



TTT

Kildare Library and Arts Services

Toys, Technology and Training 2017

Free Talks and Workshops

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This series of TTT talks and workshops has been organised by Kildare Library Service as part of our Toys, Technology and Training Project and is funded by Kildare County Council.

What is the TTT Project?

Kildare Library Services would like to inform you about our specialised Toys, Technology and Training Project. The collection is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs. Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas Libraries this specialised collection of toys, software and assistive technology 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.

Membership is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in County Kildare. Contact the libraries listed below for further terms and conditions of use.

This Toy and Technology collection have been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with therapists working in the community.

The Project also includes the Training element of "TTT" which is our annual series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

For up to date details of future talks and events relating to the TTT Project please email us and ask to join our mailing list at leixlip@kildarecoco.ie

Attendance at all of the events is free of charge and open to everyone but advance booking is required. Please contact the library where the talk is happening to book your place.

Athy Library:

Tel 059 8631144 • Email: athylib@kildarecoco.ie

Kildare Town Library:

Tel 045 520235 • Email: kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie

Leixlip Library:

Tel: 01 6060050 • Email: leixlip@kildarecoco.ie

Naas Library:

Tel 045 879111 • Email: naaslib@kildarecoco.ie

Newbridge Library:

Tel 045 448353 • Email: newbridgelib@kildarecoco.ie

Guest Speakers 2017

Adam Harris, Founder of AslAm.ie

Empowering People with Autism

Adam Harris is the 21 year old social entrepreneur and CEO-founder of AslAm.ie, Ireland's online support and advocacy service for those affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions. Adam founded AslAm in response to his own experiences of living with Aspergers Syndrome and the need for greater public awareness of Autism. A member of the NCSE Consultative Forum, Adam is a frequent commentator on Autism on national television, radio and print media. Adam has also spoken, on the need to change societal minds and hearts towards Autism, internationally at conferences in the United States, Morocco and the United Kingdom.

During the session, Adam will give an insight into his experiences of Aspergers Syndrome, the work of AslAm.ie and the role a community can play in empowering people with Autism. Parents, professionals and young people are invited to meet Adam and hear his own positive and inspiring story about living with Aspergers.

Athy Library: Tuesday 14th February 7pm

Newbridge Library: 25th April Tuesday 7pm

Gareth Noble

Gareth Noble, solicitor has a particular interest in juvenile justice and currently heads up the firm Kelleher O'Doherty Children's Law Department. Gareth is recognised as one of Ireland's leading litigators in the area of children with disabilities. He has successfully represented many families in challenging the law in respect of Domiciliary Care Allowances, Carer's Allowance and services for children. Gareth also acts in Education Law cases for children and families in respect of school bullying, disciplinary issues and other educational law entitlements. He has also provided advice to educational institutions on policy formation and implementation.

Gareth has represented clients before the Residential Institutions Redress Board in respect of children in the care of the state and before the Private Residential Tenancies Board in relation to housing disputes.

Gareth has wide experience in Judicial Review and illegal detention cases and has also advised newspapers and individuals in relation to defamation and libel proceedings. He is a member of the Irish Penal Reform Trust and has lectured in Criminal and Constitutional law, Child Law and Human Rights law.

Gareth will discuss how the laws that ensure the rights of children and their parents are protected and enhanced. He will draw on his experiences with various state agencies and the courts in informing parents of how to ensure entitlements for their children can be progressed

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 21st March 7pm

Kildare Library: Thursday 4th May 7pm

Kildare County Childcare Committee, Marie Dowdall – Advice & Supports

Supports for Children with Disabilities in their Free Preschool Year

In this session, Marie will give an overview of the new Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) that was announced in Budget 2016 to support children with disabilities who are participating in their free preschool year. The aim of the model is to ensure that children with disabilities have access to a preschool service and are actively involved in the preschool curriculum and activities. Marie will talk parents through the different types of supports available and how parent can avail of these supports. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Leixlip Library: Thursday 26th January 7pm

Naas Library: Thursday 9th February 7pm

**Continuous Professional
Development Certificates of
Attendance are available
for all TTT talks/workshops in 2017.**

These certs will only be given in person on the evening/day of the event. So please remember to ask for your cert before you leave as we will not be able to provide them at a later date.

