

Ballyboden Services

CDNT 2

Newsletter | Summer 2026



Family Forum

Our Family Representatives welcomed everyone, both in person and online, and shared the purpose of the Family Forum. The Forum creates space to connect with the service, exchange information and meet other parents. This was our first time to provide online access to the Forum.

Lynn Howard, CDNM, gave an update on the CDNT, highlighting current challenges and the positive progress within the service.

Our guest speaker for this forum was, Dolores Crowley, who delivers webinars on financial wellbeing and trust planning. These free webinars can be found at:
<https://www.financialwellbeing.ie/webinar/>

We are grateful for the dedication of our Family Representatives, especially Carole Marry, who completed her two-year term. She thanked those that had supported her in the role. We welcomed Jennifer Murphy as a new family rep and she joins Clara Cronin as the second rep for CDNT2.

UNICEF Youth Group

Calling all Changers!

Join Our UNICEF Ireland Youth Action Group!

Who can apply?

Young people aged 14-17 years from all across the Republic of Ireland
No experience needed - all voices are welcome!

What will you do?

- Focus on issues that matters to young people
- Create youth campaigns and awareness raising materials
- Help to shape UNICEF Ireland's advocacy

What is the commitment?

- 6-8 month pilot program
- In-person meetings every 2 months (Dublin - travel reimbursed)
- Occasional online check-ins

Connect with young people who are passionate about change!



unicef for every child

[Click here to apply!](#)



Upcoming Workshop

Sensory Coffee Morning



The next Sensory Coffee will explore sensory strategies for brushing teeth and also washing hands!

Run by.... Our Occupational Therapist

Date: 27th May 11am - 12.30pm in Ballyboden Primary Care Centre – 1st floor, Edmondstown Road, Ballyboden, D16 W3P8.

Please confirm your attendance by the 20/05/2026 (email: ballyboden.admin@enableireland.ie)

Climbing Groups

In conjunction with our colleagues in CDNT7, we currently run a “*Learn to Climb Group*” multiple times a year.

There is a targeted session for specific cohorts of children and teens, and an open session that is suitable for children and teens who may have goals around gross motor skills, trying a new activity, or having the opportunity to socialise with peers around an activity.

Invitations to these sessions are sent out via email. Session capacity is based on team resource availability.



Teen Group

This is a space for the teenagers to hang out, make social connections and engage in fun social activities. It is run on a monthly basis during the school term for 14 years olds and above.

Staff are there to support and facilitate conversations amongst peers. There are two rooms, one large room for games, activities and music, while the other room is more calm and regulated offering opportunities to draw/colour and engage in meaningful conversations.

Our capacity is based on how many team resources are available.

EACD 2026

The 38th Annual Congress of the European Academy of Childhood-onset Disability (EACD 2026) will be held at the University of Galway, Ireland, from June 3-6, 2026.

The EACD Annual Meeting is one of the leading international conferences dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people with disabilities.

All of the activities in the Experience Village are open to people with childhood-onset disabilities and their families and are free of charge.

Learn more about each of the activities and access the Registration Forms by visiting the [Experience Village Zones](#) pages.



Benefits & Entitlements

You may be able to avail of the following:

Domiciliary Care Allowance

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a monthly payment for a child aged under 16 with a disability, who requires ongoing care and attention, substantially over and above the care and attention usually required by a child of the same age.

Disability Allowance

When your child turns 16, you are no longer entitled to a Domiciliary Care Allowance. They may however be entitled to Disability Allowance. Disability Allowance is a weekly means tested allowance paid to people with a disability, who are unable to work. This is not paid automatically; your teenager will need to make an application (or you can help them to do so).

Incapacitated Child Tax Credit

Incapacitated Child Tax Credit entitles parents and carers to claim €3,800 (January 2025) in tax relief if their child's disability is believed to be permanent. This credit can be claimed via the www.revenue.ie or by completing an [ICC1 form](#) and submitting it to your local revenue office. An ICC2 form completed by a medical practitioner is also required. This tax credit can be backdated for four years including the current tax year.

Parents Plus 'Special Needs Programme'

Parents Plus special needs is an evidence based programme developed, in Ireland, collaboratively with the Parents Plus Charity and Parents of children with complex additional needs.

CDNT2 ran a successful Parents Plus Special Needs programme for Parents in partnership with CDNT7 in early 2026.

The Parents Plus 'Special Needs Programme' offers parents the opportunity to meet other parents in a supportive group to help their older children and adolescents reach their full potential.

Topics are designed to Support Children to:	As a parent, learn how to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn social skills and build friendships• Deal with puberty and sexuality• Gain confidence and self-esteem• Be more independent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personally cope and manage stress• Deal with the challenges of adolescence• Support the needs of your other children• Manage challenging behaviour



CDNT 2 - Survey



CDNT 2 (Ballyboden) - survey on family forums and family engagement

This survey will take less than five minutes to complete.

Section 1 is about your family forums. We want to better understand why some parents don't attend these meetings, and what changes or improvements we could make to them going forward.

Section 2 is about the types of family engagement you'd like from us as a CDNT, outside of therapies and family forums.

To complete this 5 minute survey please [complete it online](#)

Or Scan this QR code to access the survey



Universal Supports



Children's
Disability
Network
Team

UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS

All Ages

www.cho7cdnt.ie



1 **Communication Boards**



2 **Internet Safety**



3 **Neurodiverse Communication**



4 **Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations**



5 **Talking to your child about their diagnosis**



6 **Tips for Supporting Siblings of Children with Additional Needs**



7 **Visual Supports**



8 **What is Emotional Regulation?**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE ALL AGES SECTION. YOU CAN ALSO CLICK OR TAP ON THE TOPIC HEADINGS TO GO TO THE INDIVIDUAL PAGES LISTED.



Enable Ireland,
Greenhills Retail Park
Tallaght - D24 RH59



01 4212 400



ballyboden.admin@enableireland.ie



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