



Newsletter



Ireland Reads Day
22 February 2025

We are celebrating reading all this month ahead of Ireland Reads Day on 22 February.

Reading can bring great joy and also has real health benefits. Ireland Reads Day celebrates the joy of reading. It also celebrates the access and support that our local libraries can offer to everyone.

Your local library is an open door to adults and families to the joy of reading and all it has to offer.

So why not get lost in a good book? Visit your local library to mark Ireland Reads 2025. Endless reading opportunities await.

You can scan the QR code to visit the Ireland Reads Day website and find out about local events.



Updates from the ALL Office

- The provision of literacy supports and services is central to responding to unmet literacy need. In the main, literacy services are provided by Education and Training Boards, either directly through adult literacy services, or indirectly, through community-based organisations.
- We held a workshop with all 16 Education and Training Boards on 6 February to consider what literacy provision should look like in the future. Over 60 people attended and we are looking forward to continuing our work in this area in 2025.
- In February our Regional Literacy Coordinators and the Libraries Right To Read network came together to share practice and discuss ways they can work together in the future. We look forward to seeing new projects coming to life through these partnerships.
- In January we hosted a webinar on the 2025 Collaboration and Innovation Fund. Over 300 people joined to hear about the Fund and how to apply. The call for applications for the Fund closed on 7 February. Evaluations will be taking place shortly.



Cavan and Monaghan Literacy Awareness training for Cavan County Council

Ceinwen Fergus, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Cavan and Monaghan, delivered literacy awareness training to Cavan County Council staff in November 2024. Each session ran for two hours and took place in Cavan Council offices.

Staff discovered how common unmet literacy needs are among the public. The course broadened their understanding of literacy needs and gave them practical tips on how to improve their services.

“It made me more aware of how people can hide their literacy needs. I can now hopefully help them without them getting embarrassed”- a participant



**To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
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087 068 7841**

Cavan and Monaghan

NALA Family Literacy Conference

Gail and Ciara from Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre gave a presentation on the Cook and Book Club project at the NALA Family Literacy Conference in November.

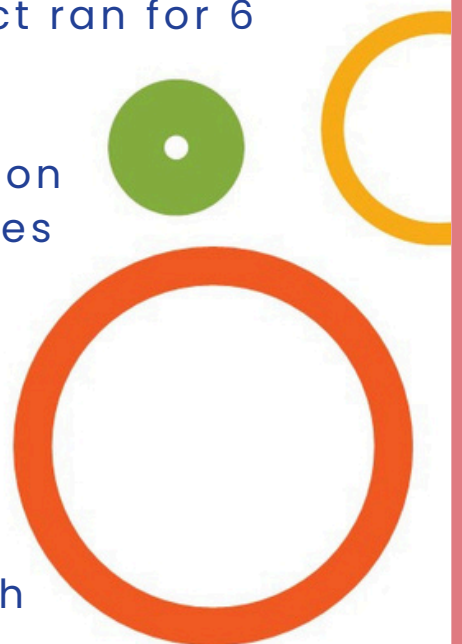
This project helped parents and children read and cook in a fun environment. The project ran for 6 weeks over the summer.

Parents attended a story telling session and then a cookery session. The stories and recipes were linked, so that children could learn how to cook the dishes they read about. This project also included trips to the library.

Gail and Ciara also brought their Story Sacks to the presentation, which were used in story-telling sessions. They explained how to run a project like this, and how it can benefit families.

"The story sacks are great, so much goes into them" - a participant

**To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
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Cavan and Monaghan Howling Together Film Project

Elizabeth McPhillips, Adult Education Officer for Cavan and Monaghan, produced a short film on the Howling Together project.

This short film was shown at the Cavan and Monaghan Further Education and Training Showcase. This end of year webinar highlights one project from each service in Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB).

This was a very important event. It raised awareness among the CMETB community about the variety of literacy projects underway in the region.

“Love how our heritage has informed the current curriculum in such a colourful and animated way - literally bringing education to life!” - a viewer



**To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
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City of Dublin

Plain English in the Workplace

Adult Educators in City of Dublin Education and Training Board delivered Plain English training to Regional Literacy Coalition partners.

The course took place online for 1.5 hours over two weeks in November 2024. It gave a brief introduction to Plain English in the workplace for organisations like Ballymun Job Centre and Dublin City Council.

This training is important because it helps organisations make information easier to access and understand for employees and the public.

Many more organisations in the City of Dublin area will receive Plain English training this year.



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City of Dublin

Numeracy Workshop

The CDETБ Adult Education Service and the Prison Education Service organised a numeracy workshop in December 2024. It took place in Ballymun Adult Education Centre.

Dr. Fiona Faulkner of Technological University Dublin (TUD) facilitated the workshop, which was attended by CDETБ tutors and teachers.

Presentations and discussions covered the Numeracy Meets project series. Please click here to access the **[Numeracy Meets Practitioner Pack](#)**

The meeting helped City of Dublin ETB staff to better understand what “numeracy” means and how the ALL strategy is tackling unmet numeracy needs.



