



North Roscommon/North East Galway CDNT 9 Information Pack

North Roscommon/North East Galway Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT 9)



This pack will introduce the service and answer frequently asked questions. If you can't find an answer in this booklet, please call or email reception on 090-6666100/094-9625580 cdnt9.chw@hse.ie

Purpose of this booklet

This booklet is to provide information about

1. how the team works
2. what the service looks like
3. supports and services available to families

The aim of this booklet is to provide information about supports and services available to families, including what a journey through the children's disability team might look like. This booklet also enables families to choose when to seek out certain information and move at their own pace.

Children's therapy services have changed over the years based on research evidence and family input. This means services may look different to what families might expect. This booklet will provide consistent, up-to-date and evidenced-based information about how services are currently provided.

This booklet is periodically reviewed and we will continue to improve the booklet in response to your feedback, therefore, let us know what you think...



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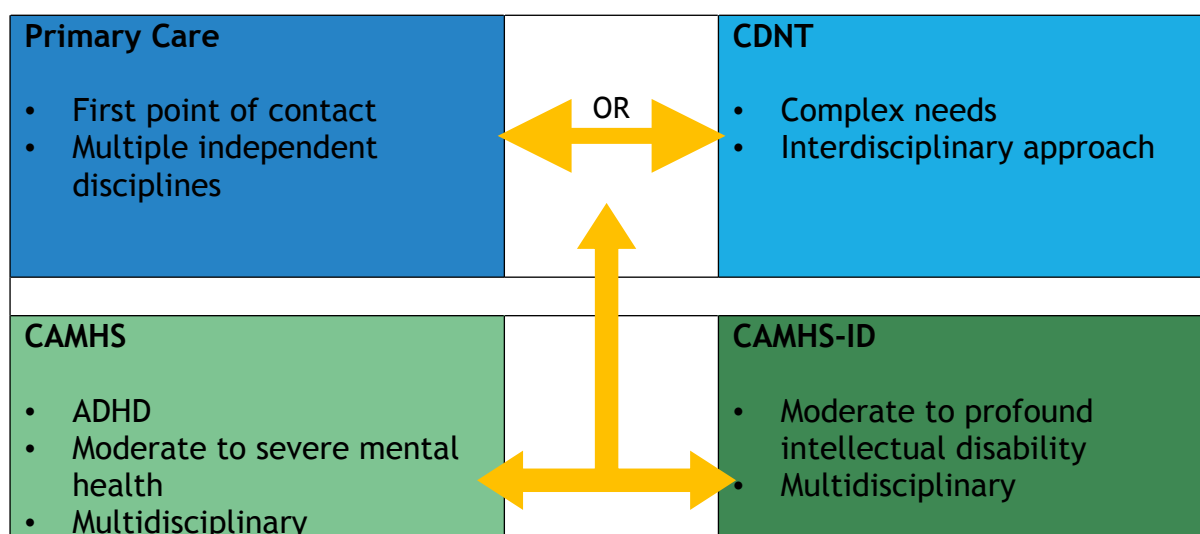
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Getting to know each other...

How Children's services work:

This section explains the differences between Primary Care services, Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS/CAMHS-ID). There are various protocols and forums which assist joint working across CAMHS/CAMHS-ID, Primary Care and CDNTs. Children may move between services (e.g., between primary care and CDNT) or be supported by complementary services (e.g., CDNT and CAMHS). **Children cannot access primary care and CDNT at the same time.** If you are accepted to one you are discharged from the other.



Primary Care

Primary Care services are usually the first point of contact when a parent or guardian is worried about their child's development. Many children with delays in their development can have their needs met by their local Primary Care services.

Primary Care services include Public Health Nursing, Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Work and Community Health Doctors.

Primary Care services work as **multidisciplinary** teams. They are made up of different disciplines and each team member will independently treat the child focusing on the area they specialise in, for example, speech and language therapy or occupational therapy.

The teams will have agreed policies and procedures for working together and for communication. They will work with the family and child to meet their identified

needs using individual discipline care and support plans. When working together, they use a joint care and support plan.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)

CDNTs address the needs of children with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability and autism.

CDNTs typically include the following on their team: Occupational therapists (OTs), psychologists, physiotherapists (physios), social workers and speech and language therapists (SLTs). CDNTs may also have access to: behaviour support specialists, clinical nurse specialists (CNS), dietitians, and therapy assistants.

They work within an **interdisciplinary** framework. This means that they work together and share information, decision-making and goal-setting. They have common policies and procedures and frequent opportunities for communication. They work with the family and child, all of whom are seen as part of the team. Together, they create a joint care and support plan.

A child's access to CDNT services will be based on their needs, so a diagnosis is not required to be referred to a CDNT.

CAMHS and CAMHS ID

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Intellectual Disability (CAMHS-ID)

CAMHS is available for all young people (up to the age of 18) who are experiencing mental health difficulties that affect their ability to function in day-to-day activities.

CAMHS-ID is a specialist mental health service for children and teenagers who have a moderate to profound intellectual disability and a moderate to severe mental disorder.

The CAMHS-ID team aims to complement the services provided by Primary Care, CDNTs, and community CAMHS.

Children and young people are usually supported by the CAMHS-ID team for a limited period of time. As the child's mental health improves, the CAMHS-ID team will discharge back to Primary Care and/or the CDNT with a recovery plan for staying well and how to access the team again if needed.

CAMHS-ID teams consist of **multidisciplinary** team members such as psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical nurse specialists, social workers, occupational therapists (OTs), speech and language therapists (SLTs) and administrators.

Vision for Children's Disability Services

All CDNT's work within the national programme Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People, also known as PDS. Our actions are informed by the roadmap for service improvement to align with the vision for children's disability services:

- Easy access to the services children need
- Fairness in providing services
- Families, health services and schools working together to support children in developing their potential

We work with our partner agencies (HSE, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity, Ability West).

The role of CDNT



The team supports a **child's** development, well-being and participation in family and community life.

It is the role of the CDNT to share knowledge, information and skills with **families** so that they will feel empowered to support their child's unique growth, learning, and participation in everyday activities.

The support and services provided by the team go beyond "therapy". Our aim is for every child/ young person to have a childhood of **inclusive experiences** where they can have fun, develop interests, and form relationships with others in every setting.



How do CDNTs work?

A Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) provides **specialised support and services** for children and young people, aged from birth to 18 years, who

1. Have a complex disability and/ or developmental delay and
2. Live in a named geographical area called a network.

Families at the centre of all services

As parents you know your child and family best. You will have the **biggest impact** on your child's development. Therefore, we aim to work with your family as active and **equal partners**. We will do this by building on your family's and child/ young person's strengths and interests, and supporting you and your child's skills and abilities. As your child matures, they will have increasing ability to advocate for themselves and direct what supports they require.



Along with your family, the team considers your **extended family and support network**. This can include siblings, grandparents, cousins, friends, community and other formal supports e.g. GP. The team will work together with your family network to ensure the best outcomes for your child and family.



We know that every family is **unique**. Team supports and services will be as responsive and flexible as possible to meet your family's needs. We may ask about your family's **culture, values and beliefs** because we want to be respectful and to know what is important to you.

Additional supports such as interpreters and/ or translation of information can be arranged. Please ask us if you would like either of these services so we can organise this in advance of visits/ appointments. Note that this is based on availability of external service providers.

We, as a team value your experience and opinion as a way to shape service delivery. The aim of the family forum is to afford families an opportunity to contribute. Your feedback is appreciated at any time.

Introducing CDNT 9 (North Roscommon-North East Galway)

There are nine Children's Disability Network teams across counties Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon. The **North Roscommon-North East Galway** network area, also known as CDNT 9, is based in Curran Park, Roscommon and Knockroe House, Castlerea.

