



## Wexford CYPSC Newsletter

13 February 2026

For information on services and supports for children, young people and families see [Wexford CYPSC](#)

For information on parenting supports and programmes, see [Wexford Parents Hub](#) or access on [Facebook](#)



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## WEBINARS/TRAINING

### ► FREE Helium Online Workshops for Young People Living with Long-Term Physical Health Conditions



Bookings are now open for our **FREE Online Spring** workshops for **children and young people with long-term physical health conditions**.

#### Online Workshops

##### Distance Creates Spring Saturdays – Online(Ages 6–8)

**Workshop Dates:** 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4, 11 April

**Workshop Times:** New activity every Saturday – do it anytime!

##### Distance Creates Spring Saturdays – Online(Ages 9–12)

**Workshop Dates:** 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4, 11 April

**Workshop Times:** New activity every Saturday – do it anytime!

##### Youth Saturday Monthly Meet-up's – Online (Ages 13-16)

**Workshop Dates:** 21 March, 18 April, 16 May

**Workshop Times:** AM: 10:30 - 12:00 PM: 14:00 - 16:00

**[Book your ONLINE space HERE!](#)**

## ► Barnardos Wexford - TLC KIDZ Programme



The TLC Kids Project was established to raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence on children, to promote a coordinated interagency response, to upskill professionals, and to support children in their recovery. The programme is a 12-week psychoeducational group intervention for children up to 18 years of age and their mothers who are recovering from domestic abuse.

Child and mother groups run concurrently. The programme aims to provide a safe and supportive space for children and mothers to explore and discuss experiences of domestic abuse, reduce isolation and stigma, enhance safety, support children in identifying and managing difficult emotions, and strengthen communication between children and their mothers.

### **Expression of Interest: Facilitators Training**

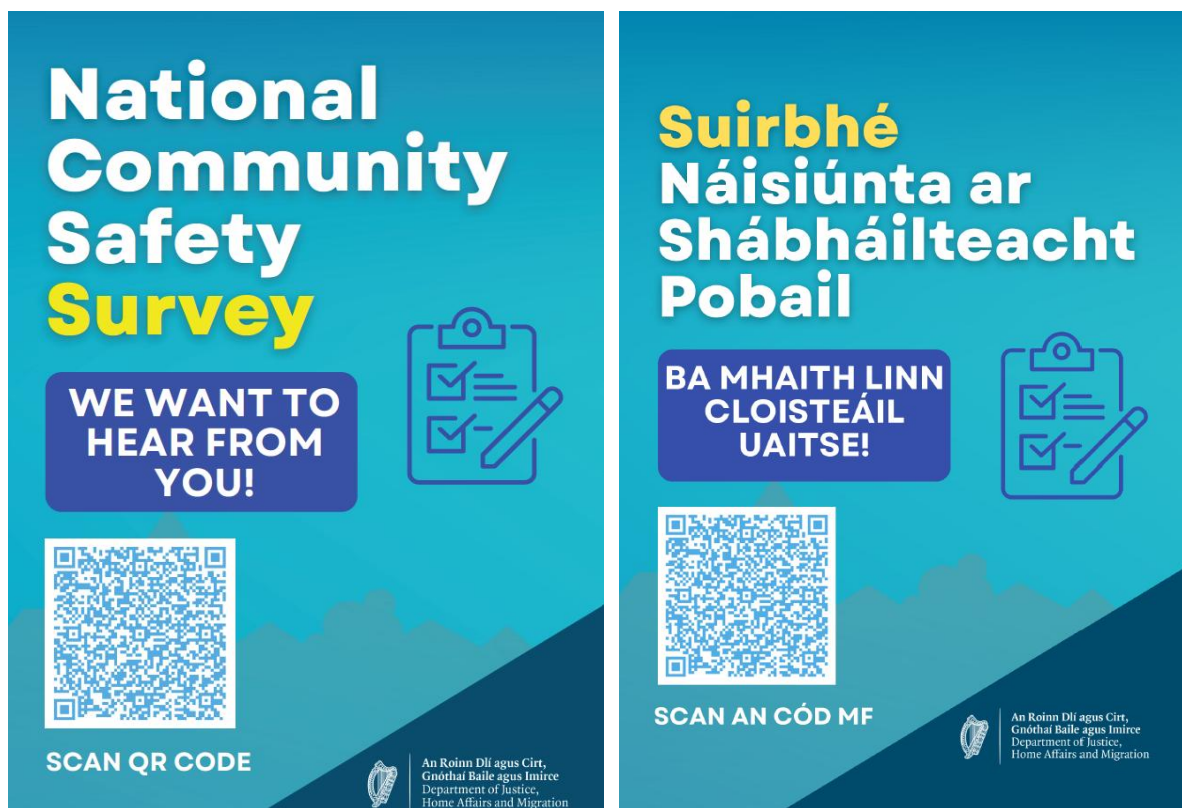
We are inviting expressions of interest in facilitators training for the TLC KIDZ Programme. To register your interest, please email [diane.lackey@barnardos.ie](mailto:diane.lackey@barnardos.ie).

### **Location, date and times to be confirmed.**

Through this training, it is intended to develop a panel of trained facilitators across the county, enabling programmes to be coordinated through TLC Kids Wexford and co-facilitated in partnership with organisations throughout County Wexford.

