

Fingal County Council's Arts Office Presents

# Now We Are Ready to Start!

Fingal's first arts programme  
for the under 5's

## Welcome

Welcome to Fingal County Council's first arts programme for the youngest members of our county! **Now We Are Ready to Start!** is the result of the collaboration between Fingal Arts Office and three exceptional artists who specialise in working creatively with children. The events were devised specifically for those in their early years (1-5 years) and their guardians. Please come along and enjoy the wonder and magic of life through the eyes of your child in the idyllic surroundings of Farmleigh!

Fingal Arts

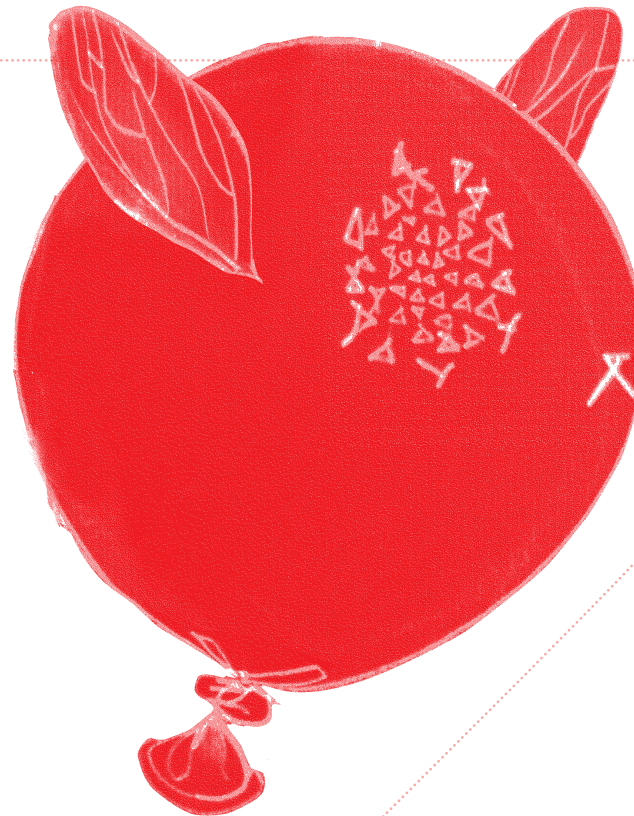


# Bubbles & Bees

## A play and creative activity session in a magical seasonal set!

Balloons for leaves & bubbles as bees. Come join in the elation! A colourful mini-world of make-believe.

This interactive installation of trails and tracks of woodland creatures, festoons of pollen pods, giant spider webs and hungry helium bugs create an autumnal set for children to play, discover and dream.



Date: **Sat 13th Oct**

Time: **11am -12pm**

Place: **Farmleigh**

Age: **1-4 years**

Artist: **Laura de Búrca**

**Laura de Búrca** is a visual artist and an experienced creator/ facilitator of art workshops for children. Graduating from NCAD with a Degree in Printed Textiles, she took with her an intense love of colour and print making. Laura has since gone on to investigate and explore these worlds in her own practice and most enjoyably with young minds in an array of workshops and playgroups for younger children. Laura has illustrated *Cleití Órga* and *Puisín*, two Irish language storybooks for children.

# Magical Autumn

## Explore nature and its hidden secrets!

Autumn is a magical time, where wonderful changes occur in nature telling the story of a big world. But the big world has wonderful, hidden, small exciting things, and we remember their brilliance when someone says, 'come have a look!'

This session will explore a magical season of colour, dark and light; of size, big and small, and all the stuff in between using storytelling, music, drawing & painting.  
(Note: Dress for mess!)



Date: **Sat 27th Oct**  
Time: **11am -12.10pm**  
Place: **Farmleigh**  
Age: **18mths - 4 years**  
Artist: **Órla Kelly**