Team are responsible for the following:

Getting to know each other

- **working closely** with you and your family in identifying goals and developing strategies
- **coordinating** information, services and supports
- **sharing information, knowledge and skills** to enable you to make informed decisions and support your child
- acting as a **link** with the other members of the team and the people who spend the most time with your child, including preschool / school staff
- helping with the **transition** of your child to community groups, childcare, preschool, school or adult services.

Our team is supported by administrators. Clinical team members include clinical nurses, occupational therapy (OT), physiotherapy (PT), psychology (PSY), social work (SW), behaviour support (BSS), Dietetics, and speech & language therapy (SLT). Not all children will require access to all disciplines as children's needs vary. A description of their roles can be found in Appendix A.

Team members meet children, youths and their families in locations across the network including home, school and clinics. The team have access to clinical spaces in CDNT Building, Corraun Park, Roscommon and CDNT Building, Knockroe House Castlerea and some primary care centres in Co. Roscommon.

Getting to know each other



Knockroe House

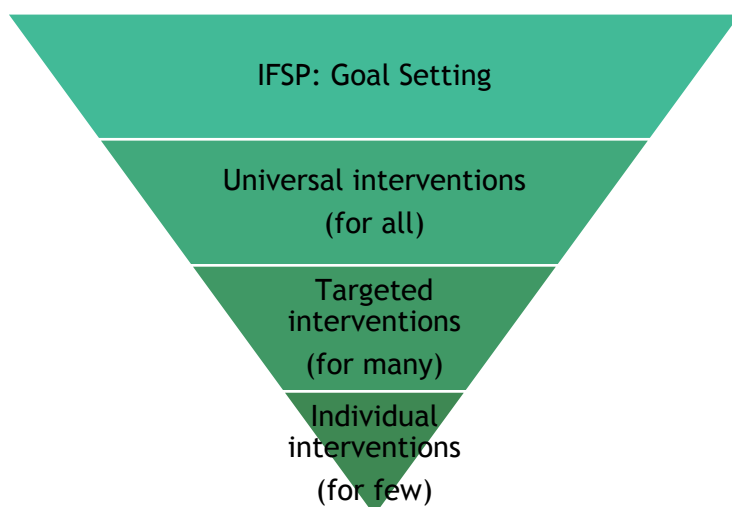


Corraun Park

Stepped Care Approach

The purpose of the CDNT is to empower families to support children with special needs. In line with the Progressing Disability Service delivery model, your engagement with the team will follow a stepped care process starting at the top of this diagram.

IFSP: Goal Setting	This is a goal setting discussion to understand your current needs and priorities. It can be a phone call or in person discussion. The IFSP is described in more detail on the following page.
Universal interventions (for all)	Your clinician will provide your family or those working with your child with handouts and/or online material to give you initial strategies to try at home/school.
Targeted interventions (for many)	Your clinician will consider your identified goals and recommend suitable targeted learning interventions. Targeted interventions are the main way that the team provide services to families accessing the CDNT 9 team. We provide group and workshop interventions to support transitions, wellbeing, daily life,



	communication, physical disability, gross motor functioning, and autism. Targeted interventions are described in more detail in Appendix C.
Individual interventions (for few)	Based on clinical prioritisation guidelines of risk and where families have applied learning from universal and targeted interventions, but the goal has not been met; individual interventions may be required. Support can be provided via the child, parents or teachers.

IFSP - Goal Setting Discussions

CDNT 9 aims for every family on the team to have an **Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)** where their goals are written down. The team will support you to come up with a plan for supporting the goals in your IFSP which will **fit in with your everyday life** and so work best for your situation. Your family goals may focus on things like:



- **Your life and family experience** (e.g. eating breakfast in the morning, going to the supermarket, visiting grandparents, being able to go for a walk outdoors, going to the cinema)
- **Your child's developmental and learning needs** (e.g. for your child to roll or crawl, for your child to communicate what they want, for your child to develop friendships and navigate relationships)

Getting to know each other

- **Your health and wellbeing** (e.g. to find some time for yourself, to return to education, to get better quality sleep, to learn English, to re-establish or maintain important social networks)
- **Your child's health and wellbeing** (e.g. to help your child to cope with change, toilet training, for your child to learn about themselves and their strengths)
- **Your child's inclusion in community settings** (e.g. to play/hang out with a friend, to decide on the best education setting for your child/young person, to join a club/sport, to prepare for college/ adult education)

Reviewing Goals

These goals are reviewed annually (resource and need dependent) to see what's going well, what has worked or not worked for your family, and what's most important for your family at this time.



When reviewing goals, it is important to remember that big goals can be achieved through success with lots of smaller goals. Some goals will be achieved quickly. Other goals take patience and may take longer for your child to achieve.

Getting to know each other

The first solution or strategy doesn't always go as planned. Everything you try will provide more information and help us to learn, adapt, and come up with a plan that works best for you and your family. **Consistent application** of strategies over time usually provide positive outcomes.

