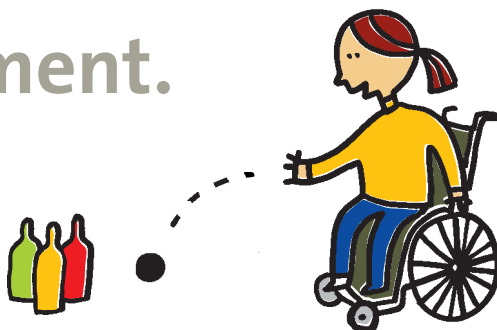




Pre-School Services

Enable Ireland's Pre-School Services provide a comprehensive range of supports and options for the pre-school child.

The Pre-School years are very important ones in any child's overall development.



The majority of children in the 3–5 age range are availing of local mainstream pre-school placement. Why pre-school? Children learn through playing and exploring, experiencing and feeling. They climb, run, jump and swing. They feel water, sand and mud. They dress up and pretend to cook dinner. Children with a physical disability may need extra help to do these things. Through all of these activities they are learning about themselves and their bodies, about their surroundings, and about others.

In the pre-school environment they develop their imaginations, learn about sharing and taking turns, or about sitting quietly, listening, and concentrating.

Enable Ireland's approach to pre-school services is to provide:

- **Support for local pre-schools**
- **Centre-based pre-schools where there is an interdisciplinary team approach to the provision of early education, therapy and support.**
- **A split placement model, where the child attends local pre-school for part of the week and the centre pre-school for the other part.**

The team will discuss with you the best option for your child.



Focus in the Pre-School Years

- In the pre-school years children acquire important skills that will be built on later in school. Among these are recognising size, shape, colour and pattern as well as pre-reading and number skills. Activities for skills acquisition move at the child's own pace to encourage a sense of achievement and success.

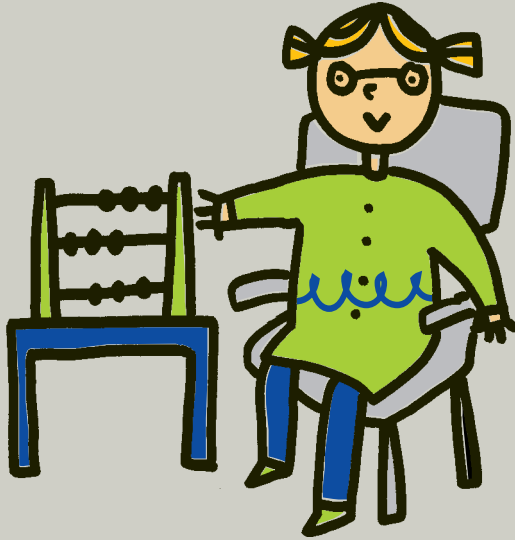
- Children learn to express their needs and feelings through language. It is also through language that they learn to understand directions and acquire knowledge. Parents are of course teaching their children to communicate every day, but some children need more direct intervention than others in their development of these skills because of their impairment or delay.

- As well as assisting the child to develop the maximum mobility and control of their body, there is a focus on proper positioning to help free the child to take part in activities.

- Before they go to school children need to build an ability to focus on listening and carrying out instructions, and on concentrating on carrying out the task they are completing.

As a parent you will be actively involved in discussions with the team about your child's progress and assisted with choosing a school when the time comes.





Who We Are

Enabling people with physical disabilities to achieve maximum independence, choice and inclusion in their communities.

Since its founding in 1948, Enable Ireland has evolved into a national organisation with centres or branches located nationwide. We have worked together with thousands of children and adults with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, and developmental delay.

The demand for our services continues to increase throughout Ireland. We have set ourselves the challenging goal of meeting these needs by providing a full range of high quality services, and expanding greatly into local communities.

Enable Ireland