



# Carrickmacross Toy Library Annual Report

2023



Registered Charity No. 20205141





**Our mission is to provide families and caregivers of children aged 0-8 living in or near Carrickmacross with access to safe, high-quality, sustainably sourced toys.**

We strive to remain affordable to all sections of the community and to provide consistently high standards of service.

We actively seek opportunities to integrate and collaborate with other child-centred services and community groups in the Carrickmacross/South Monaghan area, in an effort to ensure the service is accessible to all.





# Our Services

Toy lending service providing members with access to over 700 high-quality, age-appropriate toys.

**'Stay & Play' and themed pop-up play sessions, including Forest School, Gymboree, kids yoga, sensory music and play sessions in Irish and Spanish.**

Reusable party kit and party toy rentals.

## **Cloth nappy meet-up**

Active county-wide Freecycle page with over 900 members.





# Revenue Streams

## Membership Fees

€12 per quarter / €20 six monthly /  
€35 annual

## Rainbow Rentals

Party kit rental (reusable plates, bowls,  
cups, cutlery, etc) €5 per rental.

## Pre-Loved Toy Sales

Via pop-up toy sale events

## Party Toy Rentals

Including refillable giant bubbles and large  
toys suitable for parties.

## Pop-up Play Sessions - Craft Club

From €5 per child





# Toys & Loans

1,560 loans facilitated, a year-on-year increase of 18%

New category added - 'Toys Suitable for Age 6+' - funding secured to add more toys for older children

752 toys

Expanded party toys collection - revenue from party rentals up 823%





# New Premises



- In August 2023, the Toy Library moved to a unit in Carrickmacross Shopping Centre.
- The Toy Library now has its own town centre shop front within the Shopping Centre, with the bonus of a caretaker, security cameras and fire safety compliance. In addition, the Toy Library has use of a storage shed to the rear of the property.
- The space is currently divided into 'stay and play' area and storage, with a small seating area for parents; focus group research in 2022 identified a need for this.



# Play Sessions

'Stay & Play'  
resumed,  
October 2023

Monthly 'Craft  
Club' launched,  
November 2023

New Wednesday  
pm opening,  
twice a month



# Memberships

130 contacts on system

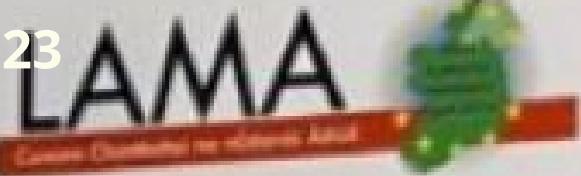
77 memberships purchased

1x childcare/setting membership

1.8% increase in membership revenue

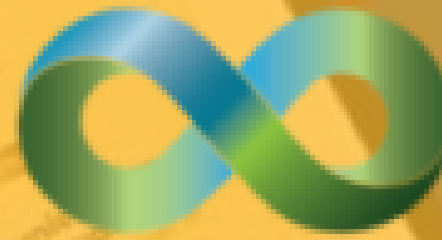






RETHINK  
IRELAND

Our founders were named 'Volunteers of the Year' at the 2023 All-Ireland Community & Council (LAMA) Awards



ALL IRELAND COMMUNITY & COUNCIL AWARDS  
IPB INSURANCE AND LAMA

onól Réigiúnach  
Deiscirt



# Collaborations

Toy repairs  
carried out by  
Carrickmaross  
Men's Shed



IRISH  
MEN'S  
SHEDS  
ASSOCIATION  
menssheds.ie

Tidy Towns

Monthly litter-  
picking event in  
conjunction with  
Carrickmacross  
Tidy Towns



Signed up to the  
'We're  
BreastfeedingFrie  
ndly Monaghan'  
initiative



hi Healthy Ireland  
We're  
Breastfeeding  
Friendly  
Monaghan



# What Our Members Say About Us

*"The toy library is more than just a library to me - it's a sense of community, of doing good for the environment, being a part of the circular economy, and a feeling of connection with, and pride for, our local area."*

**Jamie**

*"Really love the service, and it's really helped us manage a tricky transition period. We've also tried out so many toys that I thought the kids would love... And they did.. for a week or so. Every three weeks the kids are happy to let the "old" toys go and get new toys in."*

**Grainne**

*"Carrickmacross Toy Library has been a wonderful find for our family in so many ways but most particularly for our special needs son who can now avail of a wide range of toys to try within the context of the various therapies he undertakes. We can try out different toys to our support OT, Speech and Physiotherapy plans aswell as Music Therapy and of course incorporate toys just for fun in independent or group play. The toy library has given us the chance to try out so many items at low cost and the staff are totally tuned in and supportive with what might suit our particular situation."*

**Mairead**



# Income & Expenditure, 2023

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Grant Income	€13,788.53	Rent	€7,346.20
Membership	€1,691.67	Banking Fees	€107.24
Fundraising	€723.00	Toys	€4,079.26
Consultancy	€650.00	Insurance	€444.56
Corporate Sponsorship	€2,850.00	Furniture & Signage	€1,626.95
Party Rentals	€281.61	CB Road Premises	€2,092.08
Play Sessions	€125.00	ITLA Membership	€40.00
Gift Vouchers	€130.00	Web/software	€211.70
		Electricity	€92.31
	<b>Total:</b>	Petty Cash Float	€500.00
	<b>€20,239.81</b>	Misc storage & Stationery	€447.15
		Events/marketing	€100.00
			<b>Total:</b>
			<b>€17,087.45</b>
		<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>€3,152.36</b>



# 2024 and beyond...

- **Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme**, body of work including playbook for community groups; national toy library association; new websites; and cementing CMX Toy Library's place as Ireland's model toy library.
- **Toy Show Grant** - more toys for schools and baby equipment rentals.
- **Kids' Festival** on the Shirley Estate, 15th June 2024
- **Collaboration with Monaghan County Libraries Service.**
- **Grow membership and revenue**, from sources including corporate sponsorship.





# Our Supporters



**Carrickmacross  
Credit Union**

**RTÉ  
TOY  
SHOW  
APPEAL**



Community  
Foundation  
Ireland



**RETHINK  
IRELAND**

