

The Role of INclusion COordinator (INCO)

Leading Inclusive Practice and Pedagogy

- **Leading inclusive practice, inclusive pedagogy** and an inclusive culture within the setting and providing support and information to staff and parents on inclusion of all children, with reference to the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines.
- **Cascading learning** throughout the staff in the setting so as to foster an inclusive culture.
- **Supporting staff** in the implementation of inclusive practices in curriculum planning and assessment which supports the regular reviewing of the learning environment, daily routines, activities and social interactions to enable children of all abilities and backgrounds to participate at an appropriate level in both individual and common tasks.
- **Sharing learning and good practice** regarding observations, documentation and curriculum planning and development, modelling good practice and utilising different strategies for collaborating with the team regarding effective communication with children, with reference to Aistear and Siolta principles and guidelines.
- **Engaging with national and local developments** related to inclusion in order to continue to lead the implementation of good practice in the setting.
- **Engaging with ongoing CPD** to ensure adherence to good practice in relation to developments within the disability sector and in relation to the inclusion of children with additional needs.



Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)

- **Disseminating information on AIM**, as well as on inclusion more generally, to parents and staff.
- **Assisting with applications for supports under AIM** and liaising, where necessary, with the Early Years Specialists and other professionals working with the child. This could include meeting with parents through to using the Early Years Hive Portal for the AIM application.
- **Liaising with Early Years Specialists** to develop strategies to support participation to ensure all children and their families are supported.
- **Working closely with parents** and other professionals including Early Years Specialists, to support universal and targeted supports for the inclusion of all children and to support children's transition to primary school.
- **Participating in any relevant evaluation or AIM review** to inform future practice and policy developments.

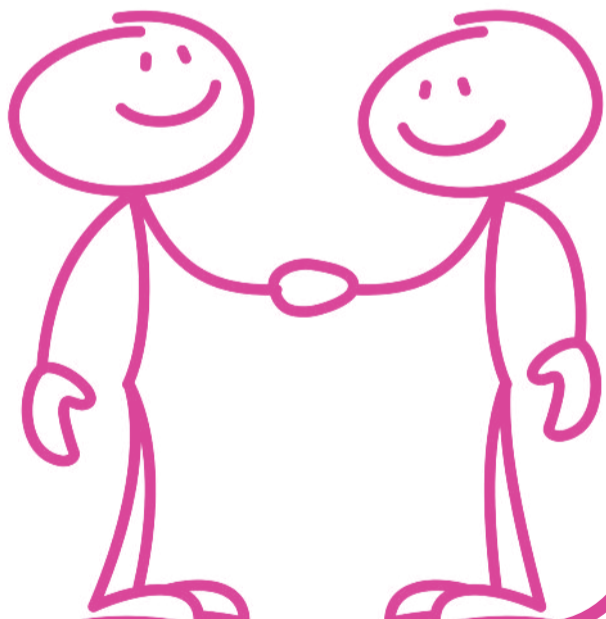


Linc

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

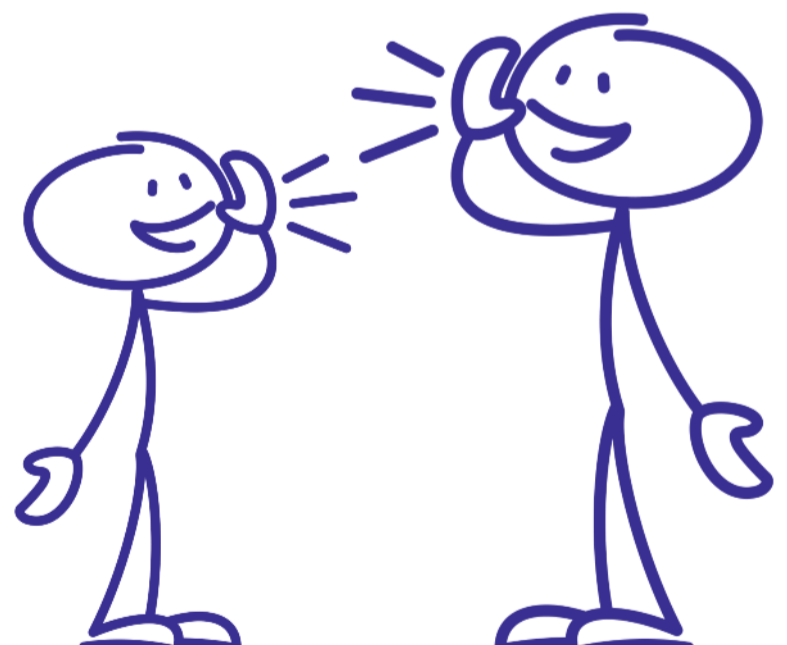
Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Charter and Guidelines

- **Promoting the National Inclusion Charter** and supporting staff to engage with the revised Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines 2016. This may involve the INclusion COordinator (INCO) using relevant sections of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Guidelines (exercises, critical questions and pointers) to stimulate discussion with staff and as a prompt to consider ideas for practice in facilitating an inclusive programme.
- **Supporting the setting** to complete and regularly review its Inclusion Policy.



