

Website

HADD are currently designing their website. If you have anything to contribute or have any knowledge of web design we would value your input. Contact the office.

HADD Resource Book

Please check with your children's schools that they have received their free copy and are using it. This book is a great tool for Resource Teachers.

Support Groups around the country

Group	Contact Name	Phone
HADD	Stephanie Mahony	01-8748349
ADD Midwest Support Committee Ltd (Limerick)	Betty Downes	061-312621
ADHD Family Support Group (Blancardstown)	Moira Hyland-Doyle	01-8205253
Ballyfermot ADHD Support Group	Michelle Hayes	01-6234829
CLADDA (Clare)	Miriam Donnellan	065-6839827 087 6610534 086 0807712
Drogheda ADHD	Geraldine Lennon	041 9846614
Finglas/Cabra ADD/ADHD Support Group	Pauline Hazel	01-8683806 087 9700034
Galway ADHD Support Group	Rosemary Kavanagh	091-798226
Irish National Council for ADHD Support Group(INCADDS)	Ray Kavanagh	091 798266
HADD Child & Family Support Group (Cork)	Joe Jeffers	021-4515032
Mayo ADHD	Caroline Joyce	087-9572311
Meath ADHD Parent Support Group	Ann O'Dwyer	086-1568209
NIADD (Belfast)	Sarah Salters	048-90200110
North Fingal ADHD Parent & Adult Support Group	Irene Donovan	087-6449105
South Tipperary ADHD Support Group	Susan Long	052-29529
The Association for IADD (Donegal)	Sara Anderson	086-2545669
TRADDS (Kerry)	Michael Kelly	066 7128789



Hadd

The HADD family support group Spring Newsletter 2007



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Family Support Group

Carmicheal House
North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7

Phone: (01) 8748349
Email: hadd@eircom.net

About Us:

HADD was founded in 1994 and aims to:

- Help support all who are effected by ADD/ADHD
- Create a better understanding of the condition
- Ensure adequate resources are available
- Provide an information sharing network
- Promote improved diagnostic services
- Organise meetings, workshops, conferences etc
- Provide a link between parents and professionals
- Encourage research into ADD and ADHD.

Hadd uses its office in the Carmichael Centre to publish a newsletter, organise information evenings and conferences, provide a helpline and to support families in distress. Please contact us on the details below for more information.

Chairpersons Address

Dear members welcome to HADD's first colourful newsletter. Please find enclosed your membership renewal form. Your continued payment of membership fees enables HADD to carry on helping and supporting all those who live with disorder.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members who participated in the successful Prime Time RTE programme and to those of you who sent your letters to the Minister for Health and Children.

Our Parents evenings have proven to be a great success also. Our next event will be on the 18th of April (see enclosed poster). Would you please display this poster locally as to inform and raise awareness of the event.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM which will also be held on the 18th of April. Your AGM papers will be issued in advance of the 18th.

Tribute to Dr Eddie McGrath

On behalf of HADD we would like to take this opportunity to say how sad we were to hear of the death of Dr Eddie McGrath. Eddie was a very kind and understanding man, particularly when working with and supporting young people with ADD/ADHD and their families .

Eddie supported many people along the harsh journey of living with ADD/ADHD .He had such an in-depth understanding of what life is like for young people with ADD/ADHD and he certainly made their journey easier in so many ways .

HADD will always be grateful for the expertise/help that Eddie gave the support group over the years, especially his huge contribution to our International Conference 2005.

HADD would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Eddies Wife and Family during this very sad time.

Tribute to Dr Eddie McGrath by Professor Michael Fitzgerald

It is with great sadness that I have heard about the death of Dr. Eddie McGrath. He was an extremely popular figure among Child Psychiatrists and Paediatricians in Ireland. He was a pioneer in the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Hundreds of families are indebted to him. He was also known for his great work in Africa. He will be greatly missed by both Support Groups for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and by fellow professionals and by parents of children with ADHD. We shall not see his like again.

Regards,

Professor Michael Fitzgerald.

Department of Psychiatry,

Trinity College Dublin (TCD),



Eighth International ADDISS Conference

How Do You Solve a Problem like ADHD?