Behavioural Therapy with Audrey Cully

Visual Strategies and Self-Management:

This talk provides information on the use of visual strategies as a tool used to aid understanding of daily/weekly activities, the sequence of when these activities will occur, and strategies that will promote self-management of the individual's behaviour. Visual aids have been proven to be very effective with individual's who find language difficult to understand. The use of visual aids can be very beneficial both in classroom settings and in the home environment, often leading to an increase in positive behaviour in both settings.

Leixlip Library: Thursday 9th March 7pm

Naas Library: Tuesday 19th September 7pm

Reinforcement

This talk will give a clear overview of reinforcement and how it can affect behaviour. Reinforcement can be manipulated in many different ways to bring about behaviour change that will either increase appropriate behaviour or decrease inappropriate behaviour. This talk is aimed at both parents and professionals as it is relevant to all human interactions. **Ideally, those attending this talk will also be present for the talk on Challenging Behaviour as both subject areas are closely linked.**

Leixlip Library: Thursday 6th April 7pm

Naas Library: Tuesday 3rd October 7pm

Challenging Behaviour

This talk will include all aspects related to challenging behaviour, why it occurs and how to deal with it. Challenging behaviour does not occur for no reason, it has a communicative function. Using specific strategies and tools it is possible to find out why problematic behaviour occurs.

During this talk Audrey will cover

- Why challenging behaviour occurs
- Functional assessment/analysis
- Reinforcement of challenging of behaviour
- Preventative Strategies
- Strategies on how to respond to challenging behaviour when it occurs including teaching appropriate skills that serve the same function as the challenging behaviour.

Ideally, those attending this talk should also attend the talk on Reinforcement as both subject areas are closely linked

Kildare Library: Thursday 21st September 7pm

Naas Library: Tuesday 7th November 7pm

Counselling and Mental Health with Michael Ryan

Mental Health Management for Teens and Adults with “Hidden” Disabilities

This talk will look at an overview of the conditions and syndromes – such as Asperger’s, Autism, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia and ADHD . It will outline what are the signs and symptoms of mental ill-health and when to become concerned. Michael will outline strategies for the stressed person, as well as self-care for the caregiver and suggestions to prevent future stress for everyone.

Athy Library: Tuesday 14th March 7pm

Life Hacks for people with ASD/Asperger’s – Teens and Adults

This talk will look at the challenges that face people on the Autism spectrum and Michael will suggest some tips, hints and hacks for people to get through school and everyday life.

Naas Library: Tuesday 6th June 7pm

Speech and Language Therapy Lectures with Catherine Sheahan

Language Delay and Ways to Encourage First Words

The pyramid of language development and the ages and stages of language development will be discussed. We will outline the building blocks to develop first words as well as tips and strategies to build your child’s communication skills. Early play, interaction and communication will be discussed and how to identify when your child needs to be referred to speech and language therapy.

Naas Library: Thursday 30th November 7pm

Speech and Language Therapy for Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder/ Dyspraxia

Many children with DCD (dyspraxia) would benefit from speech and language therapy. Many of these children have difficulty with learning the speech sounds and can be delayed in clarity of their articulation. Older children can find it difficult to plan their answers to questions and their stories can be disorganised and lack structure. Children with DCD can have associated reading difficulties and may benefit from speech and language therapy.

Each area will be discussed so that you can identify if your child is having difficulties and Catherine will recommend some useful resources for working with your child. There will be time at the end of the talk for questions from the audience.

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 14th November 7pm



Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency (DESSA) – Advice & Supports

I am concerned that my child may have an additional need..... what do I do?

The aim of this talk is to give parents information on what to do if they are concerned their child may have a disability. It will give parents information on where to go to have their child assessed and will explain how to go about accessing supports.

Newbridge Library: Wednesday 15th March 11am

Kildare Library : Thursday 26th October 7pm

My child has been diagnosed with an additional need.....what do I do now?

This talk is aimed at parents whose child has recently been identified as having a disability. It will look at the range of supports and services available to disabled children, what the law says in relation to the provision of services and how the HSE delivers such supports.

