

# Toys, Technology and Training

Supporting our  
Neurodiverse Community


# Free Talks and Workshops Spring 2024




 [buy tickets.at/tttkildare](https://buytickets.at/tttkildare)

 [kildarecoco.ie/library](https://kildarecoco.ie/library)

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## **Contents**

What is the TTT Programme? .....	4
Free Talks and Workshops .....	6
Sensory Garden at Leixlip Library .....	7
Sensory Pods .....	8
Tovertafel (Magic Table) .....	9
Cubbie at Athy Library .....	10
The Fact Factory Magazine .....	11
Further Resources .....	12

## **Events**

Dyslexia Info Session for Parents .....	15
Ta Tum Tum! Interactive Show for Neurodiverse Children .....	16
Nurturing Abilities Training Programme for Parents of Young Autistic Children .....	17
SibShop .....	19
Active Kids Academy .....	20
Sound Yoga Workshop for Autistic Children and their Families .....	21
Sensory Story Time Sessions .....	23
Storytime with Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) .....	24
Helping Children and Teenagers with ADD/ADHD .	25
Early Communication / The Building Blocks of Language   CAINT .....	29
Supporting Non-Verbal / Minimally Verbal Children   CAINT .....	30
Yoga and Sensory Play .....	31
Lámh Module One Online Course .....	32
Occupational Therapy Talks .....	33
Speakers .....	35
TTT User Feedback .....	39

## What is the TTT Programme?

The TTT Programme is designed to offer support to our neurodiverse community.

Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas libraries, a specialised collection of toys and assistive equipment can be accessed free of charge in branches throughout the county and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any Kildare library.

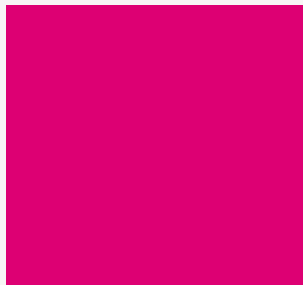
Items in the catalogue can be requested or renewed online and collected by the borrower at their nearest branch library. Pick up a catalogue at any Kildare library or view it online at [kildarecoco.ie/library](http://kildarecoco.ie/library).

This collection has been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with therapists working in the community.

Membership is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in County Kildare. Contact your local library for further terms and conditions of use.

A full list of our libraries and contact information is available at [kildarecoco.ie/library](http://kildarecoco.ie/library).





## Free Talks and Workshops

The TTT Programme includes an annual series of free talks and workshops, funded by Kildare County Council. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

Attendance is open to everyone and free of charge, though booking is required.

TTT talks and workshops from February to May 2024 will be in-person events taking place across Kildare libraries—please take note of location (📍) when booking.

### **Continuous Professional Development**

Certificates of Attendance are available for all TTT talks and workshops.

Certificates will be available from the venue after the event. Please note that certificates will only be issued on the night and cannot be requested at a later time.

# Sensory Garden at Leixlip Library



## Sensory Pods at Leixlip & Kildare Town

Sensory pods are a safe space designed to address the needs of those with sensory support, processing or anxiety-based challenges.

The pods offer options to engage or limit visual, auditory and kinesthetic supports.

Sensory pods are located in Kildare Town Library and Leixlip Library; for more information or to book a session, contact the relevant library directly: [kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie) / [leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie)





## Tovertafel (Magic Table)

### Leixlip and Naas

The Tovertafel is a special projector that turns any blank surface into a 'magic table', or interactive games surface.

It was developed with the care sector in mind, focusing on making games more accessible and therapeutic to those with a cognitive challenge.

In particular, games have been developed that support children and adults with autism and older adults with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Leixlip Library at / [leixlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:leixlib@kildarecoco.ie) or Naas Library at [naaslib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:naaslib@kildarecoco.ie) when this service is available in your local branch.

### Portable Projector

Kildare Library Service also provides access to the Tovertafel through a portable projector. Contact your local library to see when this service is available in your local branch.



