Toys, Technology and Training

Supporting our Neurodiverse Community Free Talks and Workshops Autumn 2024



- buytickets.at/tttkildare
- **f** KildareLibraryService
- @kildarelibrary
- **V** kildarelibrary

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The TTT Programme is designed to offer support to our neurodiverse community.

Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas libraries, a specialised collection of toys and assistive equipment 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. Pick up a catalogue at any Kildare library or view it online at kildarecoco.ie/library.

This collection has been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with therapists working in the community.

Membership is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in County Kildare. Contact your local library for further terms and conditions of use.

A full list of our libraries and contact information is available at kildarecoco.ie/library.



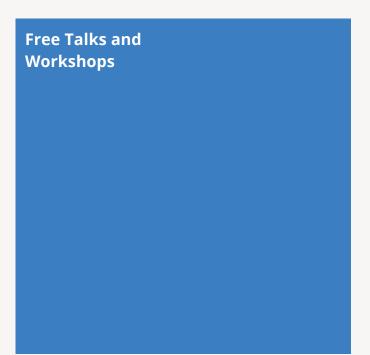












The TTT Programme includes an annual series of free talks and workshops, funded by Kildare County Council. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

Attendance is open to everyone and free of charge, though booking is required.

TTT talks and workshops from September to December 2024 will be in-person events taking place across Kildare libraries, unless otherwise stated.

Please take note of location when booking

Continuous Professional Development

Certificates of Attendance are available for all TTT talks and workshops.

Certificates will be available from the venue after the event. Please note that certificates will only be issued on the night and cannot be requested at a later time.

Sensory Garden at Leixlip Library















Sensory Pods at Leixlip & Kildare Town

Sensory pods are a safe space designed to address the needs of those with sensory support, processing or anxiety-based challenges.

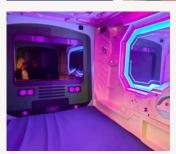
The pods offer options to engage or limit visual, auditory and kinesthetic supports.

Sensory pods are located in Kildare Town Library and Leixlip Library; for more information or to book a session, contact the relevant library directly: kildarelib@kildarecoco.ie











Tovertafel (Magic Table)

Leixlip and Naas

The Tovertafel is a special projector that turns any blank surface into a 'magic table', or interactive games surface.

It was developed with the care sector in mind, focusing on making games more accessible and therapeutic to those with a cognitive challenge.

In particular, games have been developed that support children and adults with autism and older adults with Alzeimher's and Dementia.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Leixlip Library at leixliplib@kildarecoco.ie or Naas Library at naaslib@kildarecoco.ie when this service is available in your local branch.

Portable Projector

Kildare Library Service also provides access to the Tovertafel through a portable projector. Contact your local library to see when this service is available in your local branch.











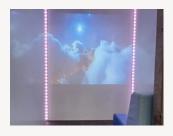
Cubbie at Athy and Naas Libraries

The Cubbie offers a sensory solution for people with autism, ADHD and other sensory processing disorders (SPD) and anxiety. It delivers a sensory programme specific to a person's unique sensory needs, helping them to regulate and better participate in school, work or play activities. The Cubbie is easy to use, allowing each user to adjust LED lighting, sounds and vital effects to match their needs. It provides flexible seating options including slings and rockers, and is wheelchair accessible.

Booking is required. For more info or to make a booking, contact Athy Library at athylib@kildarecoco.ie or Naas Library at naaslib@kildarecoco.ie











The Fact Factory Magazine



Available to borrow from Athy, Celbridge, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge libraries.

Further Resources

TTT Book Collection

A tailored selection of titles providing comprehensive information on numerous conditions.

Available in Leixlip Community Library; request from your local library or via the online catalogue.

Reader Pens

Reader Pens - now available to borrow and use in Kildare Libraries.

Read words and full lines of text aloud for independent reading

To aid: Dyslexia, difficulty with reading or pronunciation and vision problems.

For more information, please contact your nearest library branch.