Naas Library: Wednesday 22nd March 11am

Kildare Library : Thursday 23rd November 7pm

Dyslexia Talks – Amy Smyth, Information Officer from Dyslexia Association of Ireland

What is Dyslexia?

In this talk, we will discover what Dyslexia is, the causes and what we can do to make life easier for someone with Dyslexia. We will also cover how to get an assessment for a child or adult with Dyslexia, common indicators of Dyslexia, Dyslexia in school and technology that may help dyslexic children in their day to day and school life. There will also be lots of time put aside for participants to ask our Information Officer any questions that they may have about Dyslexia.

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 28th March 7pm

App Technology and Dyslexia

This talk will cover how apps for iPad and tablets can be used as a cheap and user-friendly way to help people with dyslexia. We will discuss apps that help children, young people and adults. These apps range from fun games, speech to text, text to speech and study tools.

Athy Library: Tuesday 13th June 7pm

Leixlip Library: Tuesday 19th September 7pm

Assistive Technology and Dyslexia

This talk will give an introduction to assistive technology for people with dyslexia. In this talk we will cover the types of assistive technology that can be put on laptops and tablets as well as hardware that can be used to help people with dyslexia with issues around literacy, reading and writing speed and grammar.

Naas Library: Tuesday 21st November 7pm



Occupational Therapy – Sunflower Clinic

Sensory Processing and your child

This talk deals with the concept of Sensory Processing and how important it is in a child's typical development. Sensory Processing Disorder is a recognised condition which can have a very profound effect on a child's ability to deal and manage a wide variety of sensory input which can result in quite significant changes in a child's ability to learn, concentrate and also their overall behaviour and ability to participate to their full potential in school and in the home.

Some of the typically observed behaviours of children who have sensory processing issues are:

- Constant fidgeting in class
- Lethargic and dreamy
- Slow to start work and constantly missing cues
- Poor coordination and balance
- Difficulty organising self
- Has difficulty paying attention

The talk will address the following main themes:

- What are our senses?
- What is Sensory Processing Disorder?
- Case studies of examples
- Demonstration of appropriate equipment from Kildare Library Service TTT collection

This talk will be given by an experienced Occupational Therapist from The Sunflower Clinic who will be available to answer your questions on the night.

Leixlip Library: Tuesday 28th February 7pm

Athy Library: Tuesday 6th June 7pm

Kildare Library: Thursday 12th October 7pm

Motor Development and your child

This talk deals with the concept of typical motor development and some of the issues that arise when a child experiences a delay in their development. These issues can appear in such ways as a typically "clumsy" child, problems with handwriting, difficulties playing sports as well as carrying out every day functional tasks such as dressing, feeding etc...

These issues can also be described or diagnosed as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) and/or Dyspraxia. The talk will explain the differences and how the equipment available to rent at your local library can help address some of the issues that can affect your child. The talk will cover the following main themes:

- Early motor milestones
- Development of motor coordination
- DCD/Dyspraxia Diagnosis
- Demonstration of appropriate equipment Kildare Library Service TTT collection

This talk will be given by an experienced Occupational Therapist from The Sunflower Clinic who will be available to answer your questions on the night.

Naas Library: Saturday 11th March 10.30am

Newbridge Library: Tuesday 23rd May 7pm



Music Therapy with Bill Ahessy

Open Sesame: Using Music Therapeutically for Children with Varying Needs.

An overview of music therapy will be presented including goals and objectives for children with a variety of needs. Video and audio case examples will illuminate the therapeutic process involved.

In the second half, a workshop will demonstrate ways to use music therapeutically and intentionally to work on communication, social, cognitive and motor areas. Resource packs will be provided for all attendees.

This seminar would be of interest to parents, educators, SNAs, therapists and other professionals working with children with special needs.

Naas Library: Thursday 23rd March 7pm

Leixlip Library: Thursday 18th May 7pm

Occupational Therapy Lectures/ Workshops with Dr Dorothy Armstrong

Workshop on Social Stories

Social stories are written to help children on the autism spectrum to cope better with social situations. This 3 hour workshop will be delivered by Dr Dorothy Armstrong and is aimed at parents, teachers and others who work with children with ASD. Dorothy will explain what social stories are, how they work and what the guidelines are for writing them. Participants will have the opportunity to practice writing social stories.