## Cubbie at Athy and Naas Libraries

The Cubbie offers a sensory solution for people with autism, ADHD and other sensory processing disorders (SPD) and anxiety. It delivers a sensory programme specific to a person's unique sensory needs, helping them to regulate and better participate in school, work or play activities. The Cubbie is easy to use, allowing each user to adjust LED lighting, sounds and vital effects to match their needs. It provides flexible seating options including slings and rockers, and is wheelchair accessible.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Athy Library at [athylib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:athylib@kildarecoco.ie) or Naas Library at [naaslib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:naaslib@kildarecoco.ie)



# The Fact Factory Magazine



## CHILDREN'S AUDIO AND PRINT MAGAZINE

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AGE 7-12  
STRUGGLING WITH:

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

DYSLEXIA

RELUCTANT READERS

BORROW READER PEN & MAGAZINES  
FROM THE DESK

@AUDIOMAGMEDIA



Available to borrow from Athy, Celbridge, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge libraries.

## Further Resources

### ■ **TTT Vimeo Channel**

Our TTT Vimeo channel features talks, presentations, storytimes and more, with new content added regularly:

[vimeo.com/channels/toystechnologytraining](https://vimeo.com/channels/toystechnologytraining)

### ■ **Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS)**

TTRS is a literacy programme aimed at improving reading and spelling while teaching touch-typing. It is specifically designed for those with learning differences such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia.


TTRS is available in the following Kildare Libraries: Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge.

For more information, please contact your nearest library branch.





# Dyslexia Information Session for Parents

 Online

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## Register

In this pre-recorded information video from the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, we look at:

- What is dyslexia?
- How to get an assessment
- Support in school
- Support at home
- Dyslexia & self-esteem

Register to receive a link to the video and the presentation slides used.

You can also contact the Dyslexia Association by emailing [info@dyslexia.ie](mailto:info@dyslexia.ie) should you have any specific query.

# Ta Tum Tum! Interactive Show for Neurodiverse Children

🕒 13.04.2024  
11am

📍 Leixlip  
Library

[Book Tickets](#)

🕒 13.04.2024  
2pm

📍 Naas  
Library

[Book Tickets](#)

Ta Tum Tum! is an interactive music workshop for children exploring Brazilian rhythms, body awareness, creative movement and sound healing.

Through the workshop, children will develop their creativity, confidence, and self-expression. They'll also learn about teamwork and communication as they work together to create rhythms and movements. Ta Tum Tum! workshops are designed to promote physical activity, which is vital for children's health and wellbeing.

Ta Tum Tum! is more than just a workshop—it's an immersive experience that celebrates the spirit of Brazil, its captivating rhythms, and the universal language of music. Let us unleash your child's artistic potential in this unforgettable journey of sound and expression.

No music experience needed. An adult must accompany.

Led by: Kasia Eliazsz & William Kanela.

# Nurturing Abilities

Training Programme for Parents  
of Young Autistic Children

with Silvia Angel

## Session 1

🕒 29.02.2024  
7pm

📍 Naas  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

Introduction to Autism  
Understand autism and gain insights to comprehend your child's unique needs further. Learn how to create a supportive environment at home to foster your child's overall development.

## Session 2

🕒 07.03.2024  
7pm

📍 Naas  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)


Interaction and Communication  
Explore strategies to enhance your child's engagement and learn techniques to support your child's language development. This session will also introduce practical communication supports to help your child understand language and effectively communicate with you.

# Nurturing Abilities

Training Programme for Parents  
of Young Autistic Children

with Silvia Angel

## Session 3

 14.03.2024  
7pm

 Naas  
Library


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[Book Tickets](#)

### Play Development

Delve into the function and development of play, understanding its various forms and how it may differ for autistic children. Gain practical knowledge on engaging in play with your child and creating an environment that promotes play skills crucial for their development.

## Session 4

 21.03.2024  
7pm

 Naas  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

### Supporting Behaviour

In the final session, discover strategies to encourage positive behaviour, cooperation, and effective problem-solving. Learn how to approach challenging situations with compassion, focusing on prevention and thoughtfully providing support for your child.

# Sibshop Workshop

## Sibshop Ireland

 **27.04.2024**  
**2pm**

 **Leixlip**  
**Library**

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**[Book Tickets](#)**

Sibshops are fun workshops for siblings of children with special needs. They are lively, with games and discussions.

As well as having lots of fun this online Sibshop will provide a great opportunity for siblings to get together and chat about some of the difficulties and the positives of having a sibling with special needs.