TTT Vimeo Channel

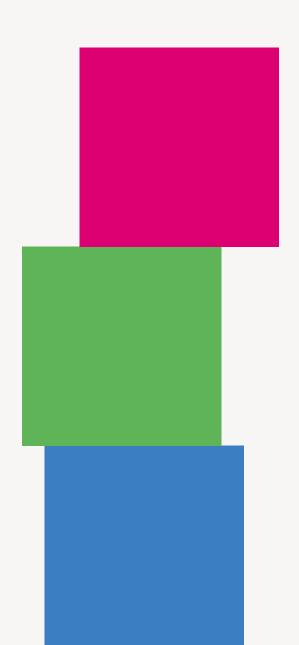
Our TTT Vimeo channel features talks, presentations, storytimes and more, with new content added regularly: vimeo.com/channels/toystechnologytraining

Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS)

TTRS is a literacy programme aimed at improving reading and spelling while teaching touch-typing. It is specifically designed for those with learning differences such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia.

TTRS is available in the following Kildare Libraries: Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge.

For more information, please contact your nearest library branch.



Please note that booking for all events is online via our Ticket Tailor box-office:

buytickets.at/tttkildare



Dyslexia Information Session for Parents



Book Here

In this pre-recorded information video from the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, we look at:

- What is dyslexia?
- How to get an assessment
- Support in school
- Support at home
- Dyslexia & self-esteem

Register to receive a link to the video and the presentation slides used.

You can also contact the Dyslexia Association by emailing info@dyslexia.ie should you have any specific query.

Felting Workshops for Neurodivergent Children

with Sharon Wells

- (\) 02.11.2024 11am
- Q Leixlip Library
- This workshop is 1.5 hours long and is aimed at children aged 9 +.

with the ancient craft of wet felting.

Naas Library

11am

Please note that that materials used in this workshop will include wool types from soft to scratchy, soap, water and bubbles.

Wet Felted Landscapes - Join Sharon

Wells to learn about various types of wool by making a Seascape picture

Book Here

Nurturing Abilities

Training Programme for Parents/ Guardians of Young Autistic Children

with Silvia Angel

Session 1

O7.11.2024

Athy Library

Introduction to Autism

Understand autism and gain insights to further comprehend your child's unique needs. Learn how to create a supportive environment at home to foster your child's overall development.

Session 2

\(\) 14.11.2024 10am

Athy Library

Book Here

Interaction and Communication

Explore strategies to enhance your child's engagement and learn techniques to support your child's language development. This session will also introduce practical communication supports to help your child understand language and effectively communicate with you.

Nurturing Abilities

Training Programme for Parents/ Guardians of Young Autistic Children

with Silvia Angel

Session 3

10am

Athy Library

Play Development

Delve into the function and development of play, understanding its various forms and how it may differ for autistic children. Gain practical knowledge on engaging in play with your child and creating an environment that promotes play skills crucial for their development.

Session 4

(S) 28.11.2024

Athy Library

Book Here

Supporting Behaviour

In the final session, discover strategies to encourage positive behaviour, cooperation, and effective problem-solving. Learn how to approach challenging situations with compassion, focusing on prevention and thoughtfully providing support for your child.

Join us for this informative series, where Silvia's expertise promises to empower parents/Guardians to implement early intervention at home.

Sibshop Workshop

Sibshop Ireland

- O9.11.2024 2pm
- **Q** Leixlip Library

Book Here

Sibshops are fun workshops for siblings of children with special needs. They are lively, with games and discussions.

As well as having lots of fun this online Sibshop will provide a great opportunity for siblings to get together and chat about some of the difficulties and the positives of having a sibling with special needs.

The workshops are aimed at children aged between 8 to 12 years (inclusive) with a maximum of 10 children in the group recommended as this works best in order to give all the children a chance to contribute to the discussions and games.

Their sibling with special needs should be over 2 ½ years so that they can see and understand that their brother or sister has special needs.