Monday 26th March – Wednesday 28th March 2007

Royal National Hotel, London

Special Guest Keynote Lecture

Roger Graef OBE writer, filmmaker, broadcaster and criminologist

ADHD: A 21st Century Condition

There's no cure for ADHD at the moment but there's a great deal that can be done to help people with ADHD achieve their full potential. Much of this is around improving understanding of ADHD and providing tools and strategies that work – that's the focus for the 2007 ADDISS Conference!

The ADDISS conference is open to healthcare professionals, social workers, the probationary service, carers, parents/family, teachers and, where appropriate, the patients themselves.

We hope you can join us in London for what promises to be an informative, lively, challenging and fun meeting. See you in March!

For Booking form email: conferences@addiss.co.uk

Ph:0044 208 9060354/9622800

Cost

ADDISS Subscribers

- o Professional: £350 +VAT £411.25
- o Parent/ADDult/Student: £150 +vat £176.25
- o Schools/Voluntary orgs.: £250 +vat £295.75

Single day rate:

- One day 26 March 2007** o
- One day 27 March 2007** o
- One day 28th March 2007** o

- o Professional: £135 + vat £158.63
- o Parent/ADDult/Student £58+vat £68.15
- o Schools/Voluntary orgs. £96 + vat £112.80

Non Subscribers

- o Professional: £380 + vat £446.50
- o Parent/ADDult/Student £180+ vat £211.50
- o Schools/Voluntary orgs £280 +vat £329

- o Professional: £150 + vat £176.25
- o Parent/ADDult/Student £70+ vat £82.25
- o Schools/V.O £110+ vat £129.25

The cost for two days will be twice the one day fee.

North Fingal ADD/ADHD Parent/Adult Support Group



ADD/ADHD Information Afternoon

Guest Speakers

John Lonergan Governor Mountjoy Prison.

Dr Gerry Mc Carney

Professor Michael Fitzgerald

Venue: The Bracken Court Hotel Balbriggan

Date: Sat March 24th

Time: 12-4pm

Fee: €5

Comhaontas Glas GREEN PARTY

You are invited to a special Health Seminar organised by Trevor Sargent TD & Cllr Joe Corr

SATURDAY 31st MARCH 2007 from 3pm to 5pm.
Registration at 2.30pm with tea / coffee included. **NO CHARGE**
BRACKENCOURT HOTEL, BALBRIGGAN, Ardgillan Suite

THEME:
IT'S TIME TO PROVIDE PROPER ASSESSMENTS, SPECIAL EDUCATION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

CHAIR: TREVOR SARGENT TD (Green Party Leader & Former School Principal)
SPEAKERS: CLLR. JOE CORR (Cathaoirleach Fingal County Council & HSE Forum Member)
DEIRDRE CARROLL (Inclusion Ireland Chief Executive)
DR. SEÁN FENNEL (senior paediatrician) (to be confirmed)
PAT REEN (Prosper Fingal Director of Services)
JOHN GORMLEY TD (Green Party Cathaoirleach & Spokesperson on Health & Children)

Cllr. Joe Corr **Trevor Sargent TD**

MORE INFORMATION / TUILLEADH EOLAIS :
TREVOR SARGENT (Dáil) 6183465. (Constituency) 8900360

Please note HADD is not affiliated to any Political Party!

Dear HADD Members,

As a parent of a child with ADHD I am writing to you to introduce myself and would dearly hope to make contact with you in the near future.

I am looking towards starting a group for parents and their children but firstly need to see if this is something that you as a HADD member would benefit from.

My plans include meeting once a week in the Kildare area (location to be decided) with our children, in order to give each other support and also to introduce our children to each other.

My daughter is very bright, loving and full of fun but as you might understand she finds it difficult to hold down friendship due to her ADHD. This is why I feel it would benefit her to meet other children in a similar situation.

At the moment this is a fledging idea and would very much like to speak with parents who know about and live with ADHD/ADD.

I hope to hear from you soon where we can chat and discuss this further.

Anthea Bradshaw

085 7618605

Letter to the Chairperson sharing Parents Personal experience

F.A.O. Chairperson of HADD Family Support Group.

Dear Chairperson,

Following our recent dealings with the Department of Education & Science regarding the educational needs of our son, who has ADHD, we are writing to share our experiences with you. You may include this letter in your next Newsletter for your members. Someone may benefit from it.