Views of Children and Parents

- **Advocating on behalf of children** and engaging in regular consultation with children to allow their ideas, feelings and thoughts to contribute to service provision and delivery. Using feedback from children and their parents to inform the settings inclusion procedures, evaluation and to input into wider policy developments, as appropriate.



| Free to participate |

| Extra €2 per week in capitation per ECCE-eligible child in a pre-school room |

| €200 student bursary | Lead Educator Status |



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 the inclusion of all children in Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings through the development of the role of INClusion COordinator (INCO). 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 Learning and Care settings that employ an Inclusion Coordinator (INCO) who has graduated from LINC will receive an extra €2 per week in capitation per ECCE-eligible child in a pre-school room. The programme is fully funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) and is free to participants. Graduates of the LINC Programme will now be recognised for Lead Educator Status under the DCEDIY Qualification Guidelines. Additionally, all students receive a bursary of €200.00.

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 2023 and finish in May 2024. LINC will be delivered entirely online for the 2023/2024 academic year.



"Thank you for giving me this opportunity to partake in this very rewarding programme. I recall a good few years ago how I did not feel confident when a child enrolled in my setting with an additional need, I did not want to let that child or family down. Now with the skills and knowledge gained from this course, I feel more assured that I can create a warm and supportive environment for children in my care who have additional needs and for all children. Thank you for this journey."

LINC 2019/2020 Graduate

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The LINC Programme is the only qualification that is recognized by the DCEDIY to fulfil the role of Inclusion Coordinator (INCO) the purpose of which is to lead an inclusive culture, practice and pedagogy within a setting and to provide support and information to staff and parents on the inclusion of all children. It comprises of 6 modules delivered over 2 semesters (Autumn and Spring) and amounting to 60 credits (ECTS).

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	Autumn/Spring
Curriculum for Inclusion*	6	Spring
Leadership for Inclusion	12	Spring
Portfolio Module	12	Autumn/Spring

*Students may qualify for exemptions on this module dependent on past recognised qualifications.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The programme is based on an online model of delivery (i.e. online learning and online classroom sessions), addressing the flexible learning requirements of our students. Each module will consist of 3 recorded lessons each week which you can listen to at any time, a weekly online tutorial, and one live class/webinar per module.

Students will engage in a mentoring call with their individual Tutor. The purpose of the mentoring call is to support the student in applying the concepts and theories from LINC to their practice through exploring inclusive culture, inclusive practice and inclusive pedagogy.

Assessments include: written assignments and multiple-choice quizzes. Assessments will focus on linking practical knowledge of working in your setting to the Linc module content.

The programme is embedded in Aistear – the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework, and Siolta – the National Quality Framework.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Any setting contracted with Pobal for any DCEDIY Early Years Programme can nominate an employee or a Manager to apply for the LINC Programme. Candidates must have the minimum qualifications to work in an Early Learning & Care Setting, in accordance with the DCEDIY's Early Years Recognised Qualification Listing.

Further information regarding Eligibility can be found on the Eligibility Exemption Page on our LINC Programme website www.lincprogramme.ie

As the Programme will be delivered online, candidates will be required to have an internet connection, and possess IT skills.

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 be allocated in accordance with the eligibility criteria specified on the LINC Programme website.

"Thank you so much for providing this fantastic course. It has been invaluable to me personally and I have used my learning in my setting and each parent, child and staff have benefitted from this course".

Linc Graduate 2021/2022.

Contact Information

www.lincprogramme.ie

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#BecomeAnINCO

Winner: Jennifer Burke Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning 2018

Winner: Education Award for Student Engagement and Communication 2019

Winner: Education Award Best Online Learning Experience 2017 & 2020

Highly Commended Initiative by AONTAS 2021

Funded By:



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Become an INClusion COordinator with



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SNA LUATHBHLIANTA

Certificate in Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years
Level 6 Special Purpose Award

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€200 student bursary | 100% Online for 2023 | Lead Educator Status

