

How long does each parent session last?

Parent sessions are one hour long.

What do the children's sessions involve?

The children's sessions are delivered afterschool and also last for one hour. Each session compliments the activities done in the parent session by focusing on the individual child and their experiences. The sessions offer a broad range of literacy learning opportunities delivered through fun and engaging activities.

How do children get chosen?

The class teacher is best placed to identify children who will benefit from Doodle Families. The parent consent forms and referral information are all provided in the manual, but there will need to be local agreement on who takes referrals and makes the final decision on participants. Each school should agree this as early as possible.

How many children should we work with?

It is recommended that a maximum of 15 children participate in each Doodle Families group.

What responsibility will I have?

Each participating school will need to:-

- Identify a venue/room which is welcoming and preferably not a classroom e.g library or parents room;
- Identify who will deliver the programme to both parents and children;
- Support the ongoing evaluation of Doodle Families.



What supports does CDI provide?

CDI provides the following to all participating schools and groups:

- Induction training and subsequent booster training;
- Communities of practice to enable reflection and sharing of learning;
- Site visits to observe delivery and provide support;
- A comprehensive manual which includes all information relating to referral and assessment processes; session content; materials required;
- A dedicated portal for Doodle Families facilitators;
- The doodleden.ie website which provides activities to supplement the formal programme delivery.

What do I need to do now?

Agree who will deliver the programme and when; approach parents about participating, and gain their consent.

Will I receive training to deliver the programme?

Yes. CDI will offer a comprehensive training package that includes training before the programme begins and Communities of Practice Meetings while the programme is in progress. CDI will also offer ongoing support while the programme is being delivered including onsite visits and phone/email support.

If you would like to receive more information about Doodle Den please visit www.cdi.ie or contact info@cdi.ie

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TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
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Doodle Families

Frequently Asked Questions



What is Doodle Families?

Doodle Families is a Family Literacy Programme aimed at children in First Class. It has been designed to be delivered in two components – one is for parents/guardians and the other is for children. Parents' sessions can be delivered during the school day and the children's sessions are delivered after school.

What is the difference between Doodle Den and Doodle Families?

Doodle Families was developed as a response to requests from schools who wanted a follow up programme to Doodle Den, CDI's after-school programme for children in senior infants, which has been consistently found to improve children's literacy. Doodle Families focuses on family literacy, recognising the importance of home literacy, the families' shared experience and the need to support parents to better understand their children's literacy development, and maximise their learning and achievement.

Who delivers Doodle Families?

There is flexibility about who delivers the programme, but it is important that there is good communication between those working with the parents, and those working with the children. We recommend that the home-school-community liaison teacher (HSCL) is involved in the parent component, and the school completion programme (SCP) with the children's element, but others could also have a role, such as adult literacy tutors or the youth service. One person is probably sufficient in the delivery of the parent component, but the children's programme will require two facilitators.



Who is Doodle Families for?

Doodle Families has been developed for children in First Class, who would benefit from support with their literacy development and/or their social skills. An assessment process is included in the manual, and it is recommended that children with a mixed range of abilities are invited to participate.

Families for whom English is a second language can certainly participate in the programme, but it has not been developed specifically to address bi-lingualism and so other supports may be necessary.

Ideally, children will have completed the Doodle Den Programme, but this is not essential.

How long does the programme run for?

Doodle Families is an eight week programme, with a one hour session for the parents, and a separate one hour session for the children, each week.

What does it cost to deliver Doodle Families?

The main cost is for staffing, but you will also need to provide snacks and drinks. You may need to purchase some art resources and books, and transport may be necessary.

What format does the programme take?

Doodle Families is a manualised programme. Each session has been carefully designed following best national and international research in Family Literacy practices as well as consultation with a lot of Irish experts, and a pilot in three Limerick schools. The manual outlines the objectives of each session, the topics and activities to be covered and the materials required. It has been designed to allow for choices in activities to best meet the needs of the group, to ensure the maximum benefit is gained for the participants and to allow for individual needs and differences.



Why are there two components in the programme?

Engaging parents in their children's learning is critical to improving outcomes, and so we were very clear that this needs to be a targeted element of Doodle Families.

The two components have been designed to compliment each other and to maximise the opportunities to support the home learning environment. The eight week programme allows for a focused, intensive intervention that works with both the parent and child at their individual learning pace. The separate elements are a unique opportunity for an afterschool programme and parent programme to run simultaneously.

What do the parent sessions involve?

The parent sessions aim to develop the parent's awareness of literacy development, give practical tips to increase home literacy activity and help the parents to feel more involved in their child's education. They have been designed to be informal and non-threatening and allow for parents with a wide variety of literacy levels to participate fully. The language used in the programme has been carefully constructed to allow for these differences and reflects best practice in Adult Literacy learning. Each session features a series of practical tasks that will allow individuals to focus on their own family experience making the programme personal to them.

