



MUSIC Matters

MUSIC  **GENERATION**
MAKING MUSIC EDUCATION HAPPEN

L^U/LOUTH

MUSIC Matters

Introduction

MUSIC Matters is a new programme being launched by Music Generation Louth in association with Louth County Childcare Committee. The aim of the programme is to support the development of music within the county's preschools.

Our philosophy is that all children are born with inherent musical ability and have the right to a high quality musical education that ideally starts in the early years when solid musical foundations are most effectively laid.

Research shows that music can play an important role in the overall development of young children.

This new MUSIC Matters programme demonstrates the fun and enjoyment that music can bring to young children and how music can be a very effective vehicle for the delivery of Aistear, Ireland's new Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

MUSIC Matters is grounded in the approaches of Kodaly and Dalcroze Eurhythmics in which young children's natural musical ability is developed through singing and games.

The programme is delivered by a team of specialist early years musicians and aims to build confidence and expertise within preschool staff so that musical activity can continue after participation in the programme is completed.

MUSIC Matters provides:

TRAINING

A half-day practical training session for staff from participating preschools giving ideas, resources and tips to become a positive musical role model for preschool children.

MUSICIANS IN RESIDENCY

Each participating preschool is assigned a specialist musician who will visit their group to deliver six music workshops (one per week over a six week block).

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Each participating preschool is provided with a box of resources to enable staff to continue on with the musical games and activities themselves.

TIMESCALE

The first pilot phase of MUSIC Matters is scheduled as follows:

February 2012: Half-day training for preschool staff; date, time and venue to be arranged in consultation with participating groups.

April – June 2012: Musician in residency workshops; dates and times to be arranged in consultation with participating groups.

COSTS

The gross cost per service is €300. Music Generation Louth and Louth Childcare Committee are subsidising the project which will require participating preschools to only pay €50.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Participating groups for this first pilot phase must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate a commitment to developing music in their preschool by having one or more members of staff attend the training workshop in February and be willing to actively participate in all on-site workshops.
- Have one or more members of staff who are willing to take on the role of musical leader(s) for their group on completion of the programme. (No prior musical expertise is necessary).
- Be able to provide a large space in their setting or have access to a large space suitable to accommodate movement games and large circle activities with the group.
- Have a minimum of 10 preschool children in the group.
- Be able to commit to scheduling a block of six consecutive workshops (one 45min session per week) during the period 16 April and 15 June 2012.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Groups interested in participating in phase one of MUSIC Matters should complete the attached expression of interest form and return – either by email: musicgeneration@louthvec.ie or by post to: Music Generation Louth, Co. Louth VEC, Chapel St, Dundalk, Co Louth no later than Friday 10 February 2012.

Places are limited for this first pilot phase and in the event of over-subscription, then a lottery system will take place.

ABOUT MUSIC GENERATION LOUTH

Music Generation Louth is a new music service for the county that aims to help children and young people up to eighteen years of age access music tuition in their local area. It is led by Co. Louth VEC and is part of Music Generation, a new national programme for music education initiated by Music Network with funding from U2 and the Ireland Funds. Create Louth and Co. Louth VEC have provided local partnership income.

For more information on Music Generation Louth visit our website:
www.musicgenerationlouth.ie

Or contact: musicgeneration@louthvec.ie