Like many ADHD boys our son has learning difficulties and as such has undergone many assessments throughout his career to date. He was diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of eight and we as parents fought tooth and nail to have these difficulties recognized by the Department of Education and Science. He was attending primary school at the time and with the help of the Principal we secured resource hours for him. He thrived with this one-to-one support. We were told at the time by the Department that these resources would remain with him into second level. He also spent two years in a specialized reading school, St. Roses' NS and returned to mainstream for sixth class. We continued with the two yearly assessments to keep everything up to date.

When he entered secondary school he brought with him a file of copied assessments done over the years with clinical reports from our GP and doctor who attended him for ADHD to explain his condition/behaviors/medication. The school took us at our word and provided resource for him. They gave him one to one and additional support when Irish class was on. He sat all his exams in a small room with a reader and whatever else he needed. His first year was successful, he passed everything with flying colours. In May of that year the SENO, (the Special Education Needs Officer) visited the school and after reviewing our son's case cut all resources on the grounds that he didn't need them. We were informed by the school, not the SENO. Our son returned to year two with no support/resource and slowly became depressed, ill tempered, agitated, aggressive and harboured feeling of very low self esteem. He sat his Christmas exams like everyone else in the hall, un-aided and failed 50% of all exams. The subjects he passed read 40%, just passed. We as parents could see the benefit and need for him to have these resources reinstated and began to investigate. We called the school. We called the SENO and asked on what grounds were his resources cut? We questioned the information they held on our son only to find out that it was not up to date! We challenged the SENO regarding the State failing him- not giving him the appropriate education he was entitled to under the Irish Constitution! We called for a meeting with him. We are going to meet him at the end of the month. Our son is due to have a full educational assessment early this month and the report will be sent to the SENO immediately. We have since sent a copy of every report by registered post to the SENO's office so that he has all the information.

We have decided to ask for a minuted meeting so that we can agree on a plan to include resource hours, special consideration and appropriate settings for doing exams. We will throw out a wish list and see what we are offered. We will of course keep you informed of our progress and would encourage all parents to seek out the SENO in your child's school if the resource hours have been cut or to see if your child is entitled to any additional support. We as parents want to keep our son in the education system as long as we can, hopefully he'll make it to Leaving Certificate level successfully. We as parents can see the results of a supported child succeeding and a unaided one struggling with failure.

We hope we have helped someone out there who may be experiencing similar problems with the education system. We will leave our names/numbers with the support group should anyone want to call us for more information.

What is A SENO?

What is the role of the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO)?

If you or your Child's teacher feel there is a need to you can speak with the

Special Educational Needs Organizer

The SENO is required to prepare a plan for the appropriate education needs of your child, once the Council has been informed by the school that the child has special educational needs. A group of persons referred to as a team, provide advice to the SENO in relation to the preparation of the plan..

The team can include

The parents of the child (unless they wish to opt out)

The principal or teacher from the child's school

A psychologist

Any other person whom the parents or the SENO consider appropriate

The child in question may also be a part of the team if the SENO considers it appropriate

The SENO will be responsible for the co-ordination and facilitating delivery of the educational services to children with disabilities at local level.

In particular, the SENO'S will be a focal point of contact for parents/guardians and schools, and will process applications for resources for children with disabilities who have special educational needs. This will also involve regular and detailed engagement with organizations such as the health authorities and the Department, including administrative divisions, the Inspectorate and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)

In other words, they are there to help you. They will advise you on what best to do in order to help your child reach their full potential. Speak to your Child's year head or principal about how you can contact the SENO assigned to your school.

N.B. the Education for persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 has not yet been fully implemented as yet.

The range of Special Educational Needs:

Learning difficulties:

Moderate

Severe/Profound and multiple

Specific Learning difficulties: Dyslexia

Emotional and Behavioral difficulties

Physical disabilities

Sensory impairment: hearing difficulties

Sensory impairment: visual difficulties

Speech and language difficulties

Medical conditions: Heart disease, cancers, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and asthma

Conditions that may lead to learning difficulties

Aspergers syndrome, **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**, Autism Cerebral palsy, Down's Syndrome, Dysphasia, Muscular dystrophy, Polio myelitis, Prader-Wills Syndrome, Spina Bifida

Exceptionally able or 'gifted' children can also require special education.

