



Linc
LEADERSHIP FOR **INCLUSION**
IN THE EARLY YEARS
CEANNAIREACHT DO CHUIMSIÚ
SNA LUATHBHLIANTA

Leadership for INClusion in the Early Years

Level 6
Special Purpose Award



Leadership for INClusion in the Early Years

The Leadership for INClusion in the Early Years programme, LINC, is a Level 6 Special Purpose Award (Higher Education). The programme is designed to enhance inclusion of children with additional needs in early years settings through the development of the role of Inclusion Co-ordinator. The programme is part of a government commitment to the provision of high quality education and training in the field of early childhood care and education and was introduced as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) in 2016.

Early years settings that employ an Inclusion Coordinator who has graduated from LINC will receive an additional €2 per week in capitation per ECCE child. The programme is fully funded and is free to participants. Additionally, all students will receive a contribution of €200 towards costs.

LINC is delivered by a consortium led by Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and including Early Childhood Ireland and Maynooth University-Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education.

The programme will commence in September, finish at the end of June, and in 2017/18 will be delivered in the following nine locations around Ireland:

Cork; Dublin North; Dublin South/West; Galway; Kildare; Kilkenny; Limerick; Meath; Sligo.

Locations in future years will likely change to ensure nationwide access to the programme.

"My experience with the LINC programme has been very positive and enjoyable. I have found the online learning system very easy to use. The course content has been very interesting and quite manageable in my busy lifestyle, and has brought lots of new ideas to improve inclusion in my service. By training as an Inclusion Coordinator I have also added to the quality of my service for families to benefit from in the future."

Yvonne O'Keeffe, LINC 2016/17



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The LINC programme comprises 6 modules delivered over 3 semesters (autumn, spring and summer) and amounting to 60 credits (ECTS).

Based on the blended-learning model, students will be required to engage weekly with a range of reflective activities, videos and discussion fora. Each module will have one Saturday classroom session, plus a compulsory orientation day (seven Saturdays in total).

Module Title	Credits	Semester
Inclusion in Early Years Settings: Concepts and Strategies	12	Autumn
Child Development	6	Autumn
Promoting Collaborative Practice for Inclusion in Early Childhood Care and Education	12	Spring
Curriculum for Inclusion	6	Spring
Leadership for Inclusion	12	Summer
Portfolio Module	12	Summer

A mentoring visit to participants' early years settings is provided to support students' professional learning.

Assessments include: written reflections, multiple-choice quizzes, and the development of practical materials. Assessments will focus on linking practical knowledge of working in ECCE settings to the module content.

The programme is embedded in Aistear – the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework and Síolta, the National Quality Framework within the ECCE field.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Early years settings that hold a contract to deliver the ECCE Programme, funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, are eligible to nominate a candidate. Candidates must hold a Level 5 Major Award in a relevant area.

Candidates must be comfortable accessing the internet, sending an email, downloading and uploading a document, and posting to an online forum.



HOW TO APPLY:

Applications must be made online at www.lincprogramme.ie. Evidence of the applicant's relevant qualification (copy of certificate or transcript) is required at the time of application.

Please note: programme places will not be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Places in centres that are oversubscribed will be allocated by random lottery.

"I am delighted that I had the opportunity to participate in LINC. It has really given me a new insight and energy to continue to provide an inclusive culture in my setting. The blended-learning process is flexible and allowed me to learn when and where it suited me, which, as a practitioner and busy parent, was essential. The lessons are well planned and organised, and the content very relevant and up-to-date. Tutors and staff are extremely supportive and informative. I will carry all that I have learned through both my professional and personal life."

Leonora Herlihy, LINC 2016/17

Contact Information

www.lincprogramme.ie

Email: linc@mic.ul.ie

Phone: 061 204545

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