Siblings experience the same joys and concerns as their parents yet have fewer opportunities to gain access to support. Often siblings do not want to burden their parents with their own worries. Sibshop Workshops are one way of offering them fun and the support they deserve.

Active Kids Academy

- 28.09.2024 2.30pm
- Naas Library
- 16.11.2024 2.30pm
- **Q** Celbridge Library

Book Here

These classes, whilst based around fun, are designed to work on skills such as fine & gross motor skills, communication, social skills, fundamental sports skills, balance, coordination, positive mental health skills and much more, BUT as far as the children know, they are just having fun in an inclusive environment, designed to ensure they thrive and reach their own goals.

Classes will be made up of activities & games to get children moving, working on social skills and having fun. The games will focus on things such as fine & gross motor skills, fundamental sports skills, coordination, strength, agility, communication skills and much more. The classes will be made up of obstacle courses, parachute fun, imaginary play, group activities and lots more.

The classes are aimed at children aged between 5 to 10 years with a maximum of 10 children in each class.

Promoting Self-Care for Parents/Guardians of Neurodiverse Children

Marianne Ashe

- 19.09.2024 7pm
- **Newbridge**Library
- 17.10.2024 7pm
- **Q** Celbridge Library

Book Here

This talk focuses teaching on parents/guardians tools and techniques to improve and enhance their own health and wellbeing. The strategies taught are simple effective and promote self-compassion and awareness. They are based on the principles mindfulness of meditation, which are evidence based and shown to have numerous benefits for our physical, mental and emotional health. The importance self-care parent/guardian is also in the discussed context of COregulation with a child.

Sensory Story Time Sessions

Sharon Curran, MSEN, BA Mont Ed, Dip Hort

28.09.2024 12.10.2024 30.11.2024 11am Join Sharon for a fun, sensory story time tailored specially to meet the needs of neurodiverse children.

Q Leixlip Library

Book Here







Storytime with Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC)

Patricia Hall

- 19.10.2024 11am
- Athy Library
- () 09.11.2024 11am
- **Newbridge**Library

Book Here

AAC at the Library is an interactive session to show how stories can be read using an AAC device to support AAC users in actively participating in story time.

AAC stands for Augmentative and Communication. Alternative AAC includes strategies signing, (e.g. gesture, etc.) and equipment (e.g. a symbol chart, an alphabet chart, simple talking button, a more complex computer-based voice output communication aid, etc.) that support or replace speech.

This session will focus on how to use a high-tech voice output communication aid to support AAC users to access all the benefits of storytime. This session is most suitable for children aged 3 to 8 years, but older children can also participate. Parents and siblings can attend to learn how to use an AAC device interactively to support AAC in storytelling.

At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how book reading can be continued at home and in the library using an AAC device.

A course for parents, carers and teachers Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

Waiting lists for both assessment and therapy are currently very long and parents/guardians want to know what they can do to help their child while they wait for these services.

This course has been designed for parents/guardians of children who may be autistic and are awaiting an assessment/services.

Participants are encouraged to attend on a weekly basis for the full course, however it is also open to people opting in for some of the sessions that are especially relevant to them.

The sessions build on each other and it is hoped that participants will have an opportunity to get to know each other and share ideas and support.

The course will provide information about the journey to assessment and services; your child's sensory sensitivities and needs; ways to play with your child to encourage development; and the Irish education system in relation to autism.

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

Session 1

07.11.2024 10.30am

Leixlip Library

Autism - The journey to assessment, diagnosis and services

session will parents/guardians to the assessment process for autism. They will learn about the pathways to assessment and services, and what an assessment for autism involves. There will be an opportunity to consider the questions that are good to ask and the information required in a report. We will discuss the 'Assessment of Needs' process along with support groups, advocacy groups and current preferred terms as recommended by the autism advocates within community.