## SURVEY

### ► National Community Safety Survey



The National Office for Community Safety is leading on the development of the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety, on behalf of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. For more information on this Office [click here](#).

They are inviting the public to contribute to the development of this new National Strategy by taking part in our **National Community Safety Survey** which is open until 27 February 2026.

Click [here](#) for more information and to take part in the survey.

People have different experiences of community safety. The National Office want to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences living in the Republic of Ireland today. It takes just 10 to 15 minutes and is your opportunity to share your experience and to help public service agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer.

The National Office have tried to make this survey accessible as possible. If you experience any difficulties and require accessibility assistance, please contact [accessofficer@justice.ie](mailto:accessofficer@justice.ie) or call 01 602 8632.

If you have any queries in relation to this process, contact the National Office for Community Safety at [strategy@communitysafety.ie](mailto:strategy@communitysafety.ie).

## ► National online survey on ELC and SAC available until 12th March



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

We wish to share information with you relating to a National online survey of ELC and SAC settings currently being conducted by the DCDE. We urge you to share this information within your networks.

On 4 February Minister Foley launched an online survey as part of the [National Conversation – the First 5 Years and School-Age Childcare](#). The survey can be accessed via gov.ie [here](#). It will run until March 12<sup>th</sup>.

This survey looks at the key priorities for early learning and care, school-age childcare and childminding, including what should change or stay the same, and how to make these settings better for babies, young children, and young people. This will form part of a broader public consultation process on the future of ELC and SAC being undertaken by the DCDE, as well as informing the developing of Phase 2 of the *Shaping the Future Action Plan* and the successor to the *First 5 Strategy*.

We want to hear from parents, early years educators, school age childcare practitioners, childminders, providers, and all those interested in the future of early learning and care and school age childcare. This National Conversation represents a rare opportunity to reshape the future of education, including early years education, in our country, and we want to ensure that as many voices as possible are included.

Thank you

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit



## SUPPORTING PARENTS

► **Requesting details of parenting initiatives taking place in March for promotion under the Supporting Parents communications campaign**



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

Thank you for continuing to support the Supporting Parents communications campaign by informing us of upcoming events in your area.

We are now seeking details of any parenting initiatives which will be taking place in March. As with previous months, a selection of these events will be promoted across DCDE social media channels to raise awareness among parents of the supports available to them in their locality. Details of upcoming events can be provided via a short survey by clicking [here](#).

It would be appreciated if details of any upcoming events could be provided by Friday 27 February.

You can check across DCDE social channels for your event and please feel free to like and share our social posts. We also encourage you to circulate this email to any service within your network that may have an upcoming parenting event which they wish to promote.

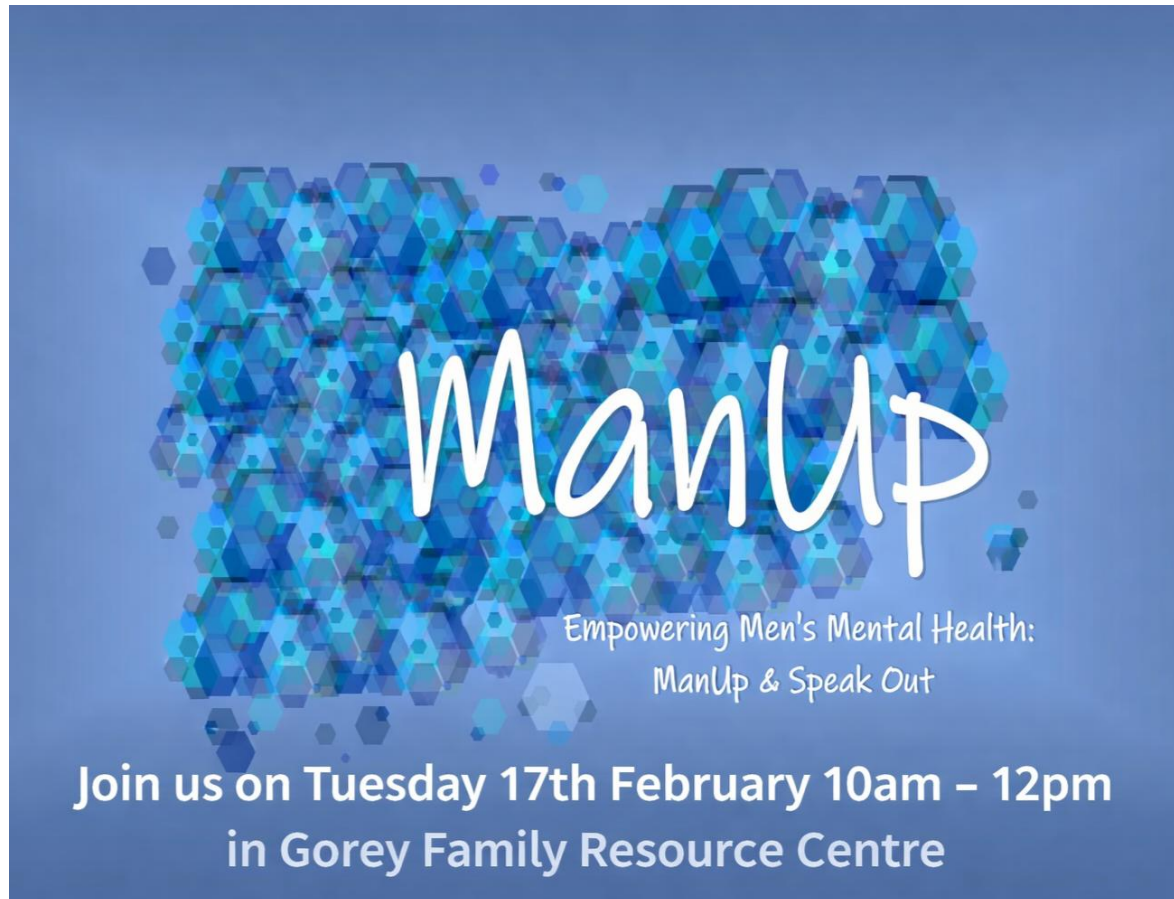
May we request that information on upcoming events is submitted through the survey link above. However, if you experience any issues using the survey or if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email [parentingsupport@dcde.gov.ie](mailto:parentingsupport@dcde.gov.ie) for assistance.

