

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2016

Chairperson's Message

WOW !!! have you heard that 221 students in our primary schools in Finglas have been improving their reading by working with trained volunteers (86 of them, and all over the age of 55) following the Wizard of Words (WOW) reading programme? Or have you heard about the baby massage classes running in Finglas or our Baby Stay and Play Group? If you want to tweak your parenting strategies there are Triple P Parenting programmes running all through the year. For expectant and new parents we offer a home visiting programme called Preparing for Life and ante-natal support delivered by our community midwife in the local area. Local preschool settings are supported through our Early Years Programme with staff receiving training and resources.

All of these initiatives and MANY MANY more are available to the people of Finglas through the Better Finglas Programme.

Huge credit must go to the Project Team who have developed and managed the programme and who work tirelessly to improve things for the people who live in the community. All Better Finglas programmes are overseen by Implementation Teams made up of more than 50 organisations in total, who work with children and families in the area. Barnardos, the lead agency for the project, and the Better Finglas Steering Committee manage the entire project.



Better Finglas Steering Group

The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013–2017



January to March 2016

- Launch of Better Finglas website
- Triple P Admin Hub is fully operational, dealing with queries from both professionals and parents about the programme
- Collection of data for the national evaluation begins
- High Scope Curriculum training commences for preschool practitioners
- Working Group established to develop a school transitions programme for the area
- Local HSE Speech and Language Therapists held workshops for Early Years Practitioners in the area
- New HSE funded midwife post added to the Preparing for Life team
- Infant Massage Instructor training funded for 16 professionals in the community
- First Triple P PASS (Peer Assisted Support and Supervision) meeting held to support professionals in the delivery of Triple P Positive Parenting Programmes
- Training workshops held for early years practitioners on conflict resolution and child observation record keeping
- Referral pathway meetings set up between the Preparing for Life and Community Mothers programmes to work in collaboration with each other
- Links made by our midwife with the GPs and Practice Nurses in the community
- Plan developed to set up a Baby Stay and Play group with St Helena's Family Resource Centre
- Triple P calendar of parenting programmes compiled and circulated for the area
- 5 more professionals trained in the Triple P Positive Parenting Programme, bringing the total trained to 25
- Better Finglas contributed to a national ABC event, Early Years: Driving Quality and Challenging Poverty in Dublin Castle
- Wizard of Words Literacy Programme now being delivered in 7 local primary schools in Finglas
- Local Dublin City Councillors updated on the progress of the Better Finglas programme



April to June 2016

- 'Steps to School' transition programme developed to support children moving from preschool to primary school
- Triple P Seminar training funded for 12 professionals in the community
- Better Finglas took part in the "Sleep Campaign" led by the Finglas Cabra Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Research assistant joins Better Finglas team
- 'Preparing for Baby' ante natal workshops established in the community for expectant parents
- High Scope curriculum training commences for early years practitioners caring for infants and toddlers
- Baby Stay and Play group opens with great success in St. Helena's Family Resource Centre
- Better Finglas joins the national ABC Maternity Strategy Group
- Publicity materials developed for Better Finglas
- Darndale Preparing for Life evaluation results released by Northside Partnership, indicating very successful outcomes for families involved in the programme
- Training completed for Triple P practitioners on evaluation measures to support them with the national evaluation
- Wizard of Words (WoW) Literacy Programme begins in two more schools in the area, bringing the total number to 9
- Administration support secured for Wizard of Words (WoW) programme with an admin post funded by Better Finglas and a CE Admin post supported by the Finglas Centre
- Graduation ceremonies held in all 9 schools for the children who successfully completed the (WoW) Programme
- Dublin City Council held a thank you event for the Wizard of Words volunteers to acknowledge their contribution



