

THE GENESIS PROGRAMME



THE STORY OF PARENT FORUMS IN CO. LOUTH

The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013–2017



The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies

CES
CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICES



THE
GENESIS
PROGRAMME

Vision of The Genesis Programme

To measurably improve the well being and developmental outcomes for children aged pre birth - 6 years in the targeted areas by implementing the Incredible Years suite of programmes with fidelity using an agreed area based approach.



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Context for Engaging with Parents

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Ireland in 1992.
Article 5 acknowledges the primary role parents & family have in the care and protection of children.

“State Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child”.

Article 42.1 of the Irish Constitution recognises parents as the primary educator

“The State acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the family and guarantees to respect the inalienable right and duty of parents to provide, according to their means, for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children”

At the community level, the provision of parenting supports can enhance the well-being of communities and promote greater social cohesion
(Parenting Support Strategy Tusla, 2013)

Parents need social networks as parenting is easier when parents can talk to peers
(Tusla, 2014)

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Dundalk – 4 Incredible Years Parent Programmes

- 2011/2012 - 40 Parents 4 Programmes
 - 2012/2013 - 50 Parents 5 Programmes
 - 2013/2014 - 40 Parents 4 Programmes
 - 2014/2015 - 40 Parents 4 Programmes
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- **2011/2012 Dundalk Group**
 - Met Once a Month
 - School Based
 - Food
 - Issues regarding their children
 - Xmas – House Party
 - Summer – Organised trip to Zoo – Secured Funding!





It's a Kinda Magic!!!!

- **Steering Group – HSCL's, LLP, SCP, S/Board**
- **Something in this**
- **Other Parents wanting to meet up**
- **Natural Response – Have parents meet but to do what!!!**





First Parent Forum – Dundalk 2013

- Talk to Parents and find out what they want
- Feedback through the steering group
- Questions Professionals had –
Other Issues impacting on parenting.
- 120 Parents Invited to 1st Parent Programme

So What Happened???

100 Parents Arrived in Crown Plaza Hotel !!!! (May 2013)

- **A walk through the IY Programme**
- **Refresher Sessions – 4 Sessions were facilitated**
- **Coffee Break – NB!!!**
- **Focus Groups to address the following questions**
 1. What are the issues that make parenting difficult?
 2. Is there a need for a regular parent forum in Dundalk?
 3. How would this Forum operate and what issues would it address?
- **Closing Address by John Lonergan and Lunch.**

ISSUES ARISING FROM FOCUS GROUPS

Top 10

- Dealing with Bullying
 - Internet Safety
 - Managing Stress
 - Drugs and keeping your children safe
 - Maintaining positive relationships as children get older
 - Dealing with peer pressure
 - Information on new things for children in the community
 - Keeping communication open as your child gets older
 - Sharing and Learning to and from other parents
 - Household Rules – What's reasonable?
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- 98% of those in attendance wanted to meet again!

PARENT FORUM 2014 and 2015

240 Parents in attendance

Four Workshops on Social Issues

- Internet Safety – Garda JLO
- Bullying – ISPCC
- Drugs - PYE
- Managing Stress - Psychologist

Four Incredible Years Workshops

2015 – Extended to Drogheda

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Agencies Talking – Parents Listening!!!



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AREA COORDINATING TEAMS – ACT'S

- Implementation Group - 2014 
- **Four Local Areas**



- Make up of ACT's – Parents, SCP, HSCL, PHN, Pre-School, After Schools, Community Projects, Medical Social Work, Gardaí, etc...
- **Purpose of the ACT's**
To improve outcomes for children and families in the (NAMED Area) by ensuring appropriate interventions for children and families across The Genesis Programme suite of programmes and continuity of support throughout a child/children's early years
- **Coordinating, Capacity Building, Identification of local need,**
- **Parent Forum will take on a new dynamic**

