

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted that you have enquired about a place in Stay and Play Afterschool Club for your child.

At Stay and Play we pride ourselves on our unique and flexible service. Your child and their needs are at the heart of all we do. Our club was designed by the children themselves and we are always looking at new ways to innovate and improve.

We take our commitments to our children and their families very seriously and we are available to help and support you whenever needed.

I have attached an information pack for you to look over. If you would like to discuss any aspect of our club or if you have any worries or concerns about your child, please contact me at any time. All our services are flexible and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

If you would like to reserve a place in Stay and Play Club, please return the completed application form together with a deposit of €200.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your interest and we all look forward to welcoming your child to our club.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa McNamara

0851449610

## About us

**Our vision** in Stay and Play is to provide an exciting, unique and creative experience for our club members and a flexible, support service for their families. We want to be the benchmark for innovation and quality.

**Our mission** is to improve the quality of after school care by providing a stimulating and exciting service.

**Stay and Play** is the name given to the after school service provided by Little Learners Montessori and Naíonra. It was established to cater for the siblings and past pupils of our preschool and has grown in popularity since.

We feel that our after schoolers are a very special group that deserve a program specifically designed for them. We therefore employ leaders with particular skills and interests for this age. We offer a very unusual and different service and would recommend that you call in to visit us and see us in action. We understand the pressures families face and will consider all requests that support our children and their parents.

**Our ethos** is to provide a safe, creative, sporty and fun program for the children and a supportive, stable and flexible approach to their parents. In order to create this environment, we ask that you, as parents, support our ideals and your children. We are building a brand new type of after school care and open to all ideas.

We provide ourselves on providing a very interesting and varied program that includes sports (uni hoc, football), arts and crafts, dance (ballet, tap), drama, signing, Lego and board games. Activities vary depending on the skills of the leaders. We are innovative, friendly, flexible and most of all FUN!

## Why Choose Stay and Play

- Your child will love it
- You will be happy in the knowledge that your child is safe and well cared for
- We have a large outdoor garden, dance studio, theatre, stage, football pitch, exciting yellow tent and a children's village
- Our terms, days, times are totally flexible
- Your child will have access to a wide range of exciting events and activities
- Homework is supervised by fully qualified Montessori Teachers
- All our staff are Garda Vetted and are talented in their areas
- We can organise unexpected collections and if schools have half days we can collect the children

## What we need from you

- We are building a new community so we need your support and enthusiasm
- We do not want to be seen as a service but a part of your family's support structure
- We need you to keep us advised of anything in your child's life that may be upsetting them
- We need you to be prompt at collection time but we understand that delays can happen
- Have everything marked with your child's name and make sure they have all their accessories as they leave
- We need you to understand and support our activities. Because of our big garden in ABCD, children may be muddy or paint splattered going home. Please supply a change of clothes if you want to spare the uniform
- We need you to tell us in good time of changes of days, collections or people collecting your child
- We need you to sign your child out as they leave the premises

## Useful things to know

We always refer to our service as a club. This helps the children identify and feel proud of their club. We expect and encourage good manners and polite behaviour from club members. Our older members act as junior leaders and have a certain responsibility and tasks. We aim to encourage a buy in and pride from the members so that bad behaviour is not tolerated from within the club rather than rules imposed by adults.

All homework is supervised by our Montessori Teachers. Written work is done but learning and reading homework is left for home. We follow the school's guidelines and give guidance but do not correct every mistake as the school prefer to know how the child is progressing themselves. We set time limits if a child is struggling to complete the homework using the National School Policy. Some of our leaders are past pupils of Scoil Mobhi so Irish homework holds no terror for us!

We offer a daily snack of brown soda bread, cheese, fruit and a drink. We have an optional hot meal made by a fabulous local Italian chef located in ABCD which is delivered to both premises daily. We can also heat up any food that you send in. We often bake treats and have a birthday cake but only after lunch.

**We operate from two premises:**

- 54 Iona Crescent which caters for Junior and Senior Infants
  
- The Arts and Business Campus, 40 Lower Drumcondra Road (ABCD) which caters for first class and up

We will of course keep families together if required. Our Iona premises has a castle, story tree, covered garden and a gentle atmosphere.

ABCD is busier with a large garden, specially built children's village, garden allotments, fairy dome, hens, yellow tent, dance studio, theatre and stage.

We organise lots of special events. A concert at Christmas, Choir, St Patricks Day Parade, camping nights, babysitting nights and a Halloween night.

We run camps during holidays breaks. We only close at Christmas, St Patricks Day, Good Friday and Easter Monday.

If your child needs special medical treatment, please supply equipment and typed written instructions in a plastic bag with your child's name clearly displayed. Also arrange a demonstration if special equipment is required.

We try to be outdoors as much as possible. We walk from the local schools and visit the playground in the park. If the weather is terrible we drop a leader to the school to meet the children and wait until the car is available to collect us. If children do get wet coming home, we have hot chocolate on arrival. We use the car to collect from schools that are further away and use booster seats.

We don't use a television but may have a DVD occasionally, particularly for special occasions or during camps.

Club members are asked not to bring toys or equipment from home as it is very difficult to keep track of it. Please do not send children on scooters or bikes to school as it makes walking home very hard.

Please pay by the week/month using EFT is possible. Ensure your child's name is on the comment line. As our terms and days are flexible it is better for all concerned if payments are kept up to date otherwise it is an accounting nightmare.

## Our Leaders

The success of the club depends on the talents and quality of the leaders. Because of this the club employs a separate team of staff who work solely with the after schoolers. Our morning staff help with collections and homework. The team are specially chosen for their talents and skills. Some are youth leaders, sport coaches, secondary school teachers and music teachers. We specifically employ both male and female leaders so that we can offer as wide a range of experiences and activities as possible. We have a very strong child protection procedures and all our staff our Garda vetted.

## Our Day

There is no such thing as a typical day in the club but a broad outline is:

- Arrive in from school and do homework
- Have hot dinner/snack
- Arts and Crafts
- Sports
- Plan of the Day
- Board Games

The plan of the day can be whatever the leaders are expert at. It could be gardening, cookery, building, puppets etc. We also follow whatever is of interest to the club members at that time.

## Our Survey

We regularly survey our parents to find out what we should keep doing and what we can improve. This keeps us on our toes and allows parents to have a direct input into the running of the club. Our most recent survey showed that 97% of parents were extremely satisfied with the club.

## Testimonials

Some comments from our survey:

“We are delighted with the service, thanks so much to all the wonderful staff”

“You provide a wonderful, fun, stimulating, nurturing environment for our children, we all love it”

“My son has developed socially and emotionally”

“I appreciate the emphasis on the outdoors, variety is your key”

“Very creative, great variety”

## Fees Schedule

### Afterschool

Daily: €26

Weekly: €130

Morning Drop off: €5

Daily with school drop off: €31

Weekly with Drop off: €155

Option hot dinner: €4 per day

Once off collections and part time care €10 for the first hour and €7 for each subsequent hour

### Camps

Full Day: €40

Half Day €20

### Discounts

5% for second child

10% for third child

Please lodge or transfer with your child's name as a reference to:

Tenderhearts Ltd T/A Little Learners

IBAN: IE70 AIBK 93239637415094

BIC: AIBKIE2D