including disabled children in their settings. Using a variety of interactive & inclusive play games the group explored some issues relating to disability, including the

social model of disability, barriers to inclusion & ways to overcome them.

**The Afternoon Session** invited families who have experienced disability, to share their experiences. Parents, disabled children & siblings were invited, making the afternoon a truly inclusive event. Through facilitated workshops, games and activities, the trainers & parents discussed issues surrounding disability. Using creative games & art the trainers worked with the children encouraging them to share their own experiences. The afternoon was closed with a procession of the

fabulous creations made by all the children.

The learning from the day will help to inform the development of the Child-care Inclusion Programme.



Children being creative together at 'Valuing Your Voice' in the Ark, Temple Bar on the 16th of September.

### Looking to 2007...

In early 2007, we will be running **Play2gether** and **Everyone Can Play** for more participants.

We will also be running one day seminars for management committees and policy makers called '**WHY INCLUSION?**'. This is an opportunity to reflect on policies & practices in including disabled children in services and settings.

We will be offering a **Training the Trainers Course**, to ensure the ongoing provision of inclusive play training.

We will be setting up an **Inclusive Play Network**, to support those actively working to promote inclusion.

We will also be developing a **Guide to Best Practice**,

to share the learning from the Programme.

If you would like to receive our C.I.P. information leaflet or pack, we would be delighted to hear from you and if you are interested in participating on any of our courses in 2007, please contact us soon, as places will be limited.

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### Meet the C.I.P. Team

**Manager: Emma Byrne-MacNamee (centre)**  
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