

Men in Childcare Network Ireland

Invites you to attend

“Reimagining Childhood Care & Education”

A celebration of Universal Children’s Day, and International Men’s Day.



When Saturday 19th November 2011

Where City West Hotel, Dublin

An invitation to our conference

The Men in Childcare Network (Irl) began in 2004. Since its inception, the network has explored ways of finding, bringing together and supporting the small number of men working in this important field.

We have been buoyed by the accomplishments of similar groups in other countries. The number of committed individuals and groups who share our conviction - that men can, do and will play a vital role in the care and education of young children – has been steadily growing, and now includes a huge number of our female colleagues, childcare services, the emerging Association of Childcare Professionals, Childcare Committees nationally, NVCO's and government departments.

At our international conference on November 19, 2011, at the City West Hotel Dublin, entitled *Re-imagining Childhood Care & Education*, The Men in Childcare Network (Irl) will offer a programme certain to be of interest to all parties in the early years care & education sector. We are extremely pleased to be offering our conference to coincide with International Children's Day and International Men's Day and will use the day as an opportunity to launch our second 3 year strategic plan.

Contributions from abroad will highlight how men have been facilitated to play important roles in the lives of young children in Norway. And another presentation will confront the vital issue of child protection, and highlight the need for effective screening of childcare candidates across Europe and throughout the world. Research from within Ireland will focus on the awareness and perception of the childcare sector towards males working in this career. The vital role of policy, and where MIC can fit into policy development will also be explored.

We very much hope you can join us on the day, when we will focus on the value of, and highlight the positive contribution that, men can make to childcare, in the context of the tremendous value that quality childhood care & education offers to children and their families.

Tim Moran, Walaroo Playschool Cork & MIC Network Irl

Speakers

Lauk Woltring

Lauk is the owner/director of 'Working with boys; Innovations, Advice and Training since 2000. He is the founder & member of Platform Boys in Balance' (2000), masterclasses, co-founder of Expertise Centre 'Boys' Talents' (2011), Trainer & Consultant Rock and Water/Gadaku Institute, Member EU-Hermes project on driver education, Member EU Drivers Education Expert Group and a Member EU Working Group on Men & Masculinities at European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, Lithuania). He has published various books in Dutch, Active in media, conferences, and advisory groups and has lectured on Youth Work and Social Work (1975-2006) www.laukwoltring.nl (bilingual: Dutch and English)

Andres Farstad

Anders is Manager in Hval Gard and Vepsebolet Kindergartens. He qualified as a Kindergarten teacher in 1977, and has further qualifications in Leadership and management. He was the Leader of a small Kindergarten - 18 Children, for 8 Years, Leader of Hval Gard og Vepsebolet barnehager, growing from 45 Children in 1989 - to 183 Children in a wide range of Kindergartens today. He worked systematically with branches of "pure" Naturekindergartens from 1996, Worked as leader of the Men in Childcare section in Asker commune and is currently National contact on the MIC in Europe network. Has spoke across Europe on the themes of Men in Childcare, Fathers role, and Nature-kindergartens.

Anders will co facilitate his talk/workshop with Helle Blakstad and Thomas Gulbrandsen, Helle is Leader of Landøya and Holmen barnehager with 144 children in the Asker kommune for 23 years. She has worked in kindergatens as a leader since 1975. She is qualified as Kindergarten-teacher, leading and management, coaching and pedagogy. She also works with children in distress and with special needs. Thomas graduated from Bergen university college in 2007 with the degree bachelor preschool teacher. He has worked as a pedagogue and department leader at Hval gård and Vepsebolet kindergarden for 3 years. Currently working part time with the MIC network in Norway/ Asker. Also active in the recruiting team of Asker Kommune.

Damian is a Masters Student of Applied Social Studies in Waterford Institute of Technology where he is concentrating his final year dissertation on the influence male role models can have upon children and in particular, the young boys of single parent families in Ireland. Damian completed his BA Early Childhood Studies degree in 2010 also from Waterford Institute of Technology where he went on to publish the findings of his final year thesis entitled "An exploration into the overall involvement of men in childcare in Ireland" in the OMEP Journal "An Leanbh Og". Damian is also a practitioner and continues to work in the Clonmel Community Resource Centre where he began his experience and is mainly employed within the pre-school classes.