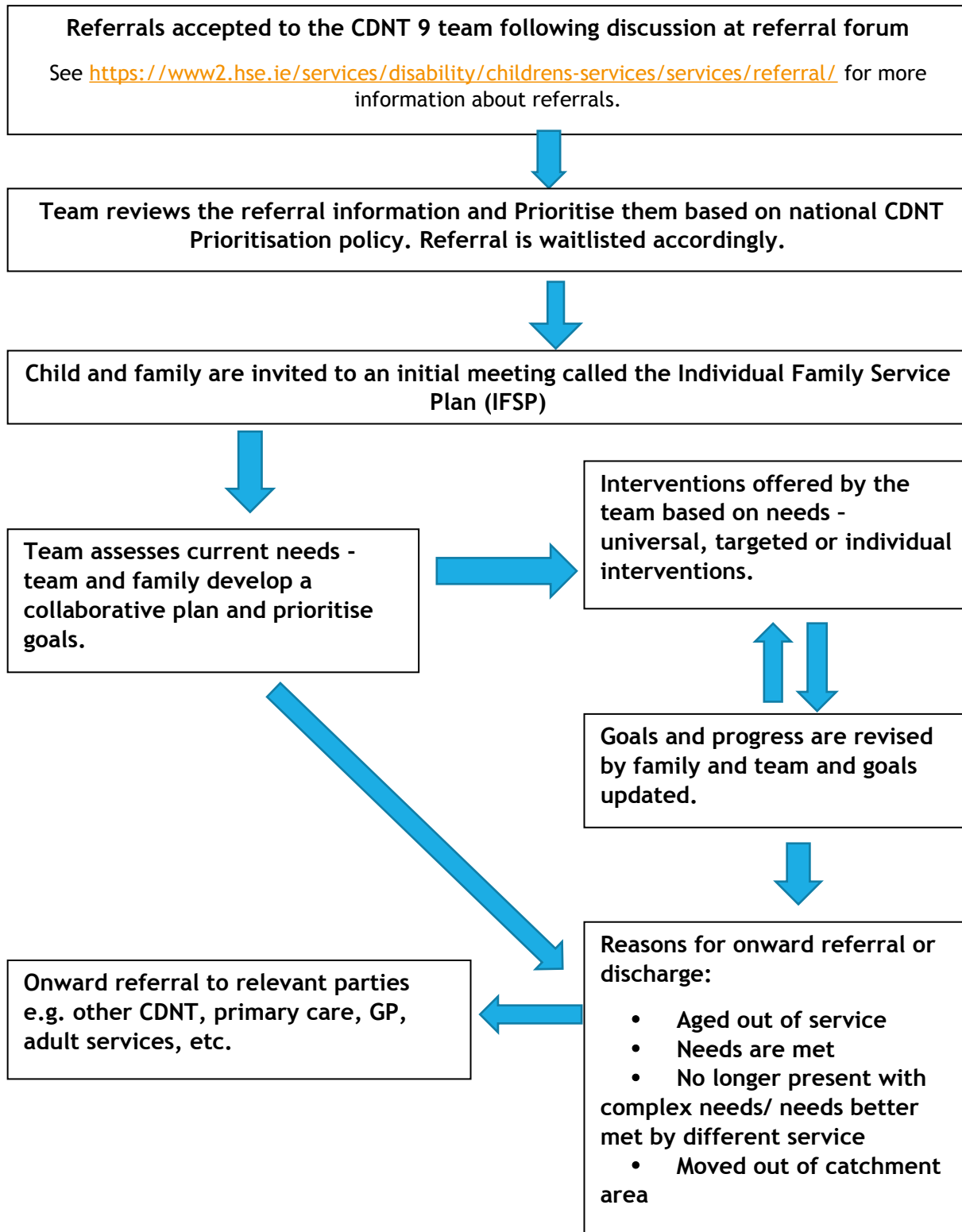


While with the team, there will be an ebb and flow of clinician involvement. To facilitate skill acquisition and support your child's development, clinician involvement will not be intensive on an ongoing basis. Rather, there will be periods where you are learning strategies and linked closely with the team. At other times, the team will provide you with opportunities to apply these skills in your everyday life and for your child to learn more independence.



What to expect...

A journey through the CDNT 9



Your child in their environment

The team will support your child to take part in a meaningful way in their daily life at **home**, at **preschool or school**, and in the **community**.

We will **work together** with preschool staff, teachers, and other service providers to build an **inclusive routine and setting**. The team will help plan transitions to preschool, school and adult services with you including helping you to access specialist supports and resources if required.



Some of the supports available in preschool and school settings are included in Appendix B.

...use the everyday to develop skills you are working on...

Your child learns through **everyday experiences** with familiar people and activities they are interested in. Your daily family routine and everyday activities are a perfect **opportunity** for your child to **practice and build their skills with your support**. The team will be asking you about you and your family's daily routine to build on what's happening now.



Building everyone's knowledge & skills

Your family, along with other important people in your child's life such as childcare staff, spend the most time with your child.

Building your knowledge, skills and confidence will have the **biggest impact** on your child's learning and development.

For families this means:

All team members will start by finding out **what you already know, what you have tried that works, and then working with you to achieve your family goals.**

They will use **coaching** (where they will talk you through the situation giving you suggestions in the moment) and **modelling**

(e.g. showing you a specific strategy) to enable you to build your skills. Our team will do this through phone calls, home and community visits, or in group interventions.

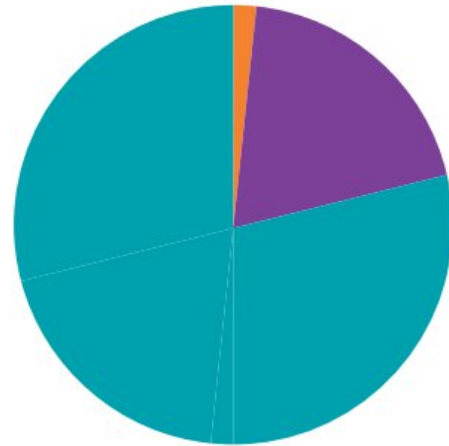
Parent information and education groups run by the team are a chance to learn (e.g. toileting or communication) as well as **share skills and connect with other parents.**

For preschool staff, school staff, and community partners this means:

Your team will use **coaching, collaboration, and consultation** to help staff in supporting the inclusion of your child at crèche, preschool, or school. This can happen on a **1:1 basis**, through phone calls, in person visits, and on a **group basis** through workshops and group sessions.

All relevant people supporting your child will be involved in **looking at issues and learning opportunities throughout your child's day.** In this way, we identify a plan that works for everyone and which will have the best outcomes for your child.

Who has the greatest impact on a child's development?

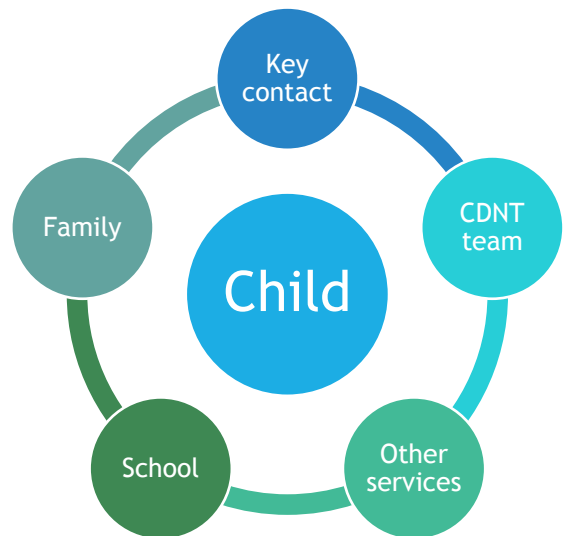


■ Family ■ Child Care ■ Therapy
hours (up to 10 hours sleep per night), 20 hours in child care/preschool and 1 hour of therapy

Team around your child

Intervention has been shown to work best for children when everyone **works together as a team around your child**.

CDNT 9 aims to provide a **key contact** to all children on the caseload. A key contact is your family's **main point of contact** and liaison with the team. Key contacts can be from any discipline. The team prioritises the allocation of a key contact to every family based on resourcing. This means you may have a key contact but wait to see another team member i.e. psychologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker, social care worker, community nurse.



It is essential that families **make contact and notify the team about relevant changes in the child's needs**. At this time key contacts do not have capacity to make periodic follow up calls.

Waitlists and Prioritisation

The team applies national prioritisation guidelines (which are periodically reviewed). Children are seen in date order of acceptance unless specific criteria apply. These are wide ranging. Some examples include:

- Risk to health and safety
- Placement breakdown (education or home)
- Equipment breakdown



Waiting times vary with many families waiting more than a year for services. In the meantime if you have any questions, concerns, or worries, please contact reception on

090-6666100/094-9625580 or **cdnt9.chw@hse.ie**.

Attendance & engagement policy

If you do not attend an appointment you are offered and you do not contact us to let us know, we will refer to our family engagement policy to manage missed appointments. You can access the family engagement policy by scanning the QR code.



Here is a summary of the policy and what we expect from our families:

National Policy for Children's Disability Network Teams
Family Engagement and Attendance

Family Leaflet

We know it can be difficult at times for you to take part in planned therapies/services for your child alongside the many other family demands, however we as a team we become concerned when you do not bring your child to appointments. We use the 'Managing Attendance and Family Engagement' Policy to support families to engage with our service. This is a summary of the policy.



Second Missed Appointment
(in a row)

A member of the team will phone you and try to find out about any difficulties you have in bringing your child to the appointment. If they cannot contact you by phone they will write to you with a new appointment date and time.

It is your responsibility to make contact with your child's team.

What Happens Next?

If you do not contact the team manager or miss a 4th appointment (in a row) we will **discharge your child from the service**.

You will get a discharge letter and a letter will be sent to your child's GP and other relevant agencies.

If there are concerns in relation to the welfare of the child, a referral will be made to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

01 First Missed Appointment

A member of the team will send you a text - informing you of a new appointment date and time.



02

03 Third Missed Appointment
(in a row)

If you have not made contact with the team, you will receive a letter from the team manager. The letter will ask you to make contact with the team **within two weeks**, if you want the service to continue.



04

It is your responsibility to make contact with your child's team.

National Policy for Children's Disability Network Teams Family Engagement and Attendance

What Can You Expect From Us?