Newbridge Library: Saturday February 4th 10am

Smart but Scattered.

This talk will be given by Dr. Dorothy Armstrong and is aimed at the parents and teachers of children and young people with conditions such as Asperger's Syndrome (High functioning Autism), ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia). Many of these young people can have problems with organisation, time-management and planning. These types of problems can have a significant impact on them in school and of course in life in general. Dr Armstrong will provide tips and ideas for improving abilities in these areas.

Leixlip Library: Tuesday February 7th 7pm

Kildare Library: Thursday November 9th 7pm

Helping primary school children with issues such as Dyspraxia, Asperger's, ADHD / ADD, Down Syndrome prepare to transition to secondary school.

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with this population. It will cover issues such as:

- The issues that are challenging when transitioning to secondary school
- The preparation needed to prepare the child for the transition
- Strategies that will help with organisation and secondary school readiness
- Strategies to promote inclusion once the student is there

Naas Library: Tuesday February 28th 7pm

Leixlip Library: Tuesday March 21st 7pm



Study Skills for older children and teenagers with Dyslexia

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, students with Dyslexia, teachers and those who work with this population. This talk will help students learn how to prepare for exams and will cover issues such as:

- Understanding how dyslexia can impact studying
- Preparing to study
- Using your own learning style
- How to read to understand
- How to take notes
- Memory strategies

Kildare Library: Thursday March 23rd 7pm

Social Skills for Teens

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with teenagers with conditions such as Asperger's syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) etc. It will cover the following issues:

- Developmental Stages of communication for adolescents
- Making and maintaining friendships
- Teaching Body language
- Being assertive and dealing with conflict

Athy Library: Tuesday March 28th 7pm

Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) in secondary school

Secondary school presents many new challenges for young people with Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia). Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with teenagers with Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia). It will cover the following issues:

- Challenges faced in secondary school
- Reasonable accommodations to the state exams – what do the new guidelines mean?
- Strategies to help
- Who needs to know what

Athy Library: Tuesday April 4th 7pm

Social and Communication skills for children

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with conditions such as Asperger's syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) etc. It will cover the following issues:

- What should we expect at the different stages of development?
- What skills to teach, how to teach them, and when to teach them.
- How do I help my child deal with conflict

Kildare Library: Thursday 27th April 7pm

It's Too loud, Too Bright, Too Tight and the Seams on my Socks Hurt! Helping Children with Sensory Processing Disorder concentrate and learn in an overwhelming world.

We all receive information about the world around us through our senses e.g. sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. This helps us to understand the world around us and helps us to know how to respond to it. A Sensory Processing Disorder refers to a problem with processing sensory information. It is common for people on the autistic spectrum to have difficulties in this area but children can have these problems who have no diagnosis of any kind. Examples of sensory processing problems include:

- Smells other people don't find a problem make the person feel sick
- Finding the noise of a Hoover or hand-dryer painful
- Needing to move or fidget constantly
- Becoming anxious or aggressive with light or unexpected touch
- Needing the labels to be cut off clothes

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with people with sensory processing problems. It will cover issues such as:

- What is a Sensory Processing Disorder
- Strategies to help children with problems in this area concentrate and learn in the classroom setting and when doing homework
- Introduction to some of the toys from the Libraries Toys, Technology and Training collection that are of use to children with these issues

Naas Library: Tuesday May 2nd 7pm

Newbridge Library: Tuesday October 3rd 7pm



Helping to 'Bullyproof' your child with Special needs

It is important to do as much as we can to prevent bullying in our society, this can include working to 'bullyproof' our children. Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with special needs. Topics covered will include:

- What is bullying?
- What are the signs that a child is being bullied?
- How to respond rapidly, effectively and responsibly
- How can we 'bullyproof' our children with special needs.