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit

## MEN'S HEALTH

► **Calling all men!! ManUp are coming to Gorey Family Resource Centre.**



**Calling all men!! ManUp are coming to Gorey Family Resource Centre.**

**When: Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am – 12pm**

*Just a space to talk. Life gets heavy sometimes – this is a chilled, judgement free space to:*

- Talk openly about mental health
- Socialise and connect with others
- Share, listen or just be there
- Feel supported in a safe environment

*No judgement, no pressure and all welcome!*

For more information, please contact Anne on (053) 9489017

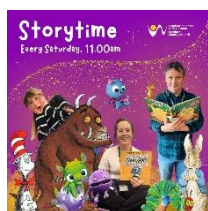
## EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

### ► Wexford Town Library Events



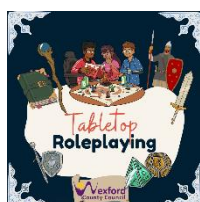
#### **Lego Free Play every Saturday from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Suitable for ages 5yrs+**

LEGO Free Play tables available on our Children's floor area from 11am to 3pm. Free to attend. LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. Get Creative. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



#### **Story Time every Saturday, 11.00am-11:30am, Suitable for children aged 3–7 years.**

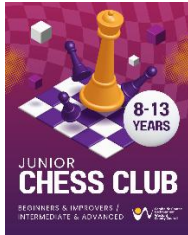
Join us for Story Time in Wexford Library every Saturday morning. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. **No booking required.**



#### **Tabletop Roleplaying Club: Dungeons & Dragons, Tuesday, 24 February, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.**

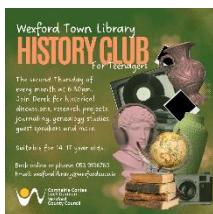
Are you ready to embark on an epic adventure? 🎲🐉 Well then, join us at Wexford Library for tabletop role-playing gaming and unleash your imagination. The sessions will take place the second Tuesday of every month from 6.30-8.30 pm. **Booking is essential.**

**Suitable for ages 12–17 years.**



**Junior Chess Club at Wexford Town Library for 8-13 years, 14 January - 25 February, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.**

Come along to our Junior Afterschool Chess Club. The club will run from Wednesday 14th of January to Wednesday 25th of February, 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Suitable for all player levels and strictly for ages 8-13 years. Booking is essential, as places are very limited. Only one booking is required, as this will reserve all 7 weekly sessions. Please note that parents/guardians must remain in the library building for the duration of this event.



**History Club for Teenagers at Wexford Town Library, Thursday, 26 February, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.**

Join Derek on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30pm for historical discussions, research projects, journaling, genealogy studies, guest speakers and more. The club is suitable for 14-17 year olds. Booking is essential.



**Baby Tummy Time in Wexford Library, Tuesday, 17 February, 11:00am - 11:45am.**

Join us for a Baby Tummy Time session in Wexford Library. According to the HSE, Tummy time helps to strengthen baby's head, neck, and back muscles. Your baby can begin tummy time as a newborn and continue to do it throughout their first year. We will provide books for babies and there will also be books on parenting available to borrow. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and babies. Booking is essential. Free event.



**Teen Comics Club, Thursday, 26 February, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.**

Join our new teen comics club! Suitable for 13 - 15 years. Booking is essential.  
Regular Weekly Events

**Sensory Hour, Every Saturday from 4.00pm-5.00pm.**

Sensory Hour supports library users who have sensory, extra, and/or additional needs. It offers a calm and sensory family friendly environment.



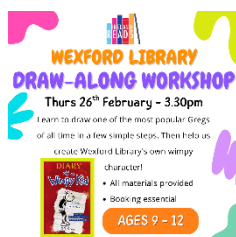
**Rhyme Time, every Wednesday, 11.00am-11:30am. Suitable for children aged 0–3 years.**

These fun, free and interactive Rhyme Time sessions are perfect for babies and toddlers. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



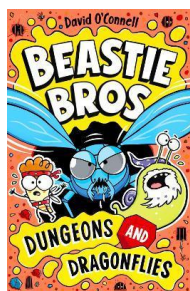
**Book Clinic for Young Readers, Saturday, 28 February, 2:00pm - 3:30pm.**

Looking for the perfect book for Ireland Reads day? Don't worry, we're here to help! Drop in to our book clinic for young readers to get some inspiration for your next read. No need to book, just drop in on the day. Perfect for young readers aged around 6-11 years. Please note that children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.