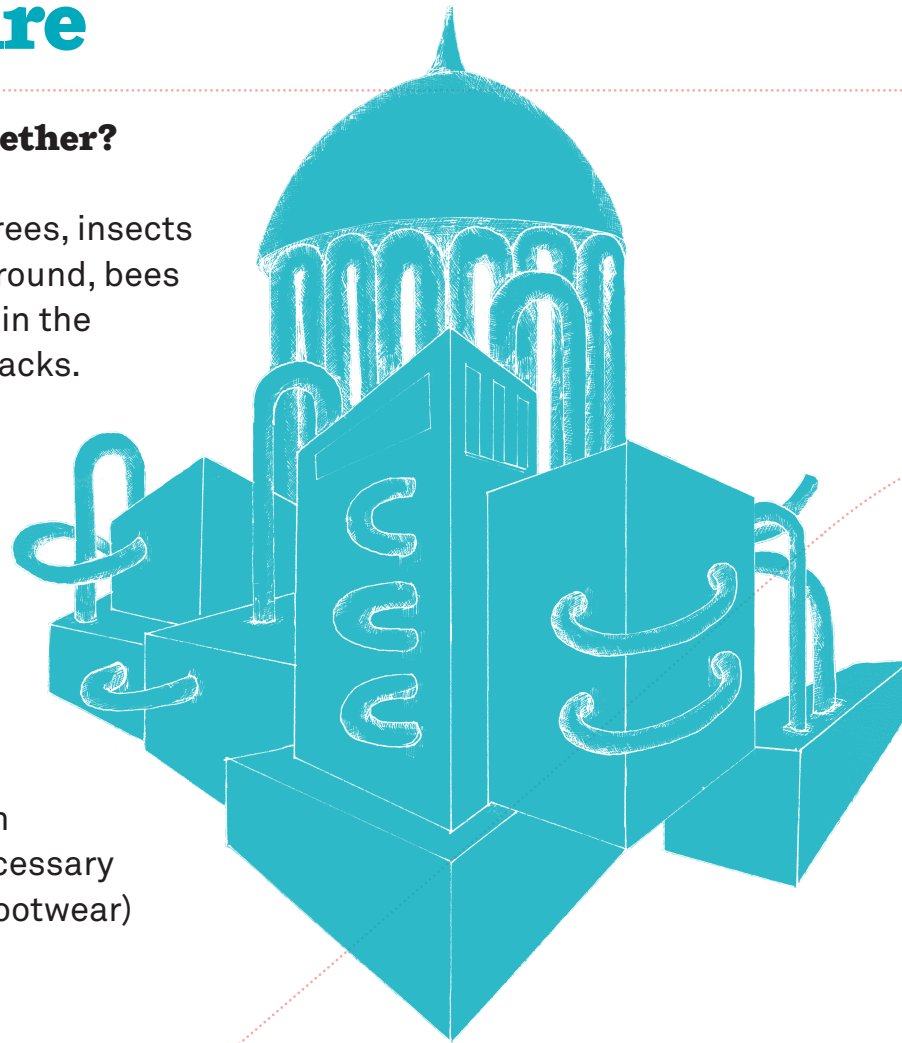
**Órla Kelly** is the co-founder and director of Early Childhood Creativity, an initiative that aims to stimulate creative thinking and activity in early years, children and their parents, and to support artists and educationalists to develop specific and creative ways of working with early years children (0-6 years). Órla is a visual artist, creative educationalist and an arts manager. She has worked with children for over a decade, creating work in Dublin and continental Europe. Her own education includes a Diploma in Psychology from Maynooth, a Degree in Fine Art from Limerick College of Art and Design and a Masters in Arts Management from Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

# Playful Architecture

## Can we build a home together?

Birds live in nests high in trees, insects live in burrows under the ground, bees live in hives and snails live in the house they carry on their backs.

Together we investigate where these creatures live and how they build their homes, gathering some of their ideas to create a wonderful playful house of our own. This engaging event explores the theme of home through play and the visual arts. (Note: warm water proof clothes are necessary with appropriate outdoor footwear)



Date: **Sat 17th Nov**

Time: **11am -12.15pm**

Place: **Farmleigh**

Age: **18mths - 4 years**

Artist: **Helen Barry**

**Helen Barry** is a visual artist and the co-founder of Early Childhood Creativity. She has over 25 years experience of working with children and young people through the visual arts, arts education, television and community arts. Helen's primary focus is on sculpture; her work investigates the architecture of buildings and spaces that bring people & communities together. As part of this exploration Helen has entrusted early years children with some of her own ideas and together they enjoy discovering what they can create. This in turn informs Helen further about her own art practice.

Helen initiated You Can Play Too an interactive arts programme specifically designed for early years and their parents and is the author and illustrator of *You Can Play Too*, the accompanying arts activity book. Helen has a Degree in Fine Art from the University of Central England and has studied Art Therapy and Islamic Art & Architecture. She is a current member of the Broadstone Studios, Dublin.

# 1, 2, 3, Go!

## **A grand finale!**

Our three artists collaborate for a playful event, full of discovery and magic. Incorporating elements from all the **Now We Are Ready to Start!** events, participants will come in contact with a giant spider's web, bugs, bees, colours, stories, rainbows, fireflies, music, paint, architectural inventions and dreams! (Dress for mess just in case!)

Date: **Sat 24th Nov**

Time: **11am - 12.30pm**

Place: **Farmleigh**

Age: **1-5 years**

Artists: **Órla Kelly, Helen Barry,  
Laura de Búrca**

# Booking & Directions

## **Booking**

All events are free, booking is essential as places are limited. Workshops are for children and their guardians; you cannot leave your child unattended.

For information and Booking please contact  
**Julie Clarke**, Youth & Education Officer  
Fingal County Council  
Telephone: 01 8905960  
Email: [julie.clarke@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:julie.clarke@fingalcoco.ie)

## **Getting to Farmleigh Estate**

Farmleigh is accessed through the Phoenix Park. The Phoenix Park shuttle bus service operates from 10am every 20 minutes from a terminus outside the park beside the Luas Bridge at Park Gate Street. The bus travels a return journey from Park Gate Street to Dublin Zoo, then on to Farmleigh, down to the Papal Cross and Visitor's Centre and returns to Park Gate Street.

Entering the Phoenix Park through the Castleknock Gate, take a right at the first roundabout & then your first right again. Farmleigh is at the end of this road. Parking available.