- Treat you and your child with courtesy, respect and dignity, as we work with you to meet your child's needs.
- Provide a family centred service that meets your child's needs to the best of our abilities and resources.
- Keep you up to date with information about your child's needs.
- Where possible arrange appointments that best suit your family.
- Talk with you about recommendations, referrals or requests for support from other services or agencies.
- Implement best practice guidelines, and follow local, national and corporate policies as outlined by our employer.
- Ensure that your child's health, safety, and welfare concerns are first and foremost at all times.
- We are obliged by law to work with Tusla, The Child and Family Agency if there are concerns about the care and welfare of your child.

What do we expect from you?

- Inform the team if you change telephone number and/or address.
- To treat team members with courtesy and respect.
- To attend each of your child's appointments and follow local guidelines about attending appointments.
- If possible, make arrangements to have siblings looked after and only bring the child to their appointment.
- Arrive on time for your appointment.
- Let us know 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel or change the appointment.
- Cancel the appointment if your child is unwell - please adhere to local service guidelines.
- Be actively involved in your child's therapy.
- Treat other families you meet through the service with respect and confidentiality.
- If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact a member of your child's team or their key worker.

Appendices

Appendix A: Meet the team

Not all children will require access to all disciplines as children's needs vary.

Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM)
The team manager maintains an overview of the team and the service provided. They work with the team to make the most of resources available to meet the needs of families. They are the link between the team and the family forum, national groups and other departments locally including human resources, recruitment, health and safety and management.
The Admin Team
The main link between families and the team, they welcome families who come to the clinic and answer phone and email queries. They are also kept busy by administrative work generated by the team e.g. co-ordination of training, record keeping, taking minutes, filing etc.
The Clinical Team
Community Nurse Manager
Nurses who work on the Children's Disability Network Team 9 provide family-centered, evidence-based care to children (0-18) with complex needs, working as interdisciplinary team members to deliver specialist therapeutic assessments and interventions, manage care plans, and support families in line with the Progressing Disability Services (PDS) programme.
Social Worker
Social Workers offer practical and emotional support to help families find solutions to challenges that may arise. Solutions that are positive, inclusive and work for families. Understanding and supporting each family is central to social work. Every family is different with its own strengths and ways of coping. Social workers also work closely with community organisations to best meet the needs of children and their families. "We will work with you to find solutions for your child and your family".
Behaviour Support /Social Care Leader
Behaviour Support work with children, families, and schools where behaviours that challenge are impacting on quality of life. Behaviour Support works collaboratively to develop plans based on functional behaviour assessment, focusing the child's strengths, values and needs to support learning. We aim to teach adaptive skills that foster the child's independence, overall well-being and reduce behaviours that challenge.

Dietician
Dietitians are responsible for the nutritional management of individuals who are referred to their care. The Dietitian can help in the following ways: • The dietitian will assess the individual's nutritional needs taking into account diagnosis, medical history, bloods and medications. Dietitians can tailor advice depending on the individual's calorie, protein, fluid and micronutrient needs. • The use of oral nutritional supplements (ONS) and or Enteral tube feeding (ETF) should be supported by a dietitian. • The dietitian may also be able to help with symptoms such as bowel habits, stomach problems or sensitivities with certain foods. • The dietitian will also be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the nutritional plan based on changes for the individual. As part of the dietetic consultation the dietitian will also take measurements including weights, height/length to assess the individual's growth.
Occupational Therapist
The role of an occupational therapist in the children's disability network team is to support participation in meaningful activities and promote independence by developing functional skills through assessment, intervention, and collaboration with family and the multidisciplinary team.
Physiotherapist
Physiotherapy supports families to understand how • your child learns, plans, and uses movement • how this influences your child's overall development A physiotherapist will look at how your child moves and plays in different settings and work with you and your child to develop these skills. "We will provide your family with information and ideas on how to support your child's movement, with activities that can be easily incorporated into your family's daily routine".
Speech and Language Therapist
SLTs work with families to support their child's communication skills. They will share knowledge and skills to facilitate you to maximise your child's communication skills e.g. pre-verbal (e.g. waving bye-bye), early language skills (e.g. understanding words), speech sounds, and alternative communication approaches such (e.g. signs, pictures, or electronic devices). SLTs also support children with feeding, eating, drinking or swallowing (FEDS) difficulties.
Psychologist

Appendices

A psychologist helps support the emotional well-being and developmental needs of children and provide parenting support and training. The psychologist may assess your child's progress in the areas of learning, thinking, and problem solving, play and social skills and emotional and behavioural development. The psychologist may work with families to encourage positive behaviour and emotional skills, mental health, positive self-esteem and identity, and help inform and plan for educational placements if required.

Appendix B: School Transitions Support

Your developing child will access different school settings over time. The CDNT is committed to support you to access any required documentation to help your application to various placements. The documentation requirements vary based on placement requirements and may be available from CDNT, school, or NEPS depending on the situation. In very specific circumstances, e.g., access to special school, a cognitive assessment may be indicated.

Preschool &
early
intervention

Attending
school

Reluctant
attenders

School
leavers

Preschool & Early Intervention

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE Programme):

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme provides early childhood care and education for children of preschool age. The programme is offered in early years settings (preschools, Montessori's, crèches, playgroups) for 3 hours a day, 5 days a week, 38 weeks of the year. All children are entitled to 2 full academic years on the ECCE programme.

More information available at: <https://www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/childcare-search/the-ecce-scheme/>

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM):

This is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the ECCE programme. AIM is a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, based on the needs of the child and the preschool service (e.g. sharing information with staff to access to a piece of specialised equipment or a reduced ratio of children to adults in the room). More information available at: <https://aim.gov.ie/>

Early Intervention Classes, Department of Education & Skills:

Early intervention classes are available for children aged 3-5 years with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These classes are intended to provide early support for children with ASD before they start school. This does not mean that the child will be required to attend a special class once they move on to school. Transport is available to your nearest Early Intervention class. More information

available at: https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Pamphlet-3-Autism-01_09_14.pdf

Other more specialised preschool placement options:

Both Children's Language Development Preschool (CLDP) Athenry, at <http://www.cldp.ie/> and the Therapeutic Learning Centre (TLC), Ballinasloe at <https://ballinasloesocialservices.ie/therapeutic-learning-centre/> provide additional preschool supports in East Galway.

A home tuition grant scheme for children aged between 3 and 4 years of age with a diagnosis of ASD can be applied for when a placement in an Early Intervention setting is not available.

Home tuition is also provided for children with ASD aged between 2 ½ and 3 years of age as they cannot enrol in school. More information available at: www.education.ie or link to ncse.ie as shown above. See below in *Educational Supports & Services* for links and further info.

School Level Supports

Children can attend their local mainstream primary and/or secondary school. Depending on their learning needs, children in our service may benefit from various types of supports at different levels of intensity within the school environment. Parents are advised to start planning and preparing for school transitions 2-3 years in advance.