**Ireland Reads: Draw-Along Workshop for ages 9-12 years, Thursday, 26 February, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.**

Easy Drawing Tutorial - Learn to draw one of the most popular Greys of all times in a few simple steps. Then help us create Wexford Library's own wimpy character! Suitable for children aged 9-12 years. Booking is essential.



**The Chatterbooks Book Club 9-12yrs, Tuesday, 17 February, 4:00pm - 5:00pm.**

Come along and enjoy some chat on all things books and some arts and crafts too. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 January. The book we will chat about is The Clockwork Conspiracy by Sam Sedgman and graphic novel Beastie Bros by David O'Connell. Booking is essential.



**Teddy Bear Arts and Crafts, Saturday, 21 February, 12:00pm - 1:00pm.**

Join us for some fun teddy bear-themed arts and crafts in Wexford Library! Children can create their own bears during this fun, hands-on session. Bring your imagination—and your favourite teddy! Suitable for children aged 4-8 years. Booking is essential.

**All events are FREE.** Wexford Public Libraries App.

Access your library 24/7. Online resources include eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, eComics & Graphic Novels, music, take eLearning or language courses, business, education, and research databases and more. **Library membership is free.**

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>

## ► Bunclody Library Events



### **Rhymetime for ages 0 to 5 years - every Wednesday at 11.15am**

Join us for Rhymetime every Wednesday when we will have lots of fun nursery rhymes and stories suitable for babies and toddlers followed by a Duplo play session. No booking required.



### **Sensory Friendly Hour**

**Every Saturday from 4.00 to 5.00pm**, Sensory Friendly hour will be observed in Bunclody Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. **No booking required.** All welcome!

### **Sensory Basket**

A sensory basket containing various sensory toys/books available for children to use while visiting the library. Just ask at the desk.



### **Saturday Storytime every Saturday at 11am**

Join us every Saturday morning at 11am for stories and songs for ages 3-7 years. No need to book - all welcome!





### **Bunclody Library World Book Day Costume Swap - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Not sure what to do with your child's old World Book Day costumes? Bunclody Library is delighted to host our first World Book Day Costume Swap!

From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February donate or swap your fun and fabulous costumes and masks for kids ages 0 to 12 years. Everyone is encouraged to participate, whether by donating, swapping, or selecting a costume, to make this World Book Day both fun and green. Costumes should be clean and in good condition. All sizes are welcome.



### **Midterm Madness Lego Challenge for Ages 7+ - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2.30 to 3.30pm**

Do you love Lego? Do you think you can take on the challenge by the librarians to create some amazing Lego pieces? Sign up for our Midterm Madness Lego challenge suitable for ages 7+. The library staff have picked some fun challenges to see what you can create! Please book for the child only. Book online at [wexfordcoco.libcal.com](http://wexfordcoco.libcal.com) or telephone 053 9375466.



## ► Enniscorthy Library Events



### **Interactive Story Time at Enniscorthy Library**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library every Saturday at 11am for our Interactive Story Time!

Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Through the magic of storytelling, children are transported to far-off lands, introduced to diverse characters, and exposed to a rich tapestry of language, all while developing fundamental literacy skills such as vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and phonological awareness. **All welcome and no booking required.**

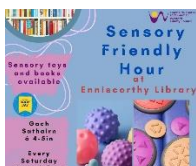


### **LEGO Free Play at Enniscorthy Library - every Saturday 11.30am-5pm.**

Enniscorthy Library invites you and your family to join us for a session of LEGO Free Play, LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. This session is suitable for ages 5+.

**Please note we're closed for lunch from 1pm-2pm.**

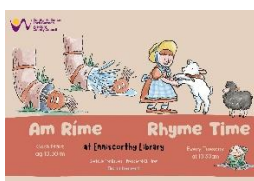
**No Booking Required**



### **Sensory Friendly Hour at Enniscorthy Library - Every Saturday from 4-5pm**

Sensory Friendly Hour will be observed in Enniscorthy Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. No booking required. All welcome!



### **Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time at Enniscorthy Library - every Tuesday at 10.30am**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for songs, stories and rhymes!

Perfect for up to 3 years old but fun for everyone!

Through rhymes children naturally learn essential skills for communicating such as turn-taking and joining in.

**All welcome and no booking required.**



**Valentine's Day Story Time and Free Play Craft Table, Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11am**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for a very special Valentines Story Time and Free Play Craft Table!

Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Through the magic of storytelling, children are transported to far-off lands, introduced to diverse characters, and exposed to a rich tapestry of language, all while developing fundamental literacy skills such as vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and phonological awareness.

All welcome and no booking required.



**Valentine's Day Family Movie, Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2.30pm**

Take time out this February and join us for a special Valentines Family Movie at the library.

Gather your family and friends and enjoy a heart warming movie in a welcoming setting of the library.

