

Newsletter



St Gabriel's Treehouse - Children's Disability Network Team

Manager's Message

We would like to take a moment to extend our best wishes to you and your families. I wish to inform you that I am moving from my role as Treehouse Children's Disability Network Manager, effective from 23rd February. A new CDNM has been appointed. We ask that you welcome Nicola Harenbreen to the role, effective from 3rd March. I would like to express my gratitude for your support and collaboration for the last 4 years.



A Family Network Meeting is a collaborative, family-led session designed to bring together families, support networks, and service providers (such as Children's Disability Network Teams) to share experiences, exchange information, and influence service improvements. These meetings provide a safe space to discuss general issues, connect with others, and elect representatives, usually occurring quarterly.

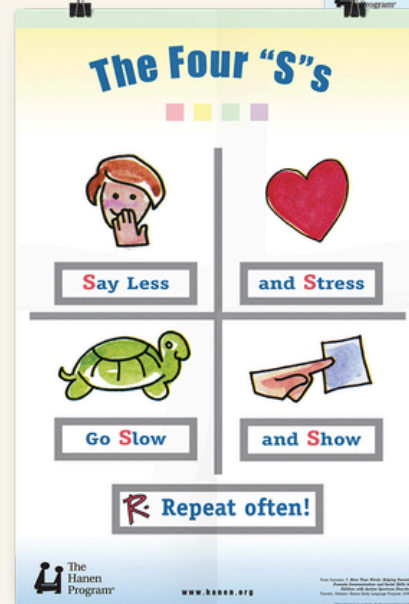
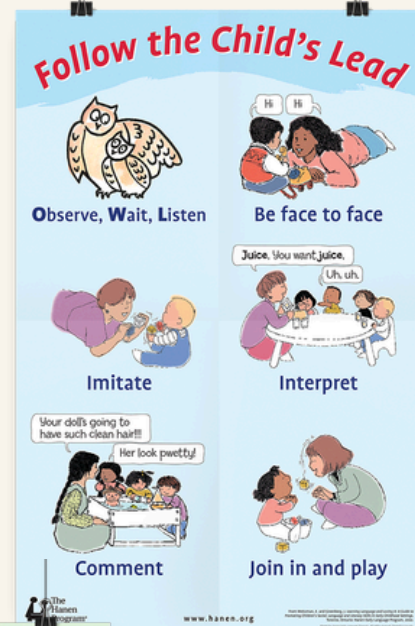
Next Family Network Meeting: 9th of March, 9:30am - 11:30am

Meet your Speech & Language Team

Our Speech and Language Therapy team includes five full-time and two part-time therapists: Aisling, Caoimhe, Phoebe, Sophie, and Tom, who support children from infancy through to 18 years of age. Kate and Maeve are currently on maternity leave. Our Speech and Language Therapists work alongside children and families to support the development of communication in ways that work best for each child, helping to enhance participation, connection, and quality of everyday life.

Few Communication Tips From Our SLT's

- **Support understanding with visuals:** Photos, objects, gestures, or visual schedules can help children understand routines and expectations.
- **Follow your child's lead:** Notice what captures your child's interest and join in. Communication grows best through shared attention and enjoyable interactions.
- **Give extra processing time:** After asking a question or giving a comment, pause and wait. Children often need extra time to understand and respond.
- **Talk during everyday routines:** Simple moments like mealtimes, dressing, or shopping provide great opportunities for language learning through natural conversation.



Upcoming Events



February

- Early Bird Parent Group (suitable for parents of children with a diagnosis of Autism, aged 2-9yrs)
- Behaviour & Sensory Workshop (suitable for parents of children aged 0-9 yrs)
- Geastalt Language Processing Group (suitable for parents of children aged 0-9 yrs)
- Parent Workshops: Using Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations to Support Social understanding
- Youth Club (Social club for those in mainstream secondary school and have a diagnosis of autism)

March

- Transition to Secondary School Child group (suitable for 6th class students attending mainstream school)
- Inclusive Interactions: Supporting Neurodivergent Communications Styles, (suitable for parents of children aged 9-18 yrs)
- Family Network Meeting open to all families

April

- Being Me, Promotes positive identity formations for autistic adolescents (suitable for young people aged 13-18 yrs, who are aware of their diagnosis of Autism. The young person must consent to attending this group)
- Social Stories & Comic Strips (Using Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations to Support Social understanding)

Important!

Invitations to the above events are based on goals identified by your child, young person or family in your Individual Family Support Plan. Currently there are waiting lists for the above groups. Please do contact the team to discuss if you are interested in one of the events and if it would be appropriate for you and/ or your child to attend. Unfortunately we are not currently in a position to offer those on the waiting list for services.



Your Children's Disability Network Teams Current Vacancies

We currently have vacancies in Psychology & Occupational Therapy.

Vacant posts can be applied for at:
<https://stgabriels.ie/contact/>

Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)

The IFSP is developed in partnership between families and CDNT. The plan brings together the child's and family's strengths, needs, priorities, and desired outcomes alongside the knowledge and expertise of the team, guiding shared goals and supports across everyday environments.

You can find more out about IFSP's here:



WATCH NOW