Session 2

14.11.2024 10.30am

Q Leixlip Library

Book Here

Understanding the sensory needs of your child - every child is unique

Autistic children often have heightened senses and can everyday sounds and textures uncomfortable and even painful. This session will help parents/guardians understand the unique sensory profile of their child. They will learn how to which recognise senses heightened and which might even be under-registering input. The senses include the hearing, vision, smell, with taste. touch senses along interoception (sensing what goes on body); proprioception within the (sense of body in space) and vestibular (sense of balance).

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

Session 3

21.11.2024 10.30am

Q Leixlip Library

Creating a sensory space and toolbox for your child

This session builds on the learning from session two. We will look at methods for accommodating the sensory needs of your child and how the items from the Toys, Technology and Training collection could be used to help your child. We will also discuss how to create a sensory toolbox for your child and the types of sensory equipment that could be useful in your home.

Session 4

28.11.2024 10.30am

Book Here

The importance of Play – how to play with your child to help their development Part 1

Play is a really important way for your child to learn about the world and those around them, as well as having fun and building skills. You will be introduced to a method of play called DIR-Floortime which is an evidence based approach helpful for autistic children. You will learn how understand your child's developmental level and know which methods of play are needed to help them develop further.

A course for parents, carers and teachers

Dr. Dorothy Armstrong

Session 5

- 05.12.2024 10.30am
- Leixlip Library

The importance of Play – how to play with your child to help their development Part 2

This session builds on the learning from session four. You will learn more about how to play with your child using the DIR-Floortime approach. We will have the opportunity to look at some of the toys from the Toys, Technology and Training collection and learn about the many areas of potential growth a toy can facilitate. It is hoped that you will leave this session with a clear plan for playing with your child.

Session 6

- (12.12.2024 10.30am
- Q Leixlip Library

Book Here

Helping your child develop skills for everyday living.

This session will enable you to consider which skills for daily living (e.g. dressing, toileting, washing etc.) you might focus on with your child, how you can analyse where they might be having problems and we will consider some solutions together. It is hoped that you will leave with clear strategies for skill development that can be used going forward.

Behaviour Support for your Neurodivergent Child Eimear Kelly

Session 1

(S) 05.11.2024 7pm

Maynooth Library

Understanding Behaviour Needs and Tools to Create a Behaviour Support Plan for Home.

This opening session will provide an overview of neurodiversity and autism. We will look at behaviour from a communication-based needs-based. and functional perspective. We will explore tools and strategies that can provide an understanding of why a happening, behaviour is how environment can impact behaviour what is the communication attempt behind that behaviour. When we know what is driving the behaviour, we can then create and individualised person-centred strategies that can support that young person.

Session 2

○ 12.11.2024 7pm

Maynooth Library

Book Here

Practical Strategies Part 1

This session will explore importance of proactive strategies, before proactive meaning behaviour occurs. Proactive strategies can be used to enable the young person to engage in behaviours that will support and increase their quality of life, wellbeing and their feelings of happiness, confidence independence. Proactive strategies can also be used to decrease the levels of overload, anxiety or overwhelm felt in certain situations.

Behaviour Support for your Neurodivergent Child Eimear Kelly

Session 3

Practical Strategies Part 2

① 19.11.2024 7pm

Maynooth Library

This session will explore the importance of reactive strategies, reactive meaning after the behaviour has occurred. Reactive strategies can be used when the young person is already feeling overloaded, highly anxious or overwhelmed. These strategies can support the young person to return to a regulated and relaxed state, while providing them with a sense of validation, compassion and a feeling of safety.

Session 4

○ 26.11.2024 7pm

Maynooth Library

Book Here

Putting the Plan Together and Q&A (workshop on attendee's specific needs)

This final session will look at putting all the strategies together so that attendees will leave the training with a workable plan that they can use at home. We will look at real life examples of how behaviour support strategies can be implemented, along with skills on how to adapt and change the plan depending on the evolving needs of your child. The session will finish with a Q&A on attendee's specific needs and questions.