We'll have comfortable seating and fantastic movie that's perfect for all ages.

Best of all, it's free and open to everyone!

Contact the library for more information.

Booking essential.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508032>



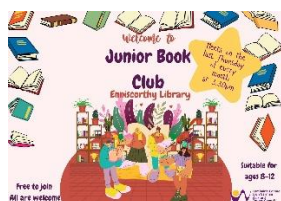
### **Free Play Lunar New Year Arts & Crafts, Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11.30am**

Celebrate Lunar New Year at Enniscorthy Library with a free play arts and crafts! Drop in to create festive decorations, explore creativity and enjoy a fun, relaxing session marking this special time of the year.

All materials will be provided.

Suitable for children age 3+

**No booking required**



### **Junior Book Club ,Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> @3.30pm**

Would your child like to join our free book club here at Enniscorthy Library?

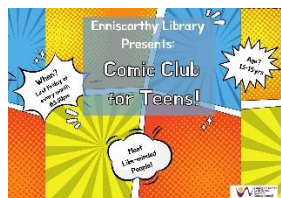
Suitable for ages 8 - 12, the children get together monthly to talk about books in all genres and to share a love of books.

We explore new styles together to encourage reading and to develop a love for books.

This club is about reading for pleasure, making friends and doing some fun activities, drawing or writing too.

If you would like to know more, ask at the desk of the library or ring us on 053 9236055.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508060>



### **Comic Club for Teens , Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> @3.30pm**

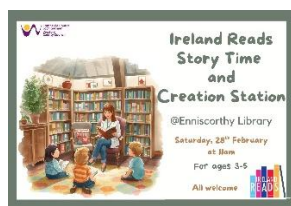
Love a good story told in both pictures and words? Want to meet like-minded people?

Join fellow comic book lovers for a discussion, board games and a chat.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 15 years, why not drop in and see for yourself! Take a friend with you.

The library is a relaxed environment where you will be able to chat and share views with no judgement, interesting conversation, and lots of chat & fun!

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508062>



### **Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @11am**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for a special Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station.

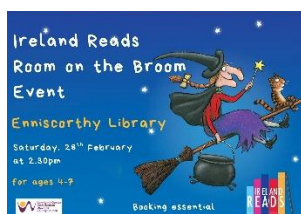
Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we're calling on people across Ireland to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%. Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have to do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

**All welcome and no booking required.**



### **Ireland Reads Room on the Broom Event, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @2.30pm**

Join us for a magical Ireland Reads celebration inspired by Julia Donaldson's book *Room on the Broom*. We'll be reading the beloved story together, then we'll set off on an exciting library scavenger hunt. Afterward, participants will create their very own wand with a fun craft activity and WOOSH we'll wrap the event with a movie screening.

This event is suitable for children aged 4-7.

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we're calling on people across Ireland to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%.

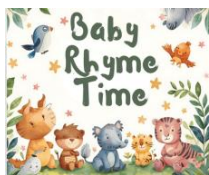
Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have to do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

**Booking essential.**

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508279>

## ► New Ross Library Events

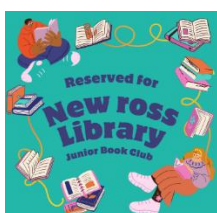


### **New Ross Library Rhymetime – Every Thursday, 11-11:30am**

Join us in New Ross Library every Thursday at 11.00am for a fun-packed session with lots of stories, rhymes and songs!

**Booking for this event is no longer required.** A parent or guardian must stay for the duration of the event.

For more info or to book events, please telephone 051 421877 or book online at [wexfordcoco.libcal.com](http://wexfordcoco.libcal.com).



### **New Ross Library Junior Book Club – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 3-4pm**

The New Ross Library Junior Book Club is the place for young book lovers, aged 9 to 12, to share their love of stories with others.

We meet each month for an hour of bookish chatter and activities and we'd love you to join us.

Copies of the book will be available to borrow at the library.

**Register below or phone on 053 9196722**

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>

## ► Gorey Library Events

Children's Storytime: Every Tuesday at 11am  
Baby Rhyme Time: Every Thursday at 10:30am  
LEGO Freeplay: Every Saturday from 10:30- 12:30  
Saturday Sensory Hour: Every Saturday at 4pm  
YA Unreal Bookclub: Thursday 19th at 4:30pm

## Children/ Family Events



Graphic Novel Book Discussion (9-12)  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February: 3:30-4pm



Valentines Day Creation Station  
Saturday 14th February - All Day



Pancake prep Storytime and Craft  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 3:30-4:30pm



Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse Storytime and Craft  
Tuesday 17th February 3:30-4:30pm



Bookworm Circle Book Discussion (9-12)  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 3:30-4:30pm



Gorey Book Clinic for children  
Ireland Reads Day. Saturday 28th February from 10:30am

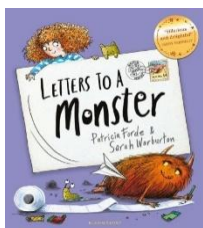


## ► KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards – 2026 Shortlist

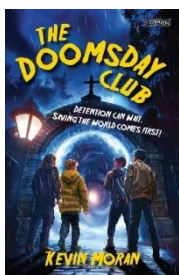


These amazing books are available to request and borrow for free from Wexford libraries.