Athy Library: Tuesday May 9th 7pm

Assertiveness Training Workshop for Teenagers with High Functioning Autism (Asperger's Syndrome)

An introductory workshop for teenagers and their parents on being assertive. This workshop is for teenagers attending secondary school. Being assertive means being able to stand up for your rights whilst respecting the rights of others. Participants will have the opportunity to learn some of the skills inherent in being assertive e.g. body language, tone of voice etc. This workshop is limited to ten teenagers (parents may accompany them and their numbers are not included in the ten) so early booking is essential. This workshop will be given by Dr Dorothy Armstrong and is aimed at teenagers with conditions such as Asperger's Syndrome (High functioning Autism) or Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia).

Naas Library: Saturday May 13th 10am

We have special needs too – Helping the siblings of children with special needs.

Children with brothers or sisters who have special needs have particular challenges. It can be difficult for parents who need to give a lot of support to the child with the special need to balance the needs of the family. Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children with siblings with special needs. Topics covered will include:

- The challenges and strengths of the sibling of a child with special needs
- What are the signs I need to look out for that they might be finding things difficult?
- What's the best way I can support?
- Balancing the needs of the family – including the needs of the parents

Naas Library: Thursday May 18th 7pm

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children and young people with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). It will cover the following issues:

- What is OCD?
- What interventions are most effective?
- How can I help my child with OCD?
- The role of stress in OCD

Leixlip Library: Thursday June 8th 7pm

Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) in primary school

There are many ways we can help our children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) in primary school. Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children in primary school with this condition. It will cover the following issues:

- What is Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia)?
- Challenges faced in primary school
- Strategies to help – M.A.T.C.H approach
- Handwriting or typing – what should I consider?

Naas Library: Tuesday September 5th 7pm

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Young people with Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) face many challenges. They can be misunderstood and misrepresented. Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed at parents, teachers and those who work with children in primary school with this condition. It will cover the following issues:

- What is ODD?
- What interventions are most effective?
- How can I help my child with ODD?
- How do I best communicate my child's needs to others?

Naas Library: Saturday September 23rd 11am

Biogs

An Introductory workshop to DIR® Floortime for parents of children with autism.

DIR® Floortime is a Developmental (D), Individual-Difference (I), Relationship-Based (R) method of working with children with autism. It works by enabling the parent to work with the child at their developmental level and to enter the child's individual world in order to help the child relate better and learn from the world around them. Dorothy Armstrong will conduct a 3 hour introductory workshop for parents of children with autism and parents should attend without their children. She will also provide information on further training and courses in this area. Teachers and people who work with children with autism may also benefit from attending.

Leixlip Library: Saturday October 14th 10am

Can't write, Won't write – What can a parent do to help a child who struggles with handwriting

Dr Dorothy Armstrong will host an evening that is aimed primarily at parents, though teachers and those who work with this population may also find this useful. This talk will help parents understand why their child might be struggling when writing. There will be a presentation of practical ideas to help children and of relevant equipment from the Toys, Technology and Training collection. Dorothy will also discuss when handwriting may not be the best option and when to consider the need for assistive technology such as a laptop.

Leixlip Library: Thursday October 26th 7pm

An introductory talk for teenagers and their parents on how to manage stress

Every-one feels overwhelmed and stressed at some time and it can be particularly hard for teenagers with additional needs who are facing state exams, peer pressure and school pressure. This talk will be given by Dr Dorothy Armstrong and is aimed at these teenagers with conditions such as Asperger's Syndrome (High functioning Autism), ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) and their parents. Participants will be introduced to methods to manage their stress and how to reduce stress through rationalising those anxious thoughts.

Leixlip Library: Tuesday November 21st 7pm

Bill Ahessy

Bill has worked in a wide variety of settings with people across the lifespan, including: children and adolescents with communication deficits, autism, emotional behavioral disorders, visual impairment and multiple disabilities, adults with mental health difficulties and acquired brain injury and older adults with a variety of aged related conditions including stroke and dementia. He presently works in Dublin with older adults in the Meath Community Unit and with children and adolescents at ChildVision: The National School for Blind Children and St. John of God Special School. Bill is a part-time lecturer on the MA in music therapy at the University of Limerick (UL) and a guest lecturer on the Medicine Degree in Trinity College Dublin School of Medicine.