The workshops are aimed at children aged between 8 to 12 years (inclusive) with a maximum of 10 children in the group recommended as this works best in order to give all the children a chance to contribute to the discussions and games. Their sibling with special needs should be over 2 ½ years so that they can see and understand that their brother or sister has special needs.

Siblings experience the same joys and concerns as their parents yet have fewer opportunities to gain access to support. Often siblings do not want to burden their parents with their own worries. Sibshop Workshops are one way of offering them fun and the support they deserve.

# Active Kids Academy

🕒 25.05.2024  
11am

📍 Naas  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

🕒 25.05.2024  
2pm

📍 Leixlip  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

These classes, whilst based around fun, are designed to work on skills such as fine & gross motor skills, communication, social skills, fundamental sports skills, balance, coordination, positive mental health skills and much more BUT as far as the children know, they are just having fun in an inclusive environment, designed to ensure they thrive and reach their own goals.

Classes will be made up of activities & games to get children moving, working on social skills and having fun. The games will focus on things such as fine & gross motor skills, fundamental sports skills, coordination, strength, agility, communication skills and much more. The classes will be made up of obstacle courses, parachute fun, imaginary play, group activities and lots more.

The classes are aimed at children aged between 5 to 10 years with a maximum of 10 children in each class.

# SoundYoga Workshop for Autistic Children and their Families

Tanja Thomas

🕒 24.02.2024  
02.03.2024  
09.03.2024  
11am

Introducing SoundYoga with the focus on self and co regulation techniques for autistic children and their families.

📍 Leixlip  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

In SoundYoga, body, mind and soul can let go of accumulated stress, worry and uncertainty and come back to a place of balance, joy and a feeling of security.

In a playfully designed session Tanja will be demonstrating how parents can use singing bowls in combination with yoga and breath practices with their children for self and co regulation.

This is an interactive experience especially designed for autistic children & their families to enjoy the benefits of these practices together and learn how to use them in everyday life.

All abilities/children ages 6 to 12 years.





# Sensory Story Time Sessions

Sharon Curran, MSEN, BA Mont Ed,  
Dip Hort

🕒 17.02.2024  
23.03.2024  
20.04.2024  
18.05.2024  
11am

Join Sharon for a fun, sensory story time tailored specially to meet the needs of neurodiverse children.


📍 Leixlip Library

## Book Tickets



# Storytime with Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC)


Patricia Hall

 **24.02.2024**  
2pm

 **Athy Library**

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**Book Tickets**

 **23.03.2024**  
2pm

 **Newbridge Library**

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**Book Tickets**

AAC at the Library is an interactive session to show how stories can be read using an AAC device to support AAC users in actively participating in story time.

AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. AAC includes strategies (e.g. signing, gesture, etc.) and equipment (e.g. a symbol chart, an alphabet chart, a simple talking button, a more complex computer-based voice output communication aid, etc.) that support or replace speech. This session will focus on how to use a high-tech voice output communication aid to support AAC users to access all the benefits of storytime. This session is most suitable for children aged 3 to 8 years, but older children can also participate. Parents and siblings can attend to learn how to use an AAC device interactively to support AAC in storytelling.

At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how book reading can be continued at home and in the library using an AAC device.

# Helping Children and Teenagers with ADD/ADHD

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

Dr Armstrong will be delivering a series of six sessions in parenting/working with children and teenagers with ADD/ADHD.

They are aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with people with ADHD.


The course is designed for participants to attend on a weekly basis for the full course, however it is also open to people opting in for some of the sessions that are especially relevant to them, however sessions three to six build on each other and where possible it is recommended that you attend all of these where possible.

# Helping Children and Teenagers with ADD/ADHD

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

## Session 1

 13.02.2024  
7pm


 Leixlip  
Library


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[Book Tickets](#)

Children and teenagers with ADD/ADHD frequently find it difficult to tune out sensory information. This can be very overwhelming and dysregulating. Can you imagine what it's like to be in a classroom where you notice and are distracted by every movement the other students make, what's happening outside the window, the noise of the radiator? This talk will provide insights into the types of sensory processing issues experienced and give some practical solutions and techniques that can help.