If you would like more information contact: Geraldine Graydon (Special Educational Group National Parents Council-Primary)
12 Marlborough Court, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8874034 Fax: 01 8874489
email: info@npc.ie

The Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Solution-Focused Parenting Programme for Parents of Children Diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.H.D).

Dear Parent,

My name is Stephanie Fitzgerald and I am currently completing the Masters in Educational Psychology in the School of Education and Life Long Learning at UCD. As part of this Masters I am conducting research in the area of Solution Focused group work and its potential impact on parenting skills. The title of my research is The Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Solution-Focused Parenting Programme for Parents of Children Diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.H.D). I am focusing my research on parents with children aged three to twelve years of age that have been diagnosed with ADHD.

It is envisaged that the programme will last for 6-8 weeks depending on the needs and requirements of the group. It will deal with a range of issues including the skills involved in developing healthy relationships with children and particularly children diagnosed with ADHD, understanding the needs of children diagnosed with ADHD and developing supportive ways to meet these needs and learning effective coping skills in dealing with challenging behaviour. Parents interested in taking part in this programme will initially be asked to meet with me on an individual basis. This will be an opportunity for parents to raise any issues or areas that they would like the course to address which will enable the programme to be tailored to meet the parents needs in so far as is possible. The overall aims of the initial meeting are as follows:

- To discuss the Solution-Focused group work programme
- To ask questions about the programme
- To give their consent to taking part in the Programme
- To identify the goals they would hope to achieve as a result of taking part in the group work

If you have any questions about the course, please telephone me, Stephanie Fitzgerald, at 087-1306938 or contact me by e-mail: stephf96@gmail.com . If you would like to attend the Course please contact me with a view to setting up an initial meeting.

Best Regards,

Stephanie Fitzgerald



Disability worker Trinity College

AD/HD Project 2006

Trinity College now have a disability officer who offers supports to students with ADD/HD. His name is Declan Reilly and as a Disability Officer has been involved in the AD/HD project since January of 2006. A criteria for assessment have been established to standardise the evidence that is presented by students applying for or seeking supports and accommodations at 3rd level colleges. This is essential for students who apply through the CAO system and wish to disclose their AD/HD on the supplementary application form. The criteria are also essential in clarifying how a 3rd level college can best support and accommodate a student with AD/HD.

Contact Declan Reilly Disability Officer

Room 2052 Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin 2

Phone:01-8963776 E-Mail reillyde@trc.ie

By contacting support groups for ADD/HD Declan intends to raise awareness of this initiative and to share information about how best to support students with AD/HD, particularly in achieving their academic goals by Involving internal and external stakeholders in developing and implementing a college policy on AD/HD assessment criteria.

- Identify clinical professionals who will provide assessment reports to the standard specified in the college criteria.
- Develop supports for students with AD/HD, including guidelines for reasonable accommodations and appropriate supports.
- Work with Academic Support Tutors, Unilink and the Learning Support Service to develop specific supports for students with AD/HD.
- Implement a referral process with SDS, the college health centre and the counselling service so that students with AD/HD can be easily identified, assessed and supported.
- Monitor the numbers of students with AD/HD applying to and accepting places in college as well as those registering with SDS.
- Respond to feedback from students and other stakeholders at regular review meetings.
- Evaluate the success of the AD/HD project, qualitatively by service user review and quantitatively by the level of interest and uptake of the services available.
- Inform other 3rd level institutions nationally of the AD/HD project and work collaboratively to introduce policies and supports.

The right / entitlements for children with ADHD/ADD.

What are my entitlements?

You May, at the discretion of your local Health Service Executive

be entitled to the following:

Domiciliary Care Allowance

The allowance for the domiciliary care of severely physically or intellectually disabled children is a monthly cash payment to the mother/father or guardian in certain circumstances, of such a child between the age of 2 and 16 years.

The age limit may be extended from 16 to 18 if the child is still attending school.

Over 16 years of age, an individual may apply for a disability allowance from the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs.

Carer's allowance

Carer's allowance is a means tested payment for Carer's on low income, who, live with and look after people who need full time care and attention.

For more information and forms contact your local HSE office.

Carer's Benefit

To qualify: you must have at least 156 PRSI contributions paid (class A, B, C, D, E or H) and

39 contributions paid in the relevant tax year or

39 contributions paid in the 12 months immediately before the start of carer's benefit or

26 contributions paid in the relevant tax year and 26 paid in the relevant tax year prior to that.