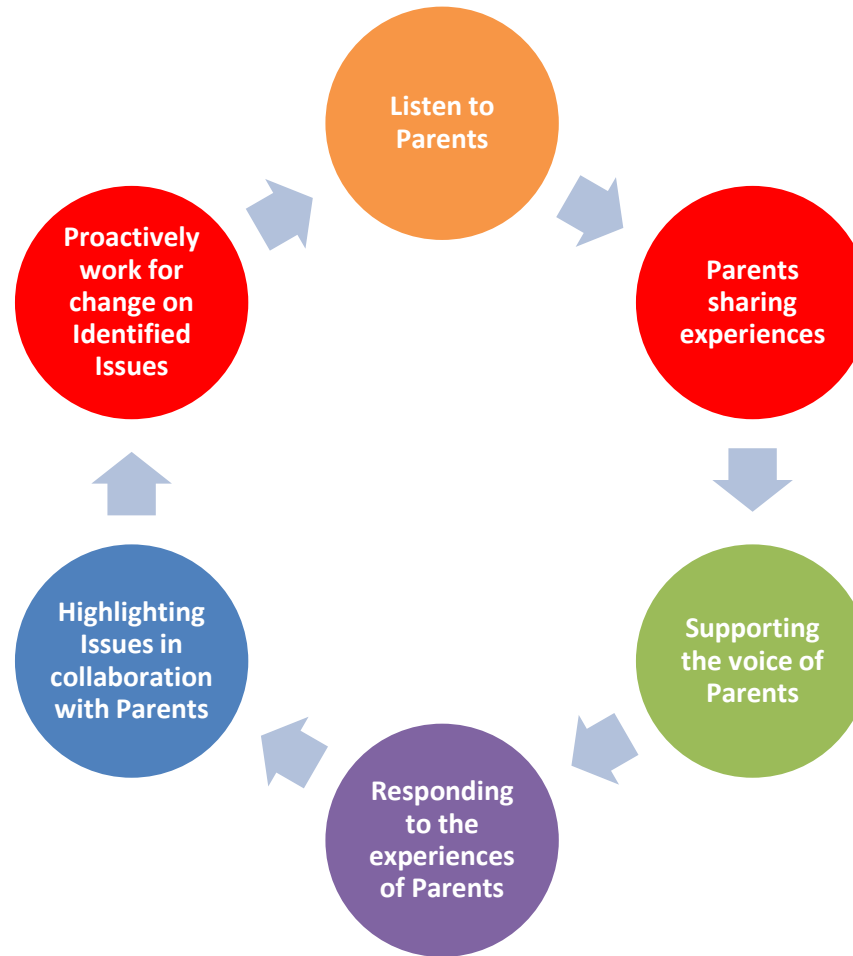
The **A**rea **B**ased **C**hildhood Programme 2013–2017

So, what do we want the Parent Forum to become?



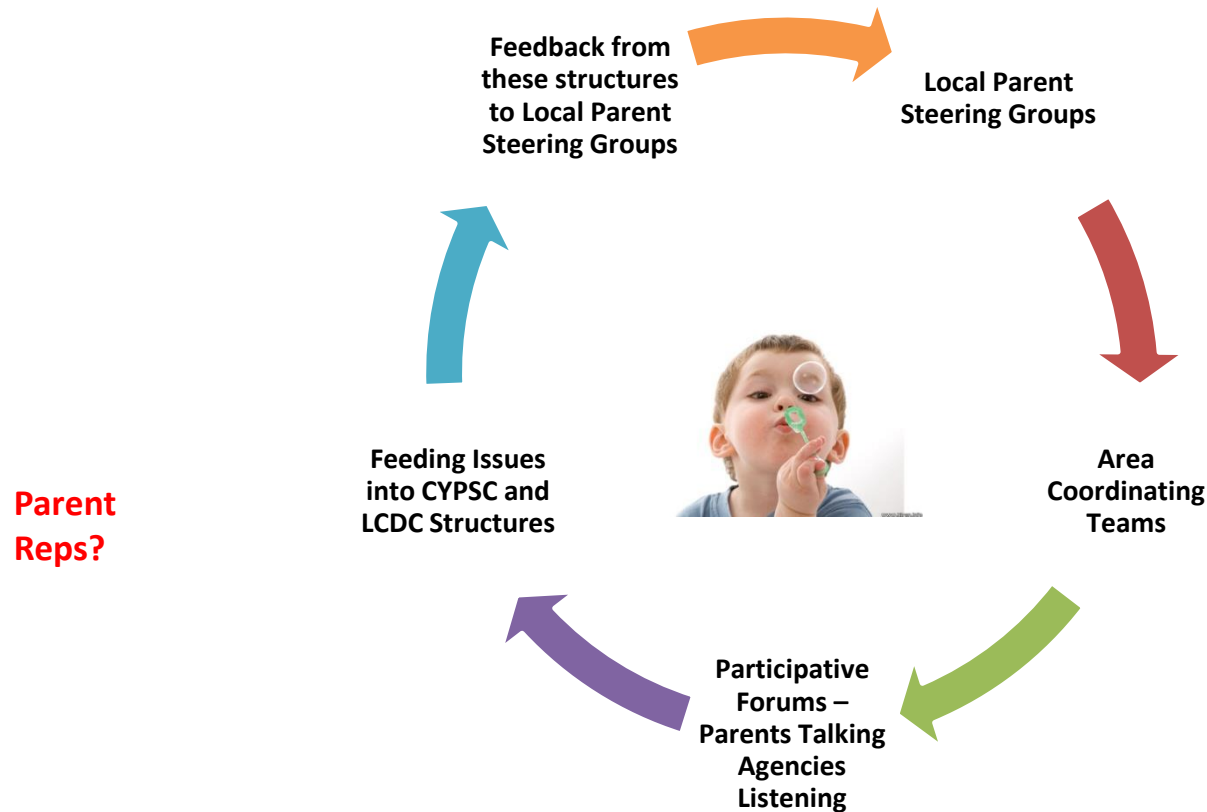


New Process



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New Ways of Achieving This



Option 1

Open to Any Parent within the targeted communities?

Option 2

Parent Reps on ACT's?

Option 3

Combination of both?

A series of Mini Fora within targeted Communities?

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March 2012

The PAST
is where you
LEARNED
the LESSON.

The FUTURE
is where you
APPLY
the LESSON.

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