## Session 2

 20.02.2024  
7pm

 Leixlip  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)


Executive skills allow people to organise what they do over time and be able to resist immediate demands in order to achieve longer term goals e.g. resist playing computer games in order to do homework so as to achieve well in exams. Executive skills help people to plan and organise activities, sustain attention and to keep going in order to complete a task. They are also involved in managing emotions and in self-monitoring.

# Helping Children and Teenagers with ADD/ADHD

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

## Session 3


 27.02.2024  
7pm

 Leixlip  
Library

[Book Tickets](#)

Children and teenagers with ADD/ADHD are often misunderstood. People who don't understand their struggles can be tempted to think that they 'should just try harder' or that 'they're deliberately being challenging or difficult'. This attitude can lead to the child feeling misunderstood and frustrated which can compound the issues. This talk will help participants have a deeper understanding of the lagging skills and environmental issues that can cause 'challenging behaviours' and will learn how to reframe them.

## Session 4

 05.03.2024  
7pm

 Leixlip  
Library

[Book Tickets](#)


In this talk participants will learn how to move into the next phase of the process of helping children become problem solvers. We will discuss ways in which to listen and learn from the child so that we can help a child communicate and understand why they might be struggling in an area. We will discuss co-regulation and self-regulation and how to be an empathetic listener.


# Helping Children and Teenagers with ADD/ADHD

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

## Session 5

 12.03.2024  
7pm


 Leixlip  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

This talk builds on the learning from the last two talks. Participants will learn how to help children draw up plans to help themselves manage and reduce what would traditionally have been called 'challenging behaviours'. We will discuss what is entailed in such a plan, how to help the child put a plan together, how to monitor the plan and change it if it doesn't work.

## Session 6

 19.03.2024  
7pm

 Leixlip  
Library


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[Book Tickets](#)

This is our final talk in the series. We will consolidate the learning from the other sessions and facilitate participants to be ready to use the techniques and strategies that they have learned. We will also discuss the importance of building self-esteem in children and teenagers with ADD/ADHD and discuss ways we can foster resilience and well-being going forward.

# Early communication/ the building blocks of language

Speech and Language Talks with  
CAINT

 **11.04.2024**  
**7pm**

 **Maynooth**  
**Library**

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**[Book Tickets](#)**


This talk will outline early communication development and the important foundations skills of attention, imitation, play and social integration that are the foundations of language and communication in young children. Fun activities will be discussed to support parents and their children in promoting early language skills. Strategies to facilitate early first words and phrases will be discussed and how to build towards early sentences.



# Supporting non-verbal/minimally verbal children

Speech and Language Talks with  
CAINT

 **09.05.2024**  
**7pm**

 **Celbridge**  
**Library**


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**[Book Tickets](#)**

This talk will outline how and why children communicate beyond the spoken word. It will help parents to identify their child's communication profile. Alternative and Augmentative communication options will be explored and the use of visuals to support your child's communication and engagement.

# Yoga and Sensory Play


with Stephanie Bolger

 **11.05.2024**  
**11am**

 **Naas**  
**Library**

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**[Book Tickets](#)**

 **11.05.2024**  
**2pm**


 **Athy**  
**Library**


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**[Book Tickets](#)**

Yoga is about feeling good in your body and these sessions are designed specifically for neurodiverse children. They can come to a class and feel free to explore a wide range of sensory based activities at their own pace and if it's suitable they can engage in some fun Yoga games. Most children know what they need to support regulation, each child is so unique and different that by providing a range of activities to explore they will naturally be guided towards what they need in that moment.

# Lámh Module One Online Course

 **Group 1:**  
10.02.2024  
9.30am–1pm

 **Group 2:**  
20.04.2024  
9.30am–1pm

 **Online**

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**[Book Tickets](#)**

This course is for staff members and professionals who have started to work in an environment where Lámh is used and covers 100 Lámh signs and how to support a Lámh user.  
No previous Lámh training required.

### **Course Content:**

- Module One Lámh signs (100+)
- Alternative and augmentative communication (AAC)
- Lámh—a brief history and development
- Lámh signing environment

### **Accreditation Achieved:**

Module One Certificate

Participants will also receive a learning pack from Lámh following completion of the course.