Noirin Healy-Magwa

Noirin is Manager of Waterford City Childcare Committee since 2003. She has a number of years experience in teaching in Ireland and Southern Africa. She worked for three years with UNICEF in Zimbabwe where she had responsibility for the Early Childhood Programme within the Education Department. Since returning to Ireland Noirin worked in Community Development and Project Management, before joining the Waterford City Childcare Committee. Noirin has a particular interest in quality inclusive early childhood programmes and recognises the importance of supporting men to join the childcare profession. She has led the development of the national survey on Men in Childcare which was carried out with Childcare services and Training Organisations in 2011 with the support of Childcare Committees nationally.

Catherine Hynes

Catherine is a Principal Officer in the Department of Education and Skills with responsibility for Early Years Education Policy. In a unique inter-Departmental collaboration, her unit is co-located with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and works very closely with the Child Care Directorate. The implementation of the free pre-school year and with it the requirement that pre-school leaders should hold qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications was heavily influenced by the work done by the Early Years Education Policy Unit in developing a Workforce Plan for the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector. Catherine represents the interests of the Department of Education and Skills on committees such as the National Child Care Co-ordinating Committee, the National Childcare Advisory Council and the National Early Years Access Initiative.

Fergus Finlay

Since June 2005 Fergus has been Chief Executive of Barnardos, Ireland's largest children's charity. For twenty years prior to that he was employed as Senior Adviser to the Labour Party, serving in three Governments and working for the Party in opposition. He was one of the drafters of the Downing Street Declaration and was centrally involved in the election of President Mary Robinson in 1990, together with other political events of the period. Fergus is the author of three best-selling books. He has founded a number of organisations that campaign for the rights of people with disabilities, and also served a four-year term as Chairperson of Special Olympics Ireland. He is currently Chair of Volunteering Ireland. He broadcasts regularly on radio and television, and contributes a weekly column to the Irish Examiner.

Information

- 9 am - 9:45** Registration.
- 9:45 am - 10** Opening of conference and launch of MIC 3 year Strategic Plan by Fergus Finlay. Chief Executive of Barnardos.

Morning Session (Tm Moran Chair)

- 10:00 am - 10:30** Damien Walshe & Noirin Healy Magwa
Presenting the findings of the first national survey of MIC in Ireland.
- 10:30 am – 11** Andres Farstad “Why we need, and how to get, Men in Childcare!”
- 11 am – 11.25** Coffee & Tea.
- 11:30 am - 12** Lauk Woltring “Child Protection & Early Childcare: Getting the right men in and keeping the wrong men out”
- 12:00 pm - 12:30** Catherine Hynes. Early Years Education Policy Unit – Policy Developments creating change in the early years sector.
- 12:30 am – 1:00** Questions & Answers.
- 1pm – 2:00** Lunch.

Afternoon Session (Mick Kenny Chair)

- 2pm – 3:00** 5 workshops on key themes as identified by MIC Network Irl
Participants attend one of the five.
- 3pm – 3:45** Feedback & Q&A.

Conference Closing by Mick Kenny Chair MIC Network Irl

Men in childcare conference registration form

Name:

Childcare Service/Institution:

Address:

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Tel: Mobile:

Facebook: Email:

Please tick if you do not wish to be added to the MIC contact list

Special dietary / access requirements:

Workshop Choice (please choose in order of preference 1-5. We will endeavour to provide you with your preferred choice)

1. MiC Network 3 Year Plan – Making a regional structure a reality
2. The National Survey – lessons, gaps, what next
3. The Norwegian outdoor curriculum
4. Child Protection is in everyone's interest - setting an agenda
5. Supporting the development of MIC – A CCC perspective

Registration Fee

Conference Registration €15

Please return your completed registration with payment by Thursday 10th November 2011 to:

Dublin City Childcare Committee,
Office 2.13,
Distillers Building,
Smithfield,
Dublin 7.

E info@dccc.ie

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Directions to City West Hotel from

<http://www.citywesthotel.com/location.html>

The hotel is located on the Luas Red Line, City West Stop.