Conditions

You must leave employment temporarily to look after someone in need of full time care for e.g. someone with a disability or a child receiving domiciliary care allowance.

More information

Carer's Benefit Section, Social Welfare Services Office, Government Buildings, Ballinalee Road, Longford.

Tel: (043)40087 or (01) 7043000

Long Term Illness Book

You may be eligible for free prescribed drugs and medicines under the long term illness Scheme.

Application forms are available at General Practitioners surgeries and local Health Service Executive offices.



Finglas Cabra ADHD

Support Group

c/o Finglas Cabra

Partnership

27-28 Annamoe

Terrace Cabra

Dublin 7

Contact: Pauline Hazel

01 8683806 / 087 9700034

Training Day for local support group committees

Members of local support group committees will be taking part in a one day training course in March which will be facilitated by the ISPCC. Members of these committees will learn the appropriate skill and receive recourse packs to enable them to deliver workshops in the future to young people with ADHD/ADD and their parents.

The group received funding from the **Finglas Cabra Partnership** for the training day and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Partnership for their support.

Childs rights

Your child's Education

Under the Education Welfare legislation Act 2000, children must be educated until the age of 16. If your child has been expelled or suspended from school, ask for written confirmation from the school which states the reasons for their action. You should then contact the Educational Welfare Board at (01)8738626.

- Your child has the right to a full and detailed assessment of needs at the time of diagnosis.
- The right to an education which is geared to the potential and abilities of the child.
- The right to training and to meaningful work where appropriate.
- The right to be free from discrimination.
- The right of people with disabilities, their parents, guardians and siblings to elect their own representatives onto the board of all service providers, including all statutory agencies, to ensure effective representation.
- The right for parents, guardians and their siblings of people with disabilities to counseling, support and respite care, and to information and consultation about the needs of their children, irrespective of age.

Supports at school

A learning support teacher: If your child is displaying learning difficulties, he/she may be assigned a learning support teacher. These teachers used to be called remedial teachers. This teacher deals with your child on a one to one basis but sometime may teach a group of children together.

SNA (a special needs classroom Assistant)

The classroom assistant would act as your Childs reminder helping them to stay focused on the task at hand etc

NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service Agency)

What is their role?

The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is a service funded by the Department of Education and Science. NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools and they are concerned with learning, behavior, social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools.

NEPS psychologists specialize in working with the school community. They work in partnership with teachers, parents and children in identifying educational needs. They offer a range of services aimed at meeting these needs, for example, supporting individual students (through consultation and assessment), special projects and research.

"NEPS mission is to support the personal, social and educational development of all children through the application of psychological theory and practice in education, having particular regard for children with special educational needs."

The service provided by NEPS has four main strands

- Casework with individual children and young people
- Consultation and support for teachers and parents
- Project work in schools
- Promotion of mental health in schools

Those primary schools who do not yet have access to NEPS may commission private assessments under a scheme administered by NEPS.

Each school may commission a number of assessments – broadly one assessment for every 50 students.

Head Office

Frederick Court,
24/27 North Frederick Street
Dublin 1

What happens if my child is suspended or expelled from school?

If a child is expelled or suspended from school a parent can appeal the decision to the Department of Education and Science. A phone call to the Post Primary Administration Section in Tullamore gets this in motion. They can be contacted at (0506)24331. If the appeal goes ahead, an arbitration panel meets both the parent and student as well as the school principal and chair of the board to try and come to a solution. If the school will not take the student back and no other school will take them the Department of Education and Science can sanction HOME TUITION until a suitable school is found.

When a child is absent from school for a total of 20 days, not necessarily consecutive days the Education Welfare Board must be notified. The school is required to do this, however you may report the child absent from school.

The school have to notify the Educational Welfare Board if the student is suspended or not in school for a period of 6 days or if they have been told not to attend as a request made from the school, for any reason.

When Welfare Officers have been appointed it will be their responsibility to deal with and resolve issues such as this.

Also do not be afraid to speak to the Social Worker attached to your child's doctor's team and speak to them about any difficulties your child may have.

National Welfare Board

16-22 Green St, Dublin 7

Phone:01-8738600

For further information on education for people with disabilities contact

Department of Education and Science,

Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Phone ;(090)6483600 or (01)8896400