Wexford Library Services congratulates all the nominees!



**Letters to a Monster** – This inventive picture book tells the story of Sophie, who, fed up with the monster who has been hiding under her bed, decides to confront the situation head on! **Written by Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde and illustrated by Sarah Warburton** (Bloomsbury Children's Books) Age 3+



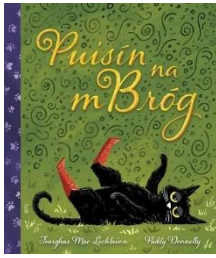
**The Domsday Club** – A début authored novel set in Dublin that blends adventure, fantasy and humour as school students Jack, Conan and Yash make a strange discovery in the school yard. **Written by Kevin Moran** (The O'Brien Press)

Age 10+



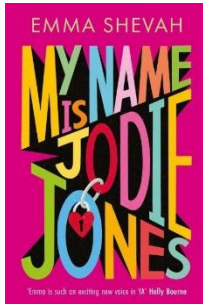
**Solo** – A contemporary young adult verse novel that tells the story of Daisy as she learns to cope with heartbreak, friendship fall outs and Leaving Cert stress. **Written by Gráinne O'Brien** (Little Island Books)

Age 13+



**Puisín na mBróg** – This charming *picturebook* is an Irish language retelling of the popular tale Puss in Boots. **Written by Fearghas Mac Lochlainn** and **illustrated by Paddy Donnelly** (Futa Fata)

**Age 4+**



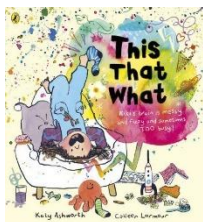
**My Name is Jodie Jones** – This young adult novel centres a neurodiverse narrator, Jodie Jones, who is struggling to reconcile with her experience of a terrorist attack. It is a celebration of individuality that does not shy away from darker themes. **Written by Emma Shevah** (David Fickling Books)

**Age 13+**



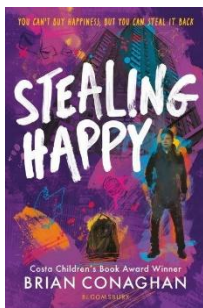
**The Waters and the Wild** – This verse novel follows the character of Rowan after her father's death and thoughtfully deals with the subjects of death, loss and fear. **Written by Eilish Fisher** and **illustrated by David Rooney** (Puffin)

**Age 8+**



**This That What** – A colourful, rhyming picture book with accessible text that tells the story of Kiki Dime and her very busy brain. **Written by Katy Ashworth** and **illustrated by Colleen Larmour** (Puffin)

**Age 4+**



**Stealing Happy** – Young adult fiction set in Scotland that brings the reader into the inner life of thirteen-year-old Sonny who is living with Tourette's syndrome. A vivid, funny and gripping read that deals with family drama, fear, friendship and even a heist. **Written by Brian Conaghan** (Bloomsbury YA)

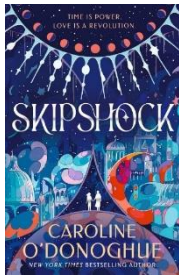
**Age 13+**





**Don't Trust Fish!** – A hilarious début authored picture book that is filled with reasons why fish are untrustworthy creatures and likely plotting your downfall. **Written by Neil Sharpson** and **illustrated by Dan Santat** (Andersen Press)

**Age 4+**



**Skipshock** – Young adult fiction that takes the reader on a train from Cork to a whole world of different time zones. A science-fiction story with multilayered power dynamics and an electrifying romance. **Written by Caroline O'Donoghue** (Walker Books)

**Age 13+**

► Invitation to the Ukrainian Photo Exhibition in the Gorey Library

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
ANNUAL UKRAINIAN  
PHOTO EXHIBITION &  
COMMUNITY GATHERING



START AT  
3:00 PM

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 26 TH

GOREY  
LIBRARY

Join us for the second annual exhibition and community gathering, "Ireland – My Second Home". Organised by Gorey Youth Needs Group in partnership with Wexford Local Development, this evening is a reflection on four years of life, resilience, and growth within the Ukrainian community in Gorey, and on the services and people who have supported this journey along the way.

Find More Information:

✉ [marii.kolomiiets@gyng.ie](mailto:marii.kolomiiets@gyng.ie)

☎ 0894914493

## ► Ireland Reads 2026: ‘Get Lost in a Good Book’



Ireland Reads 2026 takes place on Saturday, 28 February. This national campaign, led by Libraries Ireland as part of Healthy Ireland, encourages everyone to “Get Lost in a Good Book.”

Ireland Reads is the national campaign to promote reading as a beneficial, accessible, and enjoyable activity for all, supporting wellbeing, sparking creativity, and connecting people. It is a campaign that highlights the role of libraries in supporting literacy, wellbeing, and community connection.

Libraries across Ireland will promote their services, host events and share book recommendations to help people rediscover the joy of reading.

Our library will play a key role in promoting reading as a powerful tool for wellbeing, creativity, and connection.

Here’s how you can help:

- Follow our social media and online activity and share our campaign messaging on your social media channels using #IrelandReads and #TellMeToGetLost.
- Highlight our events and book recommendations in branch and online.
- Encourage people to visit the local library as part of the Ireland Reads campaign.
- Participating in Ireland Reads events.