Wizard of Words Volunteer Event



July to September 2016

- Our “Steps to School” transitions programme was featured on the RTE 1 Sean O’Rourke show and is now up and running in the area
- An evaluation of our Interagency Working in Finglas commenced with KW Research and Associates
- Better Finglas Project Leader appointed as one of the Tusla Parenting Support Champions for the area
- New Tusla funded Triple P mentor post joins the Better Finglas team to support practitioners in the area
- Seed funding secured from Tusla to deliver Home Visiting training to early years practitioners, infant teachers and home school liaison teachers
- Local speech & language therapists trained to deliver Hanen ‘Learning Language and Loving It’ training so they can support early years practitioners
- Funding secured from the Dublin City Childcare Committee for resources to support the Baby Stay and Play Group in St. Helena’s FRC
- Recruitment and training of WoW volunteers completed for the final two schools who will come on board with the programme in November 2016



Parents and Babies Attending a Baby Massage Class



October to December 2016

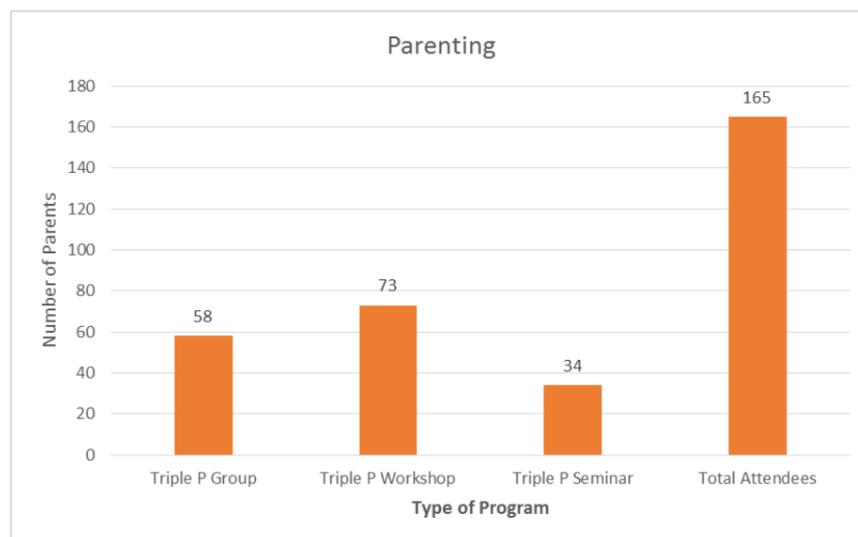
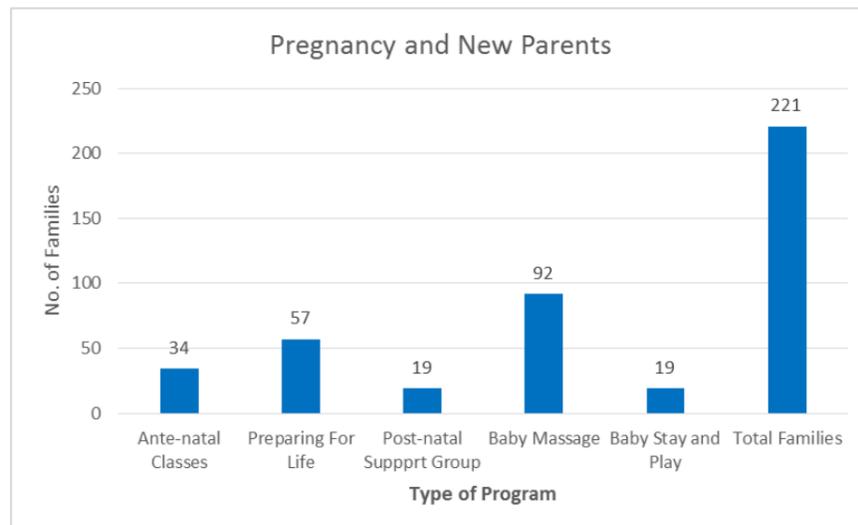
- Infant Mental Health talk held for local professionals
- 20 early years practitioners completed the High Scope Preschool Curriculum training
- Specialised Triple P Training selected for 2017, 26 local practitioners will take part
- Huge demand for Baby Massage courses running in the area, Better Finglas ran 9 of these in 2016
- Better Finglas programme highlighted at annual Barnardos Spirit of Christmas Gala
- National 0-3 sub study commenced to evaluate our programmes aimed at children under 3 years
- Preparing for Life mentors and midwife completed baby bonding training
- Early years mentor completed Siolta Mentor training
- Agreement to run Infant Mental Health training for local professionals and set up a Learning Network in 2017
- “Preparing for Baby” Antenatal classes running successfully in the community
- Two new schools engaging in the Wizard of Words (WoW) Programme bringing the total number of schools now involved in the area to 11. Overall, there are 86 volunteers supporting 123 children in this programme
- 64 referrals of expectant/new parents received to the Preparing for Life Home Visiting Programme since it opened in June 2015