Dr Dorothy Armstrong

Dr Dorothy Armstrong is an Occupational Therapist who works with children, teenagers and young adults at a private Occupational Therapy practice in Celbridge 'Achieve Occupational Therapy'. She has both a Masters and a PhD and a wide range of clinical experience with a particular interest in working with people with Asperger's Syndrome (High functioning autism), Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) and/or ADHD. Dr Armstrong also has an extensive background working in the area of mental health.

Audrey Cully

Audrey Cully is a Behavioural Consultant who has over 14 years experience working in the field of special needs with a strong background in Autism. She has worked with children from 2 years old up to 18 years in both special schools and mainstream settings and works with children with Autism in their homes. Audrey held the position of Behaviour Specialist in a special school and works as a Behavioural Consultant. She has a Master's Degree in Applied Behaviour Analysis and is trained as an instructor of Professional Crisis Management.

Marie Dowdall

Marie Dowdall is the KCCC AIM: Training and Information Officer. She has a special role in supporting the roll out of the Access and Inclusion Model in Kildare. She gives one-to-one support to childcare providers in Making applications for support under AIM. She gives advise and information on the model to childcare service providers and parents. She also delivers training on the new Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Guidelines.

Alice Griffin

Alice Griffin is Director of DESSA, the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency. Established in 2001, DESSA is a national community development organisation working to promote the active participation of disabled people in Irish society. As part of its work in supporting families who experience disability, DESSA supports parents to develop the confidence and capacity to successfully advocate on behalf of their children.

Kildare County Childcare Committee

KCCC are responsible for the promotion of cross-agency cooperation and coordination in the delivery of childcare services at a local level in County Kildare for all children from birth to 14 years.

Emily Moore

Emily Moore is the KCCC Programme Administrator and she is responsible for supporting the efficient administration of the Government Funded Programmes in Kildare. She works directly wit the childcare services in Kildare and supports them with the administration of the contracts that they are in.

Michael Ryan

Michael Ryan is a Counsellor and psychotherapist running Peace of Mind Counselling Services, who works with many students and young people with Aspergers Syndrome and Autism. He works in private practice with adults and with teenagers and children across a range of schools. Michael has a lot of experience of dealing with people who have neurological conditions and/or physical disabilities. He regularly speaks at national conferences on Asperger's/ASD topics.

Catherine Sheahan

Catherine Sheahan is a Speech and Language Therapist who founded and runs a private practice Caint Speech Therapy in Naas. Catherine commenced her professional career working with the HSE before subsequently joining the Speech and Language Department at the University of Sydney, Australia. She has lectured at the University of Limerick as a key member of the Speech and Language Therapy team in the areas of child speech disorders (including dyspraxia), phonetics and stuttering since 2004

The Sunflower Clinic

The Sunflower Clinic was setup by Julie O'Sullivan in 2006, in order to deliver independent Occupational Therapy services for children in the Cork area. As her client-base grew almost exclusively by word-of-mouth, it became apparent for the increasing need for independent Occupational Therapy services beyond Cork. In 2008, Julie made the decision to bring our services to where the people needed them most, as it was very difficult for parents and children to travel the distances and then engage in therapy in a meaningful and effective manner. Our fifth clinic was opened in Naas, Co. Kildare in February 2015, again in response to a demand for independent Occupational Therapy services in the region.

Amy Smyth

The Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) works with and for people affected by dyslexia, by providing information, offering appropriate support services, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness of dyslexia. Amy Smyth is the Information Officer with the DAI. Amy has a background in law and has previously worked for organisations in the area of widening access to education for young people. Amy is herself Dyslexic and relishes the opportunity to raise awareness of Dyslexia. Amy has a specific interest in the issue of a lack of self-confidence in Dyslexic young people and adults.