### **Course Schedule:**


Online participant led training via the Lámh website will take place in advance of a Tutor led Zoom session. Participants will receive a learning pack from Lámh following completion of the course.

**Places on this course are very limited and in high demand. Please only book if you can attend and participate fully.**

# Occupational Therapy Talks

with Sarah Butler

 09.04.2024  
7pm

 Newbridge  
Library

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**[Book Tickets](#)**

## **Interoception: what is it and how to build it**

Hunger, thirst, emotions, tiredness, pain, toilet, temperature come to us as internal sensations. These messages can be hard to notice, or overwhelming, for some people. Learn about interoceptive awareness if you know, or are, someone who is always/never hungry or thirsty, over-heats, has 0-90 emotional reactions, varying response to pain, varying awareness of the need to go to the toilet. This sense of our internal sensations can vary in people, and has a huge, often hidden, impact on our wellbeing.

# Occupational Therapy talks

with Sarah Butler

🕒 25.04.2024  
7pm

📍 Athy  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

## **What's behind that movement - let's explore vestibular sensory processing**

"Can't sit still, always on the go" or "very cautious moving, scared of heights" can describe someone with vestibular processing issues.

This important sense in our body influences movement, body awareness and confidence. It underpins our listening and communication, as well as our ability to control our movements. Learn more about this sense and what activities support it.

🕒 02.05.2024  
7pm

📍 Kildare  
Library

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[Book Tickets](#)

## **Play in every way**

Consider the different types of play you can do with a child or let them do it themselves. Play that builds muscle, relationships, and brains/emotional regulation. Explore play that both adults and child can enjoy. Discuss the things that can make play hard for both parents and children.

## Speakers





## **Active Kids Academy | [activeacademy.ie](http://activeacademy.ie)**

Lisa Redmond runs Active Kids Academy, a company providing fun & fitness for children of all abilities. With over 20 years of experience working with children with additional needs and in the fitness industry, Lisa has combined both her passions to bring individual programmes to children and their families.



## **Silvia Angel**

Silvia Angel (GDipAutSt. SS. BA (PhysEd)) an early intervention specialist with over 20 years of experience in children's development clinics in Ireland, brings a unique perspective as both a professional and a mother of an autistic boy. Currently working as part of a Children's Network Disability Team in Dublin, Silvia actively supports families and works directly with young children to foster their development. Silvia is also known for her engaging webinars, courses, and YouTube channel and has been a featured speaker at both national and international conferences in this field.



## **Dr. Dorothy Armstrong | [dorothyarmstrongconsultantot.com](http://dorothyarmstrongconsultantot.com)**

Dr Dorothy Armstrong (MSc PhD) is an expert occupational therapist who specialises in the area of neurodivergence (Autism, ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder / Dyspraxia). She works on projects to promote inclusion and delivers training, education and advice to organisations such as schools, community groups and businesses. She has made television and radio appearances and is the author of the book 'The Next Adventure: Transitioning to Secondary School when you have Developmental Coordination Disorder'. More information about Dorothy can be found on her website above.



## **Stephanie Bolger**

Stephanie Bolger is a children's Yoga teacher and Sensory Play facilitator specifically for neurodiverse children. She is a mother of four children and her two boys have Autism and intellectual delays. She has a personal interest in the nervous system which has guided her teaching, and she enjoys meeting families and providing children with a safe space for them to have fun and be themselves.



### **Sarah Butler**

Sarah Butler has an Occupational therapy private practice in Kildangan. She works with children, adolescents and adults to understand how their bodies and brains work, and what activities can make day to day life easier.



### **CAINT** | [caintspeechtherapy.ie](http://caintspeechtherapy.ie)

CAINT is a multidisciplinary service of SLT, OT and psychology services. CAINT takes a holistic view of the client by exploring speech and language function, their abilities to participate in daily activities (Occupational Therapy), and their overall development and educational attainment (Psychology).



### **Sharon Curran**

Sharon Curran (MSEN, BA Mont Ed, Dip Hort) is a Special Educational Needs teacher specialising in autism spectrum disorder. She has a background in Montessori education and a wealth of experience in teaching children with a wide range of learning disabilities.



### **Kasia Eliaz** | [tatumtum.com](http://tatumtum.com)

With a strong passion for creativity and diversity, Kasia has created a space for children and adults alike to celebrate the power of music through her work as the Artistic Director of Ta Tum Tum!

