

Programme/Curriculum Planning and Evaluation **Policy**

Aim

Crèche Cois Laoi is committed to providing the highest quality childcare in a safe, loving and accepting environment within which each child is supported in developing their potential at their own pace.

Crèche Cois Laoi supports all children in their learning by providing a comprehensive care programme which is appropriate to their development. Crèche staff provide a variety of developmentally appropriate activities and materials on a daily basis to engage children in active and meaningful learning. The care programmes are implemented through the child's daily routine, spontaneous learning, structured and child initiated activities. All programmes of care are based on established and verifiable principles of child development and include

- Enhancing creative expression
- Encouraging speech and language development
- Enhancing physical development and skills
- Helps develop personal, social and emotional skills
- Encouraging children to think, reason, question and explore
- Encourages positive identity
- Respects cultural diversity

Crèche Cois Laoi's programmes of care also have begun to incorporate guidance from the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) Early Frame Work for Early Learning 2004 connected themes and now include

- Well-being
- Identity and Belonging
- Communication
- Exploring and thinking

Well-being

Crèche Cois Laoi ensures that each child is content and happy and develops warm and supportive relationships with all crèche staff, where each child feels loved and is encouraged to express him/herself independently and be able to cope with change and challenge. Crèche Cois Laoi ensures that a child's physical well being is catered for by providing plenty of opportunity to explore, investigate and to physically play in indoor and outdoor environments.

Identity and belonging

Crèche Cois Laoi believes it is important that children develop a healthy and positive sense of their own identity and their place in world. Crèche Cois Laoi staff actively encourage, support and praise children on a regular basis. Children have their own space in their care room where they keep their work and spare clothes. Each child's picture is placed on the door of the room

which further encourages their sense of belonging and self esteem. Children who come from different countries and cultures are supported and helped by ensuring that their identity and culture is respected and care programmes ensure different cultures are respected and celebrated through toys, stories and activity themes and festival themes.

Communications

Crèche Cois Laoi supports all children to communicate to the best of their ability. Crèche Cois Laoi staff ensure that children are supported in learning language as their main form of communication. Crèche Cois Laoi staff helps child's language development by engaging daily in conversation, verbalising actions they are doing, regular story time, songs and rhymes to help children broaden the range of words and phrases. Children develop at different stages and staff assist children to communicate by using non verbal communication, including art, playing with clay, play dough, pictures and by using positive gestures and facial expressions and acknowledging children's existence.

Exploring and Thinking

Crèche Cois Laoi ensures that each child develops trusting and affectionate relationships with crèche staff. Secure relationships provide children with the security to explore and find out things. Children's curiosity provides the basis for being creative in exploring and thinking. Staff encourages further development of their creative side by providing children with open ended materials. Through observations of the children, staff are able to see opportunities and make changes to activities, where they can support a child's curiosity. Crèche Cois Laoi ensures children have plenty of opportunity for exploring through play and providing suitable activities, toys, equipment and allowing the children time.

Planning

Annual Plan

Each year Crèche Cois Laoi management and staff plan and review an annual plan for the year for each room. The plan ensures a child's physical, cognitive/language development, emotional and social development needs are incorporated and ensures that all activities are appropriate to the different stages of development of each age range. Staff, parents and children's views are taken on board and a comprehensive plan is devised with as wide as possible range of experiences as possible. The plan provides an overview of the year and includes plans for a variety of festivals, cultural events, seasonal topics, visits and visitors, health and safety topics and so on.

Term plans

More detailed term care programmes are developed and broken down in to monthly plans for each room that link with the annual plan. Activity details and thematic ideas are discussed with the group leaders and staff in each room and incorporate the ages, abilities and interests of the children in the group.

Each care programme has a balance of child initiated activities and staff initiated activities.

Weekly plans

Weekly plans are broken down into daily activities and include a more detailed plan of the daily activities and routines. Daily activity plans allow for flexibility and follow the children's needs and interests. They also allow for any changes or ideas that may have been observed by staff through observations and how best to suit the needs of each child. A wide range of detailed activity plans are also available in each room to give staff specific support and guidance and give help to staff to prepare resources and equipment to ensure the activity runs smoothly.

Evaluation

Staff make assessments of the children's activities on a daily basis, through observing and listening to children.

Each week the Crèche manager discusses with each room group leader how the weekly plans are going and decides if any changes are necessary for the following week based on the different needs and interests of the individual children and the group.

At the start of each term staff planning meetings are organised where staff contribute their own thoughts, comments and ideas. Parents and children's suggestions are also incorporated. Following these meetings the crèche manager assesses the suggestions made and reviews whether they meet the developmental needs of the children, plus the practical considerations for example cost, resources, health and safety etc. Plans are then finalised in consultation with all staff.