Event	Date	Time	Location
Adam Harris : Empowering People with Autism	Tue 14th Feb Tue 25th Apr	7pm 7pm	Athy Library Newbridge Library
Gareth Noble	Tue 21st Mar Tue 4th May	7pm 7pm	Newbridge Library Kildare Library
KCCC with Marie Dowdall: Support for Children with Disabilities in their Free Preschool Year	Thur 26th Jan Thur 9th Feb	7pm 7pm	Leixlip Library Naas Library
Behavioural Therapy with Audrey Cully Visual Strategies and Self Management	Thur 9th Mar Tue 19th Sept	7pm 7pm	Leixlip Library Naas Library
Behavioural Therapy with Audrey Cully Reinforcement	Thur 6th Apr Tue 3rd Oct	7pm 7pm	Leixlip Library Naas Library
Behavioural Therapy with Audrey Cully Challenging Behaviour	Thur 21st Sept Tue 7th Nov	7pm 7pm	Kildare Library Naas Library
Counselling and Mental Health with Michael Ryan: Mental Health Management "Hidden Disabilities"	Tue 14th Mar	7pm	Athy Library
Counselling and Mental Health with Michael Ryan: Life Hacks for people with ASD/ Asperger's	Tue 6th Jun	7pm	Naas Library
Speech and Language Therapy with Catherine Sheahan: Language Delay and Ways to Encourage First Words	Thur 30th Nov	7pm	Naas Library
Speech and Language Therapy with Catherine Sheahan: Speech and Language Therapy for Children with DCD/Dyspraxia	Tue 14th Nov	7pm	Newbridge Library
DESSA – Advice and Supports I am concerned that my child may have an additional need...what do I do?	Wed 15th Mar Thur 26th Oct	11am 7pm	Newbridge Library Kildare Library
DESSA – Advice and Supports My child has been diagnosed with an additional need...what do I do now?	Wed 22nd Mar Thur 23 Nov	11am 7pm	Naas Library Kildare Library
Dyslexia Talks – Amy Smyth, Dyslexia Association: What is Dyslexia?	Tue 28th Mar	7pm	Newbridge Library
Dyslexia Talks – Amy Smyth, Dyslexia Association: App Technology and Dyslexia?	Tue 13th Jun Thur 19th Sept	7pm 7pm	Athy Library Leixlip Library
Dyslexia Talks – Amy Smyth, Dyslexia Association: Assistive Technology and Dyslexia	Tue 21st Nov	7pm	Naas Library
Occupational Therapy - Sunflower Clinic Sensory Processing and your child	Tue 28th Feb Tue 6th Jun Thur 12th Oct	7pm 7pm 7pm	Leixlip Library Athy Library Kildare Library
Occupational Therapy - Sunflower Clinic Motor Development and your child	Sat 11th Mar Tue 23rd May	10.30am 7pm	Naas Library Newbridge Library
Music Therapy – Bill Ahessy Open Sesame	Thur 23rd Mar Thur 18th May	7pm 7pm	Naas Library Leixlip Library

Event	Date	Time	Location
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Social Stories Workshop	Sat 4th Feb	10am	Newbridge Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Smart but Scattered	Tue 7th Feb Thur 9th Nov	7pm 7pm	Leixlip Library Kildare Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Transition to Secondary School	Tue 28th Feb Tue 21st Mar	7pm 7pm	Naas Library Leixlip Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Study Skills for teens with Dyslexia	Thur 23rd Mar	7pm	Kildare Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Social Skills for Teens	Tue 28th Mar	7pm	Athy Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: DCD/Dyspraxia in Secondary School	Tue 4th Apr	7pm	Athy Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Social and Communication Skills for Children	Thur 27th Apr	7pm	Kildare Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Sensory Processing Disorder	Tue 2nd May Tue 3rd Oct	7pm 7pm	Naas Library Newbridge Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong : Bullyproof your child with Special Needs	Tue 9th May	7pm	Athy Library
Assertiveness Training Workshop for Teenagers with High Functioning Autism	Sat May 13th	10am	Naas Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Helping the siblings of children with special needs	Thur 18th May	7pm	Naas Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	Thur 8th Jun	7pm	Leixlip Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: DCD/Dyspraxia in Primary School	Tue 5th Sept	7pm	Naas Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Oppositional Defiant Disorder	Sat 23rd Sept	11am	Naas Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: DIR Floortime for parents of children with autism	Sat 14th Oct	10am	Leixlip Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Can't Write, Won't Write	Thur 26th Oct	7pm	Leixlip Library
Occupational Therapy – Dr Dorothy Armstrong: Stress Management for teens and parents	Tue 21st Nov	7pm	Leixlip Library



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