Scan here to view the
**Numeracy Meets
Practitioner Pack**



To find out more, contact Andrew Connolly:
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Donegal

DIY: Parent Power Hour

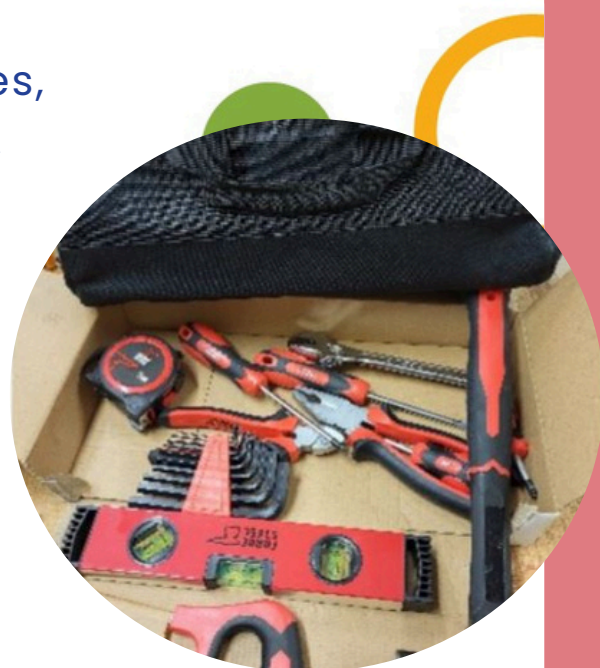
Family Resource Centres (FRC) based in Donegal collaborated with Home School Community Liaison Coordinators to organise the Parent Power Hour project.

This Collaboration and Innovation-funded course took place in Glenties, Carrick, Moville, Raphoe, Stranorlar, and Letterkenny.

Parents and other FRC users learned do-it-yourself (DIY) skills like drilling, fixing cupboards, and pottery over the four week long course.

Learners also received their own tool pack to continue building their skills and confidence at home.

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Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Literacy/ESOL Tutor Event

A Literacy/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutor event took place on the 24 October 2024. Over 100 tutors attended the event in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin.

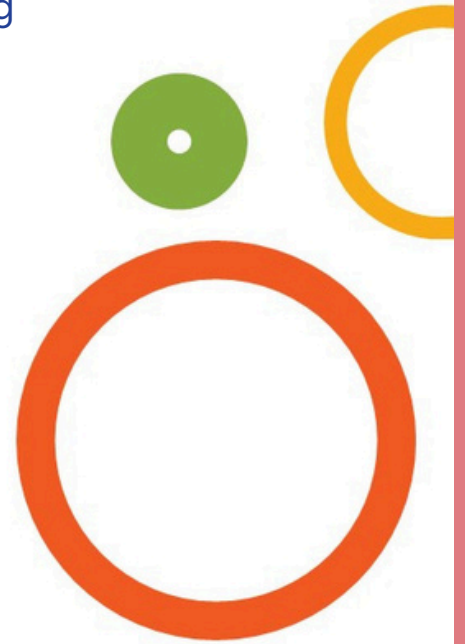
Speakers gave presentations on the following topics:

- how tutors contribute to the ALL Strategy,
- how to include tutor voices in the 2025 Action Plan, and
- tutor well-being with psychologist Shane Martin.

Tutors really appreciated having their voices heard and enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate and network as a team.

“It was great to get together with other tutors to share ideas and it was also good to be able to voice our needs as tutors and have an input into the future of literacy’- a participant

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Kilkenny Carlow

Networking event for agencies working with Traveller/Roma families

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB), the ALL unit, Tusla Education Support Services (TESS), and Pavee Point organised a networking event for agencies working with Traveller and Roma families.

The event took place on the 23 October 2024 in the Dolmen Hotel, Carlow. 51 representatives from Traveller and Roma groups, school communities, youth groups, and various other organisations attended the event.

Speakers and discussions focused on increasing participation and improving educational outcomes for Traveller and Roma families. Staff from Pavee Point delivered anti-racism training on the day.

“Great to have such a broad mix of organisations in one room. Really refreshing to have so many members of the Traveller and Roma communities.”- an attendee



Scan here to view the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy



**To find out more, contact Helen Walsh:
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Laois Offaly

Laois Men's Shed Podcast Series

The Laois Men's Shed Podcast launched on 19 November 2024 in the Mountmellick Arts Centre, Laois. The Laois Men's Shed helps members to build their skills, foster relationships, and contribute to the well-being of the community.

This innovative podcast celebrates community voices and lifelong learning. The series provides a platform for men from diverse backgrounds to share their stories, experiences, and perspectives.

This podcast series represents a powerful combination of education, creativity, and solidarity. Seven men's sheds across Laois played a part in making the podcast.

The launch event featured clips from the podcast, highlighting a range of personal journeys. Each episode captures the diversity of the Men's Shed community.

The podcast is part of a broader initiative to support adult education, digital literacy, confidence building, and creative expression. The ALL office provided funding to ensure that participants have the tools and opportunities to thrive.