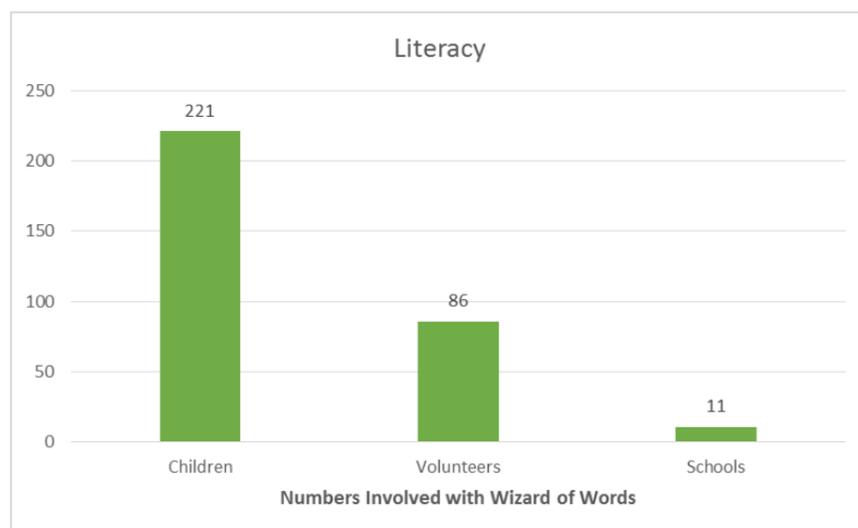
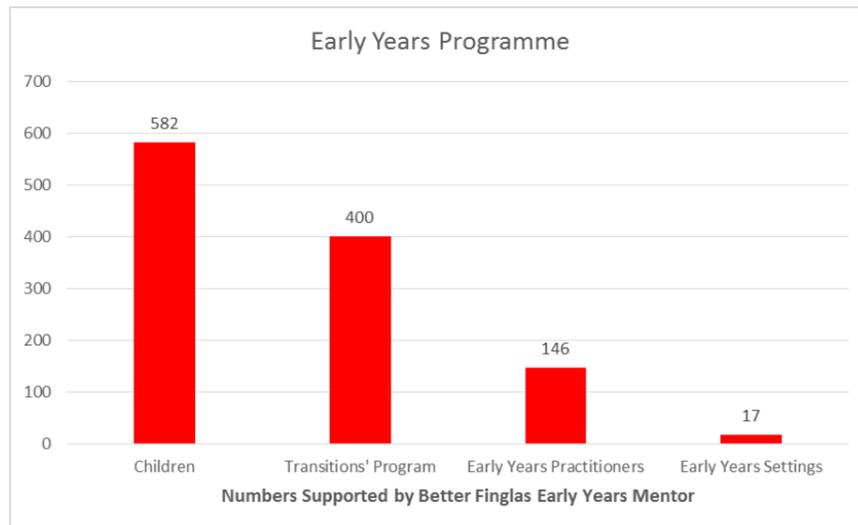
Local Early Years Practitioners on
Completion of Preschool High Scope Training



A Breakdown of our Programmes



Local Professionals Attending Triple P Training



Welcome Our New Team Members



Claire Dunne has been working as a Preparing for Life Mentor since January 2017. She has seven years experience of working in the social care sector.



Keith Adams has been working as our Research Assistant since June 2016. He has almost ten years' experience of working and volunteering in the social care sector.



Tracy Fox has been working as our Triple P Mentor since August 2016. She has 15 years experience as a Family Support Worker in the area with Tusla.

For more information on the Better Finglas ABC Programme, Please feel free to phone, email, drop by the office, or visit our website!

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