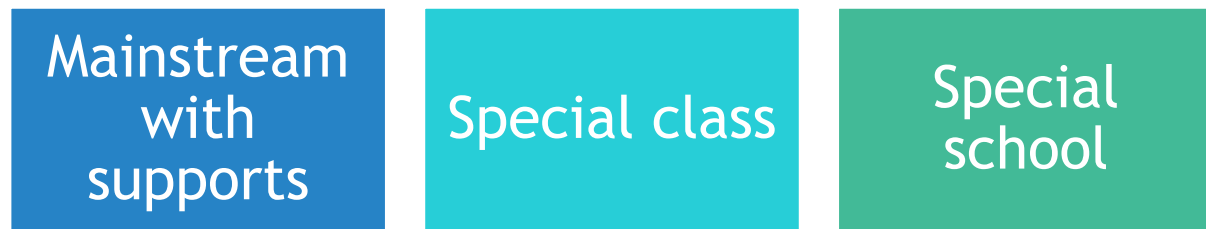
In class and learning support:

- A **Special Needs Assistant (SNA)** is a person who supports your child with their practical care needs, e.g., PEG feeding, toileting, sensory breaks, movement breaks, mobility needs
- **Special Education Teaching (SET)** refers to differentiation that takes place with regards to your child's curriculum to best support their learning needs, e.g., learning to navigate the school property, selecting appropriate resources from their locker for class, small group learning activities



**BEST EXPLORED
WITH YOUR SENO**

Level of specialist support available:



- **Mainstream with supports** refers to a child who is in a mainstream class with access to some support when needed.
- **Special classes** are available at some mainstream schools. These classes have approximately 6 pupils with a teacher and 2 special needs assistants (SNA's). There are two types of special classes available to children who fulfil certain criteria:
 - The autism class is for children who have diagnosis of **autism with "complex learning needs"**. The hope is always integration - if the child succeeds in mainstream integration with supports, the ASD class place will be made available to somebody with more complex needs. These classes usually have 6 children.
 - Children with a diagnosis of **moderate intellectual disability** (also known as moderate generalised learning difficulty) may apply to access a special class of 8 children with similar needs.
- **Special schools** offer smaller classes to children with specific learning profiles. Local special schools include **St Michael's** (for moderate to profound intellectual disability).

All of these supports are well described by the National Counsel of Special Education (NCSE).

The National Counsel of Special Education

The NCSE service is delivered through a national network of **Special Education Needs Organisers (SENOS)** who interact with parents and schools and liaise with the HSE in providing resources to support children with special educational needs. Once a year, local SENOs collaborate with CDNT to do an information session advising families about school supports.

Contact the NCSE directly via their website (<https://ncse.ie/>), or identify the SENO assigned to your child's school by speaking to your school principal or checking online: <https://ncse.ie/seno-contact-information#WestTeam1>

Below is a link to a useful information booklet for parents on all of the school supports available: <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Web-Ready-03178-NCSE-Children-SEN-InfoBook-Parents2-Proof17-VISUAL-ONLY.pdf>

The NCSE has published a **Support Pack for Children and Young People with Additional Needs** available on their website (<https://ncse.ie/promoting-positive->

Appendices

[behaviour-and-learning](#)). This resource is a series of 7 online booklets, originally developed for parents will also support teachers who are implementing a home-based Summer Programme. The behaviour support pack aims to develop an understanding of behaviours of concern. The pack outlines:

- some of the reasons why a child or young person might be displaying behaviours of concern
- offers some useful strategies on how to prevent this behaviour(s) and
- gives guidelines on how to de-escalate behaviour when it reaches crisis levels.

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)

NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools and are concerned with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools.

NEPS psychologists work in partnership with teachers, parents and children in identifying educational needs. They offer a range of services aimed at meeting these needs, for example; supporting individual students (through consultation and assessment), special projects and research.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/5ef45c-neps/>

Visiting Teachers

Visiting teachers are qualified teachers with particular skills and knowledge of the development and education of children with varying degrees of hearing loss and/or visual impairment. They offer longitudinal support to children, their families and schools from the time of referral through to the end of post-primary education.

<https://ncse.ie/visiting-teacher-support#:~:text=Visiting%20teachers%20are%20qualified%20teachers,loss%20and%2F or%20visual%20impairment>

Home tuition, Department of Education & Skills:

The purpose of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme is to provide funding towards the provision of a compensatory educational service for:

- Early educational intervention for children with autism who meet the scheme's eligibility criteria
- Students with special educational needs seeking an educational placement in a recognised school
- Students, enrolled in schools, with a significant medical condition, or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause, major disruption to their attendance at school.

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<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/67f37-home-tuition-grant-scheme-20232024-special-education-component/>

Summer Programme Department of Education & Skills

The summer programme is for students with complex special educational needs and those at risk of educational disadvantage. More information is available at <http://www.gov.ie/summerprovision>

Where a child's school is not running a school-based programme, parents can contact the Department of Education via email at schoolsummerprogramme@education.gov.ie expressing their interest for their child to participate on a school-based programme. If a place becomes available in another location, the child's participation in a programme may be organised.

School Avoidance

Some children find it difficult to remain engaged in the traditional education model. This can be a very stressful time for families and young people. Here are some supports that are available. As this is not a comprehensive list, it is important to link in with your local school, CDNT, and educational welfare officer (EWO). NEPS can also provide consultation to the school with useful strategies to support the young person to attend school.

Educational Welfare Officer

Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) are based throughout the country to offer advice and guidance to parents who need support in ensuring that their child attends schools regularly. More information is available online at <https://www.tusla.ie/tess/information-for-parents-and-guardians-tess/education-welfare-service/how-does-the-educational-welfare-service-work/>

iScoil

iScoil is a non-profit online learning service that offers young people a pathway to learning, accreditation and progression. They provide a safe learning environment where young people can re-engage with education, achieve recognised QQI certification and access further education, training and employment opportunities. <https://iscoil.ie/>

Clare School Avoidance Toolkit

This comprehensive toolkit details the roles of those involved in the Students support network and provides guidance and strategies for all involved. This booklet

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has plenty of information (which may be overwhelming!) Appendix A has worksheets that will provide an insight into the child's perspective, which supports the development of a child centred plan.

<https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Clare%20CYPSC/uploads/ClareSAT-Final-November%202021%20web.pdf>

Meath Emotionally Based School Avoidance Resource Pack

This pack offers information on navigating the system (who to contact and when) as well as guidance & support to students, parents/guardians/carers and teachers.

<https://enableireland.ie/sites/default/files/publication/Meath%20Emotionally%20Based%20School%20Avoidance%20Pack%20Final%20PDF%20Version%20Jan%202023.pdf>

Anxiety Based School Avoidance: Middletown Resource

This toolkit is reader friendly, with brief explanations and some simple approach strategies.

https://www.middletownautism.com/files/shares/Resources/Tues_27_Sept_Resource_Pack_STRIVE_NI.pdf

Supporting your child when they are reluctant to attend school

This information pack is developed by the department of Education and National Educational Psychology Service. They provide specific strategies for parents and guardians of primary and post-primary school children.

- Primary school: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/288298/53dfb4e4-45b4-4819-a6c2-7bd3ad278584.pdf>
- Post primary school: <https://assets.gov.ie/288299/1e79fd0d-73bd-4dc9-9324-bcc553839bfc.pdf>

Post School Options for Young People with a Disability

Your Career Guidance/Teacher may support you and your child to think about post school options. HSE Occupational Guidance Service helps people with a disability to find a training option or support service that is suited to their needs. People can avail of:

- HSE Rehabilitative Training Programme or
- HSE Day Service or
- Mainstream Education/Training

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Referrals should be made to the HSE at least 13 months in advance of leaving school. Students can be referred from the age of 16 for future planning purposes.

Referrals can be made by Parents/Guardians, Schools/ CDNT Key contact.

Appendix C: Targeted interventions

The following interventions are examples of workshops and groups which may be run throughout the year based on resourcing and needs of the children on the caseload. For reference, we have grouped these interventions by theme.

- Transitions
- Wellbeing
- Daily life
- Communication
- Gross motor
- Parenting education groups

Transitions

Transition to Primary School

This is an information session for parents of children who are transitioning to primary school. This session will provide information on various aspects of the transition process and provide practical advice and strategies to support your child's smooth transition to primary school. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session and you will be provided with a resource pack.

Daily Life

Toileting Workshop

Ran twice yearly, separate workshops for families and another for Preschools and Schools. The Workshop consists of a structured and practical programme, designed to help parents and professionals to support the child in acquire toileting skills. Follow-up for both workshops is offered via Toileting Clinics where additional supports may be provided.

Visual Support Workshop

Visual supports are a cornerstone for supporting neurodiverse children. This parents workshop will focus on what visual supports can be used for, how they fit into the child's environment and how to use them most effectively.