For those of you interested in actively promoting the campaign, bilingual social media video assets with template messaging are available.

Through Ireland Reads, we promote the benefits of reading and library services, encouraging library visits, people to take the opportunity to borrow reading material from a library, and to engage with library programmes. The campaign aims to increase awareness and visibility of our librarians, people in our communities who are friendly, approachable and knowledgeable in providing reading recommendations.

Thank you for helping us make Ireland Reads 2026 a success!

## ► Call for Abstracts | UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 12th Biennial International Conference | 11-12th June 2026



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



*UCFRC 12th Biennial International Conference/11-12th June 2026*

*Institute for Lifecourse and Society Building, University of Galway*

### **Call for Abstracts Submission Deadline: March 6th, 2026**

### **Shifting Power: New Frontiers in Youth Participation**

**Follow the conversation at [#newfrontiersyouthparticipation](#)**

Across research, policy and practice, youth participation in decision-making is widely accepted as a core principle. While participatory and co-production mechanisms are in place, many have been criticised as consultative or sometimes tokenistic in nature. The extent to which young people are fully engaged as partners remains a challenge. In response to a call from UNESCO (2023) member states were tasked to, “[t]ake existing youth arrangements to the next level, create new opportunities and arrangements where they do not yet exist and ensure that youth participation is effectively resourced”. A central focus of this conference will be on power and influence, to explore the ways in which meaningful youth engagement is understood, actioned and evidenced. Participants will be invited to chart the next steps in developing pathways for impact in their everyday practice, based on genuine power-sharing with young people.

In practice, youth participation is supported through a range of structures, processes and methods across formal and informal settings including youth work, education, child protection and welfare and youth justice services among others. Across these settings, areas for exploration include context-specific approaches (e.g. working with different population groups); systems and institutional factors and types of participation models (e.g. co-produced or youth-led). As a future facing conference, it will identify gaps and challenges in existing participatory strategies and methodologies and identify, highlight and promote sustainable practices. Key insights and participant

perspectives from the conference will be disseminated and utilised to inform future direct engagement with policymakers, practitioners and other key audiences.

Proposals are now welcome from delegates to present their work at the conference parallel sessions in presentation, poster or an interactive workshop format. Abstracts are invited from the practice, policy, research and academic communities in relation to the conference themes:

- Adulthood, power imbalances and resistance to youth participation.
- Barriers to participation (incl. structural, cultural, language and other challenges).
- Benefits and impact of meaningful youth participation.
- Ethical issues (incl. the risk of harm).
- The role of adult allies.
- Equity (incl. knowledge equity), access and inclusion.
- Proven methodologies and approaches to measuring youth participation.

The active participation of young people in presenting your work is encouraged, where appropriate. Although we are calling for contributions under these sub-themes, other relevant topics are welcome, but all submissions must reflect the overarching theme of the conference. Abstracts must be submitted by March 6th, 2026, and will only be accepted if completed using the [template](#) provided. Further details on presentation types and the time allocated can be found on the submission template.

Abstracts will undergo a peer-reviewed process with successful applicants notified by **April 1st, 2026**. Please note that all presenters are required to register for their attendance at the conference.

**Submit your abstract [here](#).**

**For regular updates and registration visit the [conference website](#).**



#### **Important Dates:**

- Deadline Abstract Submission: March 6th, 2026, at 5pm
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: April 1st, 2026
- End of registration at a reduced fee: April 30th, 2026

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### ► Public Consultation on the National Policy Framework for Alternative Care



Today the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, is launching a [public consultation](#) for the National Policy Framework on Alternative Care, which will run from the **6th of February 2026 to the 12th of March 2026**.

The views of members of the public, stakeholders, key workers and carers, and people with care experience will support the development of the National Policy Framework. Consequently, the Department would appreciate if you might share the details of this public consultation with your networks where appropriate.

The public consultation primarily seeks input through an online survey. Alternatively, people may share their views by submitting a completed template via email or post. Respondents are asked not include any personal data or special category personal data in their responses.

Persons aged under 18 may only respond via the email or postal options, as this will enable to the Department to consider and action any safeguarding issues that arise on account of their submissions.

**Details on how to participate are set out on the [public consultation webpage](#).**

This call for input is part of a broader process of consultation with children, young people, families, stakeholders and sectoral experts. Responses to the public consultation will be reviewed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to inform the design and development of Ireland's first National Policy Framework for Alternative Care.

The National Policy Framework will aim to articulate a future and Whole of Government vision of alternative care in Ireland and will also deliver on a Programme for Government commitment in this regard.



## LITERACY

### ► Wexford Library's new Reading Circle

# Wexford Library Reading Circle

Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council

## Is English your first language?

Would you like to:

- improve your reading skills?
- build confidence?
- read short stories and short pieces from books?
- and begin to read for enjoyment?

## Then, Join Emilie for our friendly and relaxed Reading Circle

**Where?** Wexford Library

**When?** Tuesdays 7:00pm–8:00pm

- 3 February
- 17 February
- 3 March
- 31 March
- 14 April



Do you work with people in your community who might enjoy or benefit from **Wexford Library's new Reading Circle**?

