



Blackberry Park
Children's Disability Network Team
Blackberry Park, Ballykeeffe,
Dock Road, Limerick, V94 PRR8

Tel: 061 – 498161 (0-9yrs)
Tel: 061 – 498733 (9-18yrs)
Email: blackberry.reception@hse.ie
Website: www.mwcds.ie

Services Available for Young People with Autism and their Families

Parent Information and Support

Limerick Family Support Respite Services provide family support and respite services to children with disabilities in the Mid-West. Assistance is given in a variety of settings including in-home, community-based or group activities. The service also provides residential respite breaks in both Nenagh and Ennis. Children with autism or an intellectual/ physical/ sensory disability are eligible to access this service. A referral can be made through your Children's Network Disability Team, through your Public Health Nurse, a Medical Practitioner or self-referral.

Contact: 061 498147

Address: Enable Ireland, Quinn's Cross, Mungret, Co. Limerick, V94 DF89

Middletown Centre for Autism designs and delivers training programmes for parents of autistic children, teachers and professionals. The Middletown website also has online resources on topics such as life skills development, managing change, and sensory processing.

Website: www.middletownautism.com

Education Supports

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.

If you think your child needs to be seen by a NEPS Psychologist, you need to begin by discussing your child's needs with their class teacher or school principal.

Website for further information: www.gov.ie/en/service/5ef45c-neps/

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** aims to improve access to college for school-leavers with a disability or specific learning difficulty by allocating a number of third-level places to them on a reduced points basis.

DARE is for school leavers with a disability under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2022, who have been educationally impacted as a result of that disability.

Websites for further information: www.accesscollege.ie/dare/ or www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third_level_education/applying_to_college/third_level_education_for_students_with_disabilities.html



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Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) are appointed by the National Council for Special Education. SENOs interact with parents and schools and liaise with the HSE in providing resources to support children with special educational needs.

Website for information about SENOs in the locality: www.ncse.ie/seno-contact-information

Summer Provision provides educational supports to children with special needs and those at most risk of educational disadvantage across July and August.

The programme is available to children with special educational needs in special classes, special schools and mainstream schools.

Students can avail of the programme both in their home with an individual teacher or in school if the school provides same (currently – May 2022) only 30% of schools are providing a school based programme.

Parents can set the agenda for learning and the focus does not have to be academic table top activities but rather activity based social skills and/or emotion literacy and regulation skills. Some work can be completed by the teacher and student in the community to support independence skills.

As part of Summer Provision 2021, summer camps were facilitated in DEIS schools with a focus on numeracy and literacy.

Websites for further information:

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/primary_and_post_primary_education/summer_education_programme.html or www.gov.ie/en/publication/5d15a-summer-provision/

iScoil is a non-profit online learning service that offers young people a pathway to learning, accreditation and progression. iScoil provides a safe learning environment where young people can re-engage with education, achieve recognised QQI certification and access further education, training and employment opportunities.

Referrals for iScoil are made through Tusla's Education Support Service. Parents are advised to contact their local Educational Welfare Officer regarding making a referral.

Contact: 01 453 7570 or info@iscoil.ie

Website: www.iscoil.ie

Home Tuition is one of the ways that children with special educational needs can learn. A tutor comes to the child's house and teaches the child. The Irish government provides a Home Tuition Grant Scheme that pays for this service. To receive this grant you must meet certain eligibility criteria.



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You can contact the local Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) for further information if you wish to avail of the Home Tuition Scheme. You may need a supporting letter from your child's Psychologist/ Psychiatrist.

Website for further information: www.gov.ie/en/service/d15f58-home-tuition

Limerick Youth Service has a diverse number of educational & training courses for young people (16 to 21 years) at their Community Training Centre in Limerick City.

These courses, delivered in a supportive and vibrant environment, provide a balance of practical and academic studies that include invaluable periods of work experience.

All young people will have access to additional support such as an Advocacy Officer, wellbeing activities, summer provisions, while they can also access information and participate in international opportunities.

Courses include QQI Level 3 & 4 certification, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Leaving Cert Applied. On completing their programme of study, students/learners will progress to further education, training and/or employment.

Website: <https://limerickyouthservice.com/what-we-do/education-training/>

Designer Minds run weekly clubs (both online and in person) and summer camps where children are introduced to Art and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths) in a fun and engaging way, using cutting-edge equipment and expertly crafted lesson plans. The weekly clubs take place across the autumn and spring academic terms. The Art summer camps take place in 38 locations and the STEAM summer camps take place in 70 locations across Ireland. All children who will be going into 1st class to 1st year this September are eligible to attend.

Website: www.designerminds.ie

Mental Well- Being

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties including depression, eating disorders, psychosis and ADHD.

Contact: 061 483388

Address: CAMHS, HSE, Rosbrien Road, Limerick

The Be Well: Youth Mental Health Service is for young people (14 to 25 years) from across Limerick City & County who are in need of support for mental health & well-being. Young people may be referred by their parent/guardian, a professional, or self-refer once they reach the age of 18 years.



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Contact: Siobhan O'Brien (Psychotherapist/ Coordinator) at siobhanob@limerickyouthservice.org or 086 389 5031

Address: Be Well Team, Limerick Youth Service, Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty Road, Ballynanty, Limerick, V94 TPP3

Jigsaw is a service providing guidance and support for young people (12 to 25 years) who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. Jigsaw offers brief intervention (up to 8 sessions of support) to help young people develop ways to manage their mental health. The service can also give support to anyone concerned about a young person in their life who appears to be experiencing mental health difficulties.

Contact: 061 974510

Address: Jigsaw Limerick, Third Floor, Arthur's Quay House, Limerick

Autism-Orientated Activities

Autism Supporting Diversity (formerly known as Limerick Autism Group) provides socially inclusive activities for people with autism and their families. These include Easter and Summer Camps, Sibling Support Groups, and Movement Groups. The organisation also works closely with local businesses to support them to become autism/ sensory friendly.

Contact: 1800 71 88 65

Address: Unit 72 Eastlink Business Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick, V94 0E38

Dóchas provides support to children and young people with autism and their families across the Midwest. Dóchas facilitate Social Clubs, Therapy (art, music, play), and Parent Support Groups.

Contact: 061 405 923

Address: 14 Parnell Street, Limerick

Inclusive Play and Leisure Activities for Youth (i-PLAY) is a weekly physical activity programme designed for children and young people (ages 5-21) with special needs and held within the Physical Education & Sports Science (PESS) Dept. at the University of Limerick. The main goal of this weekly programme is to engage participants in various physical activities such as dance, games, fundamental movement skills, and health-related activity throughout the academic semester.

Contact: Daniel.Tindall@ul.ie or Brigitte.Moody@ul.ie (Co-directors)

Alternatively, call PESS Dept. office at 061 202896

Address: PESS Building, University of Limerick Campus

The Ability Programme provides funding to local, regional and national projects in the Republic of Ireland that focus on bringing young people with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 29 closer to the labour market. The programme aims to assist young people to identify and follow progression routes based on both their potential and their needs. As a result, the programme promotes positive pathways into education, training and employment for participants.



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Contact: Call 01 511 7222 or email onlinesupport@pobal.ie

Website for further information: www.pobal.ie/programmes/ability-programme/

Websites

Autism Mamaí Ireland is a Facebook group for mothers of children who have a diagnosis of autism or are in the process of an autism diagnostic assessment. The group aims to provide emotional and practical support to mothers.

The **Mid-West Disability Services** website has further information about the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in Limerick, Clare, and North Tipperary. Information about the teams, news/ upcoming events, and service forms/ documents are available on the website.

Website: www.mwcds.ie/