

## Manager of one of Our Partner Early Years Setting presents at National Event

On Wednesday 17th February, Preparing for Life's Early Years team was out in force to support Jigsaw Manager, Kelda Barnes, as she presented to a national audience at an ABC Learning Community Event which was held in the historic Dublin Castle.

The day-long gathering of Early Childhood Educators, Managers and Mentors, entitled *Early Years: Driving Quality and Challenging Poverty* provided a valuable context in which to share models and approaches from ABC (Area Based Childhood Initiative) sites, as well as offering networking opportunities, and a platform to explore how learning can be mainstreamed. The ABC Programme, an initiative which aims to improve outcomes for children and families living in areas of disadvantage, is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and The Atlantic Philanthropies.



L-R Rachel Ivie (Doras Buí), Yuk-kuen Cheung (Moatview Early Education Centre), Lisa Mc Mahon (Moatview Early Education Centre), Nicola Miller (Jigsaw), Kelda Barnes (Jigsaw) at the ABC event in Dublin Castle.

The event which was attended by over one hundred people, included keynote presentations from Professor Nóirín Hayes (Trinity College Dublin), Dr Dorothy Watson (Economic and Social Research Institute) and Bernie Mc Nally (Department of Children and Youth Affairs).

Kelda Barnes, who is the Manager of Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Service (Jigsaw) spoke passionately about her setting's involvement with Preparing for Life, which is one of 13 ABC initiatives. Kelda and her team have been working in partnership with Preparing for Life to continuously improve the quality of their Early Childhood Care and Education service. Kelda credits the work her staff have been doing with the PFL Early Years team, with helping the service to;

  
**Preparing for Life**  
EARLY YEARS PRACTICE

- Meet the requirements of National Frameworks
- Have all staff members supported (directly or indirectly) to use the Aistear Early Childhood Curriculum Framework
- Assist 3 staff to complete Early Years degrees
- Adapt and improve the learning environment
- Create a curriculum statement
- Develop children's oral language by providing Hanen™ training for staff and a personal link with a speech & language therapist
- Build a legacy through leadership training
- Foster links and build relationships with other local EY centres, staff and managers

For more information on the ABC Programme click [here](#)

For more information on Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Service click [here](#)



Kelda Barnes, Manager of Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Service, presenting at Dublin Castle