Assistive Technology & Handwriting Workshop

A workshop led by occupational therapists offering information on application process, a decision tree, and practical advice on tools and technology. The workshop will provide you with the knowledge, skills and materials needed to effectively teach handwriting. The session incorporates multisensory techniques and research-based methods to make handwriting a natural and automatic skill for children of all ages and abilities.

Communication

Lámh: Family Lámh Group

Provides information on “communication” and what Lámh signing is; teaches you a large number of Lámh signs; open for parents, grandparents, siblings, preschool and school staff and other important people in your child’s life.

Gestalt Language Processing Workshop

This is a parent training which focuses on gestalt language processing. This training typically consists of a 2 hour information session where an SLT will coach you through the strategies with your child present. The sessions focus on the following:

- What is Gestalt Language Processing (GLP) and how is it different from typical language development
- What are the different stages of autistic language development/ GLP
- How to figure out what stage of development your child is at
- How to support your child to communicate

Hanen: More than Words

A parent training programme which was designed specifically for parents of children with social communication difficulties and/ or ASD. This programme provides parents with the tools, strategies, and support they need to help their children reach their full communication potential. It is a combination of parent only group sessions and 1:1 parent coaching sessions.

Hanen: It Takes Two to Talk

A parent training programme designed especially for parents of young children (0-5 years) who have been identified as having a language delay. In a small, personalised group setting, parents learn practical strategies to help their children learn language naturally throughout their day together. It teaches you step-by-step how to become your child’s most important language teacher. You’ll discover simple things you can do during everyday activities like mealtime, story time and bath time to create enjoyable learning opportunities for your child.

Parent Education Groups

Parents Plus Special Needs Group

For parents and caregivers of children with special needs. This programme provides practical strategies to enhance your child’s learning, communication, and emotional well-being. Through interactive group sessions and personalized guidance, you’ll learn effective techniques for promoting positive behaviour, fostering positive relationships, and supporting your child’s development at home and in the community. The course also creates a supportive environment where parents can share experiences and build connections with others facing similar challenges.

‘EarlyBird’ Group - autism

Designed specifically for families of young Autistic children aged 6 and under. This course provides parents and caregivers with the knowledge, strategies, and support needed to foster their child's development and communication skills. Through a combination of group sessions and individual home visits, participants will learn about the nature of Autism, practical techniques to enhance interaction and play, and methods to support your child's positive behaviour. The programme also emphasizes the importance of creating a structured and supportive home environment. Additionally, families will have the chance to connect with others on the same journey, sharing experiences and building a strong support network.

'EarlyBird Plus' Group - autism

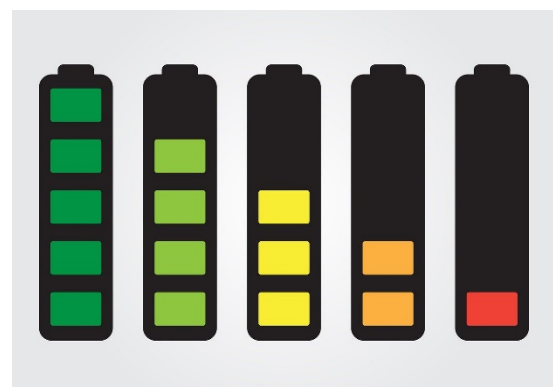
This is a specialized extension of the EarlyBird course designed for parents and caregivers of Autistic children aged 5-10. This advanced programme delves deeper into effective communication strategies, behaviour management, and social communication development. Through interactive group sessions and personalized support, participants will gain practical tools to address more complex challenges as their children grow. 'EarlyBird Plus' also fosters a collaborative environment, allowing families to share insights and strengthen their support network.

'TeenLife' Group - autism

A programme crafted for parents and caregivers of Autistic teenagers aged 10-16. This comprehensive course focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities during the teenage years, covering essential topics such as communication skills, social relationships, independence, and transition planning for adulthood. Through a blend of group workshops and individualized support, participants will learn practical strategies to help their teens navigate this critical stage of life. The 'TeenLife' programme also offers a platform for families to connect, share experiences, and build a supportive community.

Appendix D: Emotional supports

Research has shown that parents raising children with developmental or medical needs **often experience high levels of stress**. Parents often find it difficult to **make time for themselves** as their needs are sacrificed for the needs of others in their family.



It is very important to acknowledge the importance of finding time for yourself and to consider small ways you can support your wellbeing and **re-charge your**

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batteries or “fill your cup”. The phrase “*you can’t pour from an empty cup*” reminds us that we can’t offer what we don’t have. If our cup is empty, we can’t give to others.

Do not forget the impact that these difficulties are having on the whole family. Siblings, grandparents, and others can be emotionally impacted by the challenges facing your child. Here is a list of emotional supports available within the community.

For children

Barnardos offers a wide range of services for children, families and communities. www.barnardos.ie (01) 454 9699	Jigsaw supports young people (aged 12-25) with their mental health. https://jigsaw.ie/ (091) 549 252 galway@jigsaw.ie
Youth Work Ireland supports young people (aged 10 - 22) with mental health supports, anxiety programmes, drug and alcohol supports, and LGBT+ youth work, club development, employability programmes, autism, and counselling services. Services based in Tuam, Athenry and Loughrea. https://www.youthworkireland.ie/ (091) 561 637 https://www.facebook.com/youthworkirelandgalway/	

For families/adults

Aware offers services for people affected by depression including a confidential phone line. www.aware.ie 1800 80 48 48	Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) , HSE provides up to 8 counselling sessions with a professionally qualified and accredited Counsellor/Therapist. It is a service for medical card holders, who are 18 years of age or over.
Family Resource Centre Programme www.familyresource.ie	Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy https://iacp.ie/page
One Family (Ireland) supports one parent families through training, education and a confidential helpline. www.onefamily.ie (01) 662 9212 or 1890 662 212 info@onefamily.ie	Parentline is confidential helpline for parents under stress or who are worried about any aspect of their parenting. www.parentline.ie (01) 873 3500 or 1890 927 277 info@parentline.ie

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Pieta House provides a free, therapeutic approach to people who engage in self-harm. They also offer a free phone number for anyone who is in distress. www.pieta.ie 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444	Rollercoaster is an online resource which provides practical advice on the challenges facing parents. www.rollercoaster.ie
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Appendix E: Financial entitlements

Families have told us of the importance in sharing information about financial benefits and entitlements. This information is useful to support families with looking at the different **options** available to them and making an **informed decision about what will work for them as a family**. This list provides an overview of some entitlements you may be eligible for. **Those that are means tested are indicated with a ***. If you want to discuss any of these then please contact the CDNT team.



Free Nappy Scheme:

This scheme provides nappies free of charge to children who have a disability and are 3 years of age or older. The scheme is overseen by your local health centre in conjunction with your local Public Health Nurse (PHN). Please contact your local PHN if you think you are eligible for this scheme.

Further information on all of these benefits and entitlements are available online from the Citizen's Information website at www.citizensinformation.ie and www.revenue.ie.



Citizen's Information provides information

Domiciliary Care Allowance

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a monthly payment for a child aged under 16 with a severe disability, who requires ongoing care and attention, substantially over and above the care and attention usually required by a child of the same age. It is not means tested. There is a webinar available from the team to guide you through the application process. Contact reception for more information.

*Carer's Allowance**

Carer's Allowance is a payment to people on low incomes who are looking after a person who needs support because of age, disability or illness. If you qualify for Carer's Allowance you may also qualify for free household benefits and a Free Travel Pass.

