



My Place to Play 2022

My Place to Play (MPTP) is a programme that aims to enhance parent-child interactions and the physical, emotional, cognitive and language development of infants and toddlers. It is a simple and evidence-informed tool suitable for families living in confined spaces and can be used as an engagement resource for practitioners to build relationships with parents and caregivers.

Interactions between parents and children are enhanced through the use of educational toys and books found within the My Place to Play packs; creating time and space for learning through play. The resources are provided through a facilitator in an initial engagement with a family which then facilitates ongoing opportunities to build relationships between practitioners and parents/caregivers. The programme is divided into two components;

- My Place to Play Baby Mat (0-12months) and
- My Place to Play Toddler Play Bag (12-36 months)

My Place to Play 2022 is funded and supported by Children and Young People’s Services Committees, Tusla Child and Family Agency Prevention, Partnership and Family Support and the Department of Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth. This funding will support services who are working with families in International Protection, emergency accommodation, cramped living conditions and those supporting Ukrainian families.

Project Overview

MPTP consists of 3 core components. The table below aligns these components with learning and beneficiaries and expected activities and outcomes.

Component	Learning and beneficiaries	Expected activities/outcomes
Interactive MPTP Briefing session	Local professionals participate in a MPTP Briefing and receive an overview of the project, the resources and key messages.	Increase knowledge and practical skills around the importance of play and physical, social and emotional, and language development.
Family Participation	Parents/Guardians receive MPTP resources to implement the learning conveyed to them by a support professional.	Increase parent-child engagement Enhance children’s learning and development
Monitoring, evaluation and follow up	Collect survey data from programme participants to monitor project implementation and quality and apply key learning.	Post MPTP Briefing evaluation survey (professionals) Post resource distribution survey (professionals) MPTP Project evaluation survey (parents) Report produced with identified findings.

Interagency collaboration

Key Stakeholders	
Target population families with children under 3 years	Ukrainian families displaced by current crisis Families living in International Protection Families living in emergency accommodation Families living in confined living conditions Traveller and Roma families
National Implementation Group	Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS)
Funders	Tusla PPFS CYPSC IPAS DCEDIY
Local Partners	Community and voluntary organisations, City and County Childcare Committees, Local authorities, Health Service Executive Public Health Nursing, Family Resource Centres etc.

My Place to Play is currently supported by a multi-agency, collaborative National Implementation Group comprising the following partners; the Early Learning Initiative (Area Based Childhood Programme), CYPSC, Tusla PPFS and the IPAS Unit of DCEDIY.

Dissemination plan

To ensure MPTP is distributed based on priority identified need, we ask that all requests for MPTP resources are processed through the Early Learning Initiative. We ask that organisations coordinate their request across all of their practitioners and identify a key contact within their organisation to liaise with the Early Learning Initiative.

Resources will be distributed through localised planning processes as formulated through the National Implementation Group. Depending on the area/county, existing structures under CYPSC, ABC Programmes, Local Authorities, Family Resources Centres, and contact centres for Ukrainian families will be utilised to disseminate resources.

In order to avail of MPTP resources, a practitioner must

- ✓ Attend a MPTP briefing session. If a briefing session has not been attended, dates for upcoming sessions will be circulated for September to December over the Summer.
- ✓ Contact ELI at ELI@ncirl.ie to receive more information about resources required e.g. quantity, location, target group.
- ✓ Agree to participating in the data collection involved for the MPTP programme.

Please note that ELI endeavours to work with organisations to support the implementation of My Place to Play where resources allow and there is an identified need in the community. Attendance at the MPTP Briefing session does not guarantee access to resources.

**Thank you for your support in providing My Place to Play
to vulnerable families across Ireland.**