Yoga and Sensory Play with Stephanie Bolger

- 02.11.2024 11am
- Athy Library
- 16.11.2024 11am
- **Athy** Library
- () 23.11.2024 11am
- **Q** Athy Library

Yoga is about feeling good in your body and these sessions are designed specifically for neurodiverse children. They can come to a class and feel free to explore a wide range of sensory based activities at their own pace and if it's suitable they can engage in some fun Yoga games.

Most children know what they need to support regulation, each child is so unique and different that by providing a range of activities to explore they will naturally be guided towards what they need in that moment.

Book Here

Lámh Module One Online Course

12.10.2024 9.30am-1pm



Online

This course is for staff members and professionals who have started to work in an environment where Lámh is used and covers 100 Lámh signs and how to support a Lámh user.

No previous Lámh training required.

Book Here

Course Content:

- Module One Lámh signs (100+)
- Alternative and augmentative communication (AAC)
- Lámh—a brief history and development
- Lámh signing environment

Accreditation Achieved:

Module One Certificate

Participants will also receive a learning pack from Lámh following completion of the course.

Course Schedule:

Online participant led training via the Lámh website will take place in advance of a Tutor led Zoom session. Participants will receive a learning pack from Lámh following completion of the course.

Places on this course is limited to 6 and in high demand. Please only book if you can attend and participate fully.

Behavioural Therapy Talks

with Audrey Cully

- **34.10.2024** 7pm
- Naas Library

Book Here

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder is widely spoken about now, with awareness and acceptance being highlighted on regular basis. This change within society has much to do with a wider knowledge and understanding neurodivergence. In this talk we will discuss the traits, characteristics and behaviours that are typically present for a diagnosis of autism to occur. We examine how secondary conditions or mental challenges are often more prevalent in the autistic population, and explore sensory differences frequently co-exist. This talk would be beneficial for anyone who would like to better understand autism.

Behavioural Therapy Talks

with Audrey Cully

O7.11.2024
7pm

Understanding Behaviours of Concern - Session 1

Kildare Town Library

There are two sessions in this series. with participants ideally attending both. Audrey will discuss what is meant by the term 'behaviour of concern' and explain why children engage in these behaviours. We will look at behaviours that challenge through the lens of communication, with Audrey offering strategies and guidance on how to pro-actively and re-actively support the young person at times of increased stress emotional dysregulation. Through discussion around the use of specific tools, participants will come away with an increased understanding of how to problem solve whv behaviour/s occur

(\) 14.11.2024 7pm

Understanding Behaviours of Concern – Session 2

Q Kildare Town Library

Following on from Session 1.

Book Here

Speakers





Active Kids Academy | activeacademy.ie

Lisa Redmond runs Active Kids Academy, a company providing fun & fitness for children of all abilities. With over 20 years of experience working with children with additional needs and in the fitness industry, Lisa has combined both her passions to bring individual programmes to children and their families.



Silvia Angel

Silvia Angel (GDipAutSt. SS. BA (PhysEd) an early intervention specialist with over 20 years of experience in children's development clinics in Ireland, brings a unique perspective as both a professional and a mother of an autistic boy. Currently working as part of a Children's Network Disability Team in Dublin, Silvia actively supports families and works directly with young children to foster their development. Silvia is also known for her engaging webinars, courses, and YouTube channel and has been a featured speaker at both national and international conferences in this field.



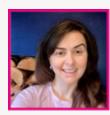
Dr. Dorothy Armstrong | dorothyarmstrongconsultantot.com

Dr Dorothy Armstrong (MSc PhD) is an expert occupational therapist who specialises in the area of neurodivergence (Autism, ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder / Dyspraxia). She works on projects to promote inclusion and delivers training, education and advice to organisations such as schools, community groups and businesses. She has made television and radio appearances and is the author of the book 'The Next Adventure: Transitioning to Secondary School Disorder'. More information about Dorothy can be found on her website above.