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/carers/carers_allowance.html

Household Benefits Package*

If you are receiving the Carer's Allowance (full or half-rate payment) and are living with the person you are caring for, you are eligible for the Household Benefits Package. This helps with the cost of your electricity or gas bill and your TV licence. More information is available at:

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social-welfare/social-welfare-payments/extra-social-welfare-benefits/household-benefits-package/#e8ca54>

Carer's Benefit

Carer's Benefit is a payment made to insured people who leave the workforce to care for a person(s) in need of full-time care and attention. If you get Carer's Benefit, you are eligible for a GP visit card.

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/carers/carers_benefit.html

Respite care grant or Carer's Support Grant

The Carer's Support Grant is an annual payment made to carers by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. It was formerly called the Respite Care Grant. It is paid on the first Thursday in June of each year. More information available at:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/carers/carers_benefit.html

Carer's Leave

Your right to carer's leave from employment complements the Carer's Benefit Scheme. Carer's leave allows you to leave your employment temporarily for up to 104 weeks to provide full-time care for people in need of full-time care and attention. The leave is unpaid but people who take carer's leave have their jobs kept open for the duration of the leave. You do not have to be eligible for Carer's Benefit to get carer's leave. More information at:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/carers/carers_benefit.html

Incapacitated Child Tax Allowance

You can claim an Incapacitated Child Tax Credit if you are the parent or guardian of a child/ young person who has a disability.

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Homemaker's Scheme

If you have given up work to provide full-time care for your child then you can claim credits towards your PRSI. In this way, years spent out of the workforce while caring for your child are credited with credits awarded at the same rate as your last paid PRSI contribution.

*Housing Adaptation Grant**

A housing adaptation grant is available from your local council if you need to make changes to a home to make it more suitable for a child with a physical, sensory, or intellectual disability.

*Mobility Aids Grant Scheme**

The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is means-tested and provides grants for works designed to address mobility problems in the home such as installation of a level access shower, ramps to access the home, or a downstairs toilet.

Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme

This provides a range of tax reliefs linked to the purchase and use of a specially adapted vehicle for your child. Under the scheme, you can claim for remission or repayment of vehicle registration tax (VRT), or VAT on the purchase of the vehicle or cost of adapting a vehicle. If you avail of this scheme, you may get additional exemptions/ benefits including an exemption from motor tax, toll road fees, or a fuel grant.

Revenue provides information:

VAT Refunds on Aids and Appliances used by People with Disabilities

You may get a refund of VAT on certain special aids and appliances that you need for your child or items recommended by professionals or which are necessary to support your child at home.



Medical Expenses

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You can reclaim some of the medical expenses you and your family incur. You generally receive tax relief for health expenses at your standard rate of tax (20%). If your child has additional needs, you may claim additional tax relief on professional fees, hygiene products, excessive hospital travel and overnight accommodation.

Home Carer's Tax Credit

You can claim this tax credit if you are married or in a civil partnership, and one of you is a stay-at-home parent to care for your child. You can only claim one credit regardless of the number of people you care for.

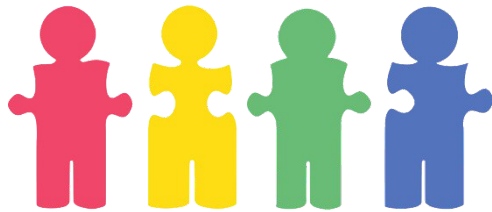
Local Property Tax Relief

If you have completed adaptation works on your home to make it more suitable for your child, you may be eligible for a reduction in your local property tax if the works resulted in an increase on the value of your home.

Appendix F: Community supports

Community groups can be both a practical and/ or emotional support for families. They can provide **opportunities to connect** with other families who are on a similar journey.

There are many organisations and groups which **provide information and advice** to parents and families. This can include general information and/or advice, for example information on children's therapy services or more specific information and/or advice, for example a parent group for children with autism. We have included some links and contact details of community groups and organisations.



General

- Citizens Information website at <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/>



- Accessible Parking -

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/disabled-parking-information>

- Family Carer's Ireland - providing support for those caring for loved ones at home - details at <https://familycarers.ie/> or Tel: 093 30060



- Financial Wellbeing: provides valuable information to support you in setting up a special needs trust to ensure long term financial provision for your child.

<https://www.financialwellbeing.ie/>

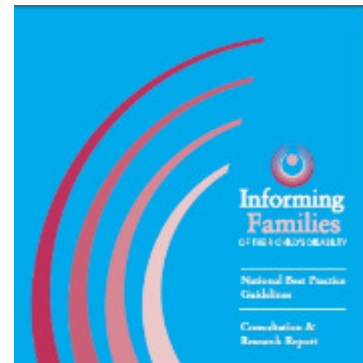


- Inclusion Ireland at <http://www.inclusionireland.ie/> which is a national association for people with an intellectual disability promoting advocacy for people with an intellectual disability.



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- **Informing Families** at <http://www.informingfamilies.ie/> - independent information for families where they have concerns that their child has a developmental delay and/ or disability.
- **My Child HSE** - website with information for parents <https://www2.hse.ie/my-child>



Expert advice from the HSE
My Child

mychild.ie

- **Progressing Disabilities for Children and Young People** website at <https://www.hse.ie/progressingdisabilityservices/>

- **AIRC Midlands:** Supporting families with additional needs. For more information visit our website: <https://www.aircmidlands.com/> or join us on Facebook.



- **FUSS** stands for Families Unite for Services and Support. They aim to fight for timely access to children's disability services in Ireland. <https://www.fussireland.com/>. Also on Instagram and Facebook.



- **Open Up** is your complete guide to youth and family services in Laois and Offaly. Whether you're a young person, parent or friend, teacher or professional, this website may be of use to you. It contains a full directory of all the services available to you in the two counties, if you or someone you know is in need of help or support. <https://open-up.ie/>



- **Parenting24seven** - key messages on what works best for children and families at different ages and stages. Parenting24seven is part of the [Supporting Parenting](#) project in Prevention Partnership and Family Support service within Tusla. You can choose your child's age range or look through our different articles. <https://www.tusla.ie/parenting-24-seven>

Community supports: Autism

- **As I Am** at <https://asiam.ie/> - national autism charity and advocacy organisation which has links to all local supports on main page: “Find Support in Your Local Area” at <https://asiam.ie/interactive-map/>



- **Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI)** - www.autismassistancedogsireland.ie



- **Irish Society for Autism** - www.autism.ie



- **P.A.L.S. Autism Support Group:** you can become a member by emailing an expression of interest to palsgroup20@gmail.com. There is a private WhatsApp group and two Facebook pages (one public and one private) with up-to-date events and support. Most events are set to private and so can be accessed after joining the group <https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/pals-autism-support-group-61185510323>. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/803421997489870/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1404662353044374/> - private.



- **Galway Autism Partnership (GAP)** has information on supports they provide locally <https://galwayautismpartnership.com/>



- **Middletown Centre for Autism** was established by the Dept. of Education and Skills in Ireland and Dept. of Education in Northern Ireland to support the promotion of excellence in the education of children and young people with ASD. <https://www.middletownautism.com/>



Community Supports A-Z:

ADHD  ADHD SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ACCEPTANCE IRELAND Ireland	Angelman Syndrome Ireland
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https://adhdireland.ie/	http:// www.angelman.ie/ 
CanChild For children, families, young people and adults with cerebral palsy and developmental coordination disorder www.canchild.ca 	Down Syndrome Ireland https://downsyndrome.ie/ <u>Roscommon branch:</u> Contact Person: Tommy Mulry 087 2283793 New parent link: Liz Mulry 087 6472140  
Dyspraxia DCD Ireland Parent support groups in Galway https://www.dyspraxia.ie 	Epilepsy Ireland https://www.epilepsy.ie 
Foróige Supporting young people to get involved in their community www.foroige.ie https://www.facebook.com/ForoigeEastGalway/ Roscommon - 086 1927301 	Rare Diseases Ireland (Genetics and Rare Disorders Organisation) https://rdi.ie/ 
Hand in Hand Loughrea based supports for families affected by childhood cancer www.handinhandcharity.ie 	Irish Fragile X Society http://fragilexireland.org 
Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Includes sport page https://iwasport.com/ 	Jack & Jill Foundation Advocacy and an in-home nursing service to help children and their families under 5 years who have a significant neurodevelopmental delay involving severe learning difficulties https://www.jackandjill.ie/

	
Lámh https://www.lamh.org/ 	Muscular Dystrophy Ireland. https://www.mdi.ie 
Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Ireland (PWSAI) https://pwsai.ie/ 	Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Ireland (SPHI) https://www.sbhi.ie/ 

Childcare & me app:

Roscommon CCC and Tusla Roscommon are delighted to have launched the Childcare & Me app. This app has a national reach into each county across Ireland and is available in three languages: English, Arabic and Ukrainian. The app was developed by Roscommon CCC and funded by Tusla Roscommon and DCEDIY (Ukrainian Supports).