"This is just the beginning. We hope the podcast will entertain and encourage others to share their stories and discover the possibilities that education and community support can bring." - Gillian Cunningham, LOETB Community Education.



**Scan here to listen to
the podcast**

**To find out more, contact
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Longford and Westmeath Men of Steel

The Men of Steel project allowed learners to enhance their literacy skills through practical and creative activities like metalwork.

This project was the result of a collaboration between Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB), Athlone Family Resource Centre, and Social Prescriber Athlone. It took place between September and December 2024.

The project engaged older men from the community and improved their literacy, digital, and numeracy skills. It also boosted their confidence and led to further opportunities for participants to continue their learning journey.



To find out more, contact
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Louth Meath

Meath Cares about Older People Event

Meath County Council and Age Friendly Alliance Meath organised a Meath Cares about Older People event on 1 October 2024. It took place in the Pillo Hotel in Ashbourne.

This full day event allowed participants to share information about services available to older people in Meath. Examples include education programmes, Garda support, and solicitors.

Valerie McHugh, the manager of Meath Age Friendly Alliance, invited Niamh McShane, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB), to speak at the event.

This event was a fantastic opportunity to spread the word about LMETB's adult literacy services.

**To find out more, contact
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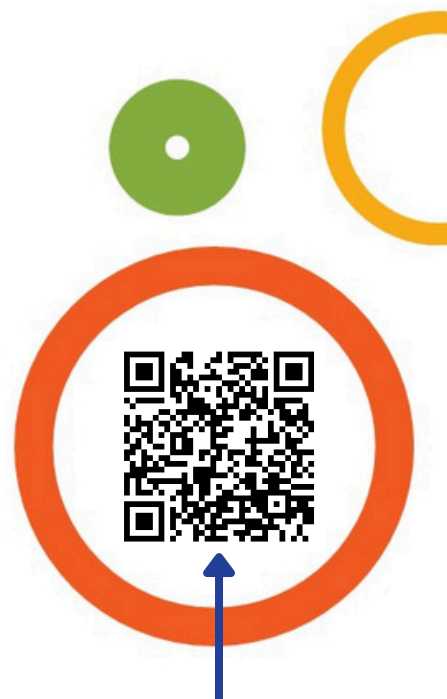
Tipperary Stakeholder Networking Events

The Tipperary Regional Adult Literacy coalition hosted two networking and Literacy Awareness events in late 2024. Helen Ryan from the ALL office and Ester Mackey, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB), facilitated both events.

Around 60 people, representing organisations like An Garda Síochána and Library services, attended the events in Clonmel and Nenagh. Various stakeholders set up stands at the events as well.

Liam Cleere, a Literacy Ambassador, spoke about his experience with unmet literacy needs and his journey back to education. He talked about the barriers facing people with literacy needs and what can be done to help them.

At the Clonmel event in the Talbot Hotel, pharmacy owner Anna Kelly spoke about how her business became literacy friendly. Her business received the NALA Crystal Clear Award, which means that Anna's pharmacy supports the literacy needs of its customers.



Scan here to view a video about the events



**To find out more, contact Ester Mackey:
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Waterford Wexford

Family Learning Multicultural Storybook

The Family Learning Programme helped a multicultural group of parents and their children to develop their language and literacy skills.

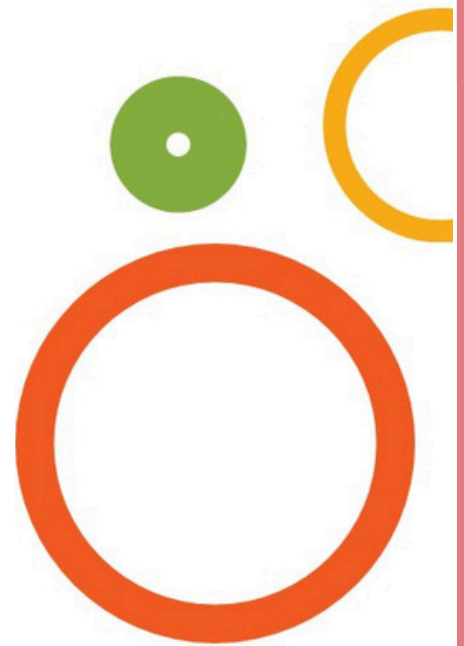
This project was the result of a collaboration between Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB), Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Home School Community Liaison (HSCL), and Bunclody Further Education and Training Centre.

The project took place on a weekly basis every Friday morning between October and November 2024. A WWETB literacy tutor ran the course.

The programme culminated with the launch of a multicultural storybook called Happy Memories on the 18 December. The storybook was written by parents and illustrated by their children.

“This is a great project to be involved in and this was definitely a highlight for me.” – quote from John Byrne, Home School Community Liaison and Literacy Champion

**To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
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Contact your Regional Literacy Coordinator or our National Office for questions, literacy awareness, support and referrals:



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Donegal	Adele McElhinney	adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie 086 084 9284
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire	Nuala Nedjati	nualanedjati@ddletbaes.ie 086 047 2363
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