Marianne Ashe

Marianne Ashe is an Occupational Therapist with over 25 years of experience in many clinical areas, who specialises in the area of Mental Health and wellbeing. Marianne works predominantly with young people who have mental health difficulties, many of whom are neurodivergent. As a Mother of 4 children, Marianne is a passionate about teaching parents tools and strategies that reduce stress and anxiety, promote parental self-care and enhance overall wellbeing.



Stephanie Bolger

Stephanie Bolger is a children's Yoga teacher and Sensory Play facilitator specifically for neurodiverse children. She is a mother of four children and her two boys have Autism and intellectual delays. She has a personal interest in the nervous system which has guided her teaching, and she enjoys meeting families and providing children with a safe space for them to have fun and be themselves.



Audrey Cully

Audrey Cully is a Behaviour Specialist who has over 20 years' experience of working in the area of special needs, with a strong background in autism. She has worked with children from 2 years old up to 18 years in different settings including special schools, autism classrooms and mainstream primary school. Audrey also works with children with autism and related disorders in their homes. She works as a Behavioural Consultant and has designed and overseen many IEP's and Behaviour Support Plans and has extensive experience in dealing with crisis episodes of behaviour. Audrey delivers workshops and training to parents and professionals.



Sharon Curran

Sharon Curran (MSEN, BA Mont Ed, Dip Hort) is a Special Educational Needs teacher specialising in autism spectrum disorder. She has a background in Montessori education and a wealth of experience in teaching children with a wide range of learning disabilities.



Patricia Hall

Patricia Hall (BSc CSLS) is a Speech and Language Therapist with over 20 year of experience supporting children with additional needs and their families. She works in the South Kildare West Wicklow Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) in Athy. She is passionate about supporting children and their families in using AAC to participate in every aspect of their lives and accessing activities within their community.



Eimear Kelly

Eimear Kelly (MSc) is a Behaviour Specialist and Psychotherapist in training with over 10 vears in of experience supporting neurodiverse individuals (Autism/ADHD). Eimear is the founder of Aspire Behaviour Consultancy in Dublin, where she provides specialist behavioural support to individuals, their parents, caregivers and wider support staff to address behavioural concerns in the home and school environment. Eimear is passionate about making meaningful changes in the lives of all individuals and is dedicated to supporting their well-being, quality of life, and independence.



Lámh Development Ireland | lamh.org

Lámh is the manual sign system used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland. Lámh was originally developed in the early 1980s in order to have a unified, standardised, Irishbased approach to signing for those with intellectual disabilities and communication needs.



Sibshop Ireland | sibshopireland.ie

Linda Foley and Liz Fitzpatrick both work with children with an Intellectual Disability. Liz is a Registered General Nurse and an AMI Montessori teacher and has been supporting children (6–18 years) with special needs in mainstream education for over 20 years. Linda is a Registered General Nurse and a Paediatric Nurse, and she runs a specialised pre-school for children from birth to 6 years. They are qualified Sibshop facilitators and Parents Plus facilitators. They have a huge interest in sibling support and are founders of Sibshop Ireland.



Sharon Wells

Sharon Wells is a felt maker and tutor with over 20 years' experience. She specialises in making textural Irish landscapes and seascapes from wool fibre, silk, fabric and wire. She is the coordinator of The Muddle tutor group who teach all ages and abilities various different arts and crafts.

TTT User Feedback

ĸĸ Have found all the TTT talks extremely informative... I have 99 learned so much from these talks ßß The programme has given me the opportunity to learn more about how my child's diagnosis affects them and their interaction with the world 99 I feel the programme really helps me to help my students **ኖ**ኖ A great support & source of 99 information found a fantastic sensory resource that helped A LOT in school GG We found it's great to try out things that our OT said would be 99 good for our son A great resource for teachers 66 We have used the knowledge learned in talks and the equipment rented out via the library to assist in the

development of our son who has

autism



Kildare Library and Arts Services
Toys, Technology and Training
Free Talks and Workshops

Awareness • Education • Inclusion