Her role as the Artistic Director has allowed her to create a space for children and adults to explore the power of samba music in a fun and engaging way to promote creativity and diversity, encouraging participants to embrace their individuality and express themselves through music.



### **Patricia Hall**

Patricia Hall (BSc CSLS) is a Speech and Language Therapist with over 20 year of experience supporting children with additional needs and their families. She works in the South Kildare West Wicklow Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) in Athy. She is passionate about supporting children and their families in using AAC to participate in every aspect of their lives and accessing activities within their community.





## **Lámh Development Ireland | lamh.org**

Lámh is the manual sign system used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland. Lámh was originally developed in the early 1980s in order to have a unified, standardised, Irish-based approach to signing for those with intellectual disabilities and communication needs.



## **Sibshop Ireland | sibshopireland.ie**

Linda Foley and Liz Fitzpatrick both work with children with an Intellectual Disability. Liz is a Registered General Nurse and an AMI Montessori teacher and has been supporting children (6–18 years) with special needs in mainstream education for over 20 years. Linda is a Registered General Nurse and a Paediatric Nurse, and she runs a specialised pre-school for children from birth to 6 years. They are qualified Sibshop facilitators and Parents Plus facilitators. They have a huge interest in sibling support and are founders of Sibshop Ireland.



## **Tanja Thomas**

Tanja has been sharing yoga, sound and wellbeing practices with children & teens, children & teens with additional needs, adults and families nationally and internationally in yoga studios, communities, preschools, primary & secondary schools, children's camps, libraries, at festivals, in independent classes and in one-to-one sessions.

When her daughter was born in 2005 with Congenital Heart Disease, Holistic Practices & Yoga became integral to both her and her daughter as a way of life.

A qualified yoga instructor and sound massage practitioner specialising in working with children and families, Tanja has also trained in Three in One Concepts Kinesiology, Reiki, Sound Healing, Peter Hess Sound Massage and has special interest in mindfulness and meditation practices in Thich Nhat Han's Plum Village tradition.

## TTT User Feedback

“

Have found all the TTT talks extremely informative... I have learned so much from these talks

”

“

The programme has given me the opportunity to learn more about how my child's diagnosis affects them and their interaction with the world

”

“

I feel the programme really helps me to help my students

”

“

A great support & source of information

”

“

We found a fantastic sensory resource that helped A LOT in school

”

“

We found it's great to try out things that our OT said would be good for our son

”

“

A great resource for teachers

”

“

We have used the knowledge learned in talks and the equipment rented out via the library to assist in the development of our son who has autism

”

# “Let’s Talk about Parenting”

## FREE SERIES OF TALKS



Seirbhís Leabharlanna Chill Dara  
Kildare Library Service

*These talks are for Parents and also offer continuing professional development for professionals working with children (CPD certs of attendance available)*



The **Let’s Talk about Parenting** Programme is a FREE series of talks and workshops for parents, as well as professionals working with children and young people in County Kildare. The programme is provided by Kildare Library Service, funded by Kildare County Council, and supported by Kildare CYPSC and members of the multi- agency Kildare & West Wicklow Parenting Forum, with contributions by the HSE Primary Care Psychology Service and MABS, among others.

For more information on the Parenting Forum and the supports available in County Kildare visit [parentingsupport.ie](http://parentingsupport.ie)

Talks are a mixture of library in-house and online and certificates of attendance are available for CPD purposes.

Sign up to the LTAP events newsletter at this link (just select your local library):  
[kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter](http://kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter)

**POWER OF PLAY!**

**POP!**

**EARLY YEARS  
AT KILDARE LIBRARIES**

A monthly programme of fun activities including art, music, messy play, theatre, dance, storytelling and yoga to promote development of language, literacy and numeracy skills in children ages 0-5 years.

These events will also give children the space and opportunity for socialising with other children their age.

Ask staff for more information.

Get notified of upcoming library events by signing up to our newsletter: [kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter](https://kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter)

**Learn Through Play!**



Kildare Library and Arts Services  
Toys, Technology and Training  
Free Talks and Workshops

Awareness • Education • Inclusion