The app is a one stop shop of information on Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Aged Childcare (SAC) and Family supports available throughout the Country. The unique feature of this app is that no matter where you are based throughout Ireland, the app will signpost you to your nearest ELC/SAC service, local County Childcare Committee, Family Resource Centre and Local Authority.

More information available here: [Childcare & Me App - Roscommon Childcare Committee](#)

You can download the app on all app stores.

- Google Play Store: [Childcare&me - Apps on Google Play](#)
- Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/in/app/childcare-me/id1529556802>

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- Link to early years providers in Co. Roscommon:
<https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/childcare-search/>
- Roscommon County Childcare:
<https://roscommonchildcare.ie/>

Family Resource Centres

Ballaghaderreen - 086 6048560

Boyle - 071 9663000

Castlerea - 086 4615537

South Roscommon - 090 6628621

Vita House, Monksland - 089 4960519

Parenting Support Information

Roscommon Parenting Hub - 087 6214456

Family Support Drop In Clinic

- **Monday** Ballaghaderreen FRC
 - **Tuesday** Castlerea FRC
 - **Wednesday** Boyle FRC
 - **Thursday** South Roscommon FRC &
Vita House Outreach Centre, Monksland
-
- **Social Farming Ireland** - social farming provides people who use services with the opportunity for inclusion, to increase self-esteem and to improve health and well-being by taking part in day-to-day farm activities on a family farm. Placement blocks can run for 8-12 weeks. For further information or to find a farm near you, visit
<https://www.socialfarmingireland.ie/> or Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/SocialFarmingIreland/>
 - **Youthreach:** an organisation who provide education, training and work experience programmes for young people aged 16-20 years who have left school early. There are seven Youthreach centres across Galway and Roscommon. <https://gretb.ie/youth/youthreach/>
 - **Youthwork Ireland:** Support, empower and inspire young people to reach their full potential in a manner which is non-judgmental, welcoming, and open, in a safe and supportive environment. Visit
<https://www.youthworkireland.ie/> to find out about groups or Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/youthworkireland/>

Community Sports

- **Special Olympics Ireland** provide details on how to join local clubs <https://www.specialolympics.ie/>
- **Sports Ireland** provide details of Sports Inclusion Disability Officers in each area. Details of inclusive camps and cycling events to be found on websites and social media.
<https://www.sportireland.ie/participation/local-sports-partnerships>.
- **Galway Sports Partnership** <http://www.galwayactive.ie/>
- **Judo Assist Ireland** at <http://specialneedsjudo.com/>
- **Galway Speeders:** Provide safe, fun and inclusive and accessible sports events for children and adults with physical disabilities. Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Galway-Speeders-100057593043951/> Email for further information: galwayspeeders@iwasport.com



- **Roscommon Gaels All-stars:**

Inclusive Team for children with additional needs to come together to play sport and have fun in an inclusive environment, age range from 5 years upwards. Children from all areas of the County are welcome. Parents are invited to stay and chat while their children are being supervised by Coaches and volunteers.

Contact Person: Tommy Mulry 087 2283793

Parents can link in with their local sport clubs to explore GAA for all (reported to be available in Athenry), soccer for all (reported to be available in Oranmore), and rugby for all (reported to be available in Tuam).

- **BUMBLEance**

BUMBLEance is the Children's Ambulance Service of Ireland. Traveling **half a million kilometres** each year across our **15 vehicles**, we provide safe and

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comfortable transportation for Ireland's youngest patients as they travel between their homes and hospitals, hospices, treatment centres and respite centres nationwide. At BUMBLEance, we know how stressful it is to transport a sick child, which is why we're with our families every step of the way.

<https://www.bumbleance.com/>

Vision and/or Hearing challenges

- Irish Guide Dogs National Headquarters and Training Centre at www.guidedogs.ie



- NCBI at <https://www.ncbi.ie/> who work for people with sight loss



- Féach at <http://www.feach.ie/> for kids with low or no vision



- The Anne Sullivan Centre for people who are deafblind at <https://www.annesullivan.ie/>



- Irish Deaf Society at <https://www.irishdeafsociety.ie/>



- Chime at <https://www.chime.ie/> a national charity for deafness and hearing loss



Respite



Respite is a break from caring for a family and includes:

- Community support (within the home or community)
- Home sharing
- Camps/Groups
- Centre based respite (evenings/ weekends/ overnights)

Respite services are provided by a number of providers external to the team. Our team will signpost you to a possible provider, to whom you will make an application. The team will provide a summary of support needs on request to accompany your application if required. Unfortunately, some children will be ineligible for any of the respite options listed.

If your child is already in receipt of respite and your needs are not being met, it is important to highlight your unmet need with your provider.

Due to limitations in service availability, it is beneficial to apply early. This further supports service development by illustrating the need for more services.

Name	Eligibility Criteria	Respite Options
		•
Enable Ireland	• Community after school activity and connections - supporting children from 10 to 18 years to access their local communities, foster independence, connect with peer groups and engage in activities of interest	
Brothers of Charity Respite Services Galway & Roscommon	• Intellectual Disability/Global Developmental Delay. • Does not attend Ability West School	• Social Groups • Self-directed funding • Home sharing • In home support • Centre based respite
St Hilda's Respite Athlone	• 5-18yrs with a disability • Historically addresses in Offaly, Westmeath & Roscommon. Will consider applications with Galway address.	• Centre Based Respite (Wed -Sun) evenings and overnights

Appendix G: Other therapies and supports

Ideally private therapies won't be required. Due to waitlists, families often attend other private therapies or appointments. If you do access private therapy it does not impact your listing or eligibility to access services from the CDNT. We ask that you let us know if your child is attending private therapies to ensure that we are all working together to **achieve better outcomes** for you and your child.

Our team is always happy to **link and work together** with other professionals involved with you, your child, and your family's life. With your permission, the team can share their knowledge and expertise with other professionals and take the opportunity to learn from the experience of others involved in your family life.



For families who wish to explore additional services for their children, it is important to know about CORU which is the health regulator for Health & Social Care Professionals in Ireland. Their role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration. You can ensure that a therapist has met these standards and is safe to practice in Ireland by checking the CORU register at <https://www.coru.ie/public-protection>

In addition to CORU, there are professional organisations which represent each area to ensure appropriate governance and practice standards. These professional bodies also hold details of private therapists available around the country. Further information is available at:

- Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland: <https://www.aoti.ie/>
- Irish Association of Social Workers: <https://www.iasw.ie/>
- Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists: <https://www.iaslt.ie/>
- Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists: <https://www.iscp.ie/>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland: <https://www.nmbi.ie/Home>
- The Psychological Society of Ireland: <https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie>
- Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute <https://www.indi.ie>