We would really appreciate your help in sharing information about this new Reading Circle with your network. Please see the poster below and attached and help us to promote it.

Wexford Library Service now has four Reading Circles across the county, supporting people with unmet literacy and language needs.

Please note: **this new reading circle is for people whose first language is English.**

## **When and where**

The new Reading Circle will meet in Wexford Library on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 17 February 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 3 March 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 31 March 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 14 April 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

## **The Reading Circle is a friendly and relaxed group where people will**

- improve their reading skills
- build confidence
- read short texts, short stories and extracts from books
- and begin to read for enjoyment

## **Everyone is welcome, including**

- people who are not confident readers
- people who are doing, or have completed, an Adult Literacy course
- people who are not currently library members

## **How to book a place**

Please support individuals to book a place:

- **online:** [Wexford Library Reading Circle - LibCal Study Seat Booking and Events - Wexford County Council Public Library Service](#)
- **by telephone:** 053 919 6760

You can also:

- pass on Emilie's contact details to potential participants: Tel: 053 919 6760
- contact Emilie directly to arrange a visit, where **she can come and talk about the Reading Circle in person with your group** - Email: [emilie.jost@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:emilie.jost@wexfordcoco.ie)



## Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



### Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

#### Wexford Library Adult Reading Circle



Is English your first language?  
Join Emilie to improve your confidence.

**When:** First and third Tuesdays of the month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Emilie at 053 919 6760

#### Wexford Library Read and Chat Group



Join Emilie for the Read and Chat group where you will improve your English reading and speaking skills.

**When:** Second and last Tuesdays of the month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Emilie at 053 919 6760

Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:  
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



## Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



### Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

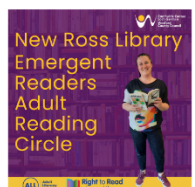
#### Gorey Library Short Story Reading Club



Join Mary to find the joy of reading.

**When:** Third Tuesday of every month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Mary at 053 948 3820

#### New Ross Library Emergent Readers Adult Reading Circle:



Join Lucija and start reading together.  
Perfect English not needed.

**When:** Second and fourth Thursdays of every month  
**Time:** 3pm to 4pm  
**Phone:** Lucija at 051 421 877

Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:  
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



## ► Lets Talk About Health Literacy - Podcast



**wwetb**  
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phoirt Láirge agus Loch Garman  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board



**Adult  
Literacy  
for Life**

• New Podcast Episode

# Episode 21 Health Literacy



**Conversations in Adult and Further Education**

[Episode 21 Health Literacy - Conversations in Adult and Further Education | Podcast on Spotify](#)

## ► Financial Literacy



**wwetb**  
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phoirt Láirge agus Loch Garman  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board



**Adult  
Literacy  
for Life**

**Waterford and Wexford Regional Adult Literacy Coalition** is delighted to bring these **#FinancialLiteracy** events to you in 2026.


We held our first event in Wexford Library on 12 February. It was a very positive and practical event. Participants spoke openly about real-life money challenges and asked thoughtful questions. Triona Breslin and Jackie Quinn MABS created a welcoming space and shared clear, practical advice on budgeting, managing day to day expenses and planning ahead to avoid future money difficulties.

The next event will be held in Waterford's Central Library.

These free events are not to be missed. Please share this information with your network, colleagues, friends and family.

You can see the poster below. Feel free to print and display in your workplace, local club or community setting.

### **Manage your money with confidence at Central Library**

 When: Friday, 20th February

 Time: 11am - 12pm

 Where: Central Library, Lady Lane, Waterford City, X91 VO45

Join us for an interactive event session where we will break down money in a simple and practical way.

You will learn how to:

- set realistic short and long-term goals
- manage money with confidence
- plan ahead for upcoming expenses or events.

To book your free place, call Central Library on 051 849 975 or email [centrallibrary@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:centrallibrary@waterfordcouncil.ie)



Leabharlanna Phort Láirge  
Waterford Libraries

# Four Sides of a Coin

**Manage your money with confidence**

Central Library Lady Lane  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February @ 11am  
Call 051 84 9975



## ► Family Literacy



**wwetb**  
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phoirt Láirge agus Loch Garman  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board



**Adult  
Literacy  
for Life**

## #FamilyLiteracy

Hello everyone,

We are delighted to share with you the poster and link for the 2026 Family Literacy Community of Practice (FL CoP).

Please circulate to any of your networks who work with families and parents.

### Family Literacy Community of Practice – Fill in form

**NALA** **SE TU** **ALL** **Adult Literacy for Life**

### Family Literacy Community of Practice

**Collaboration**  
Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), SETU and NALA have collaborated under the guidance and direction of Dr. Lána McCarthy, SETU, to develop a Family Literacy Community of Practice (FL CoP). The FL CoP will meet four times during 2026.

**Who can attend?**  
The Family Literacy Community of Practice is open to all, family literacy practitioners, HSCLs, teachers, community organisations – anyone who has an interest in Family Literacy

**Topic**  
**Supporting practitioners to empower parents to protect children online**  
Lána will be joined by Jane McGarrigle, National Coordinator, Webwise

**Next session**  
**Wednesday 4 March 2026**  
**1.15pm to 2.15pm**  
**via Teams**

**Register here** →