

Press Release

NCCA DVD for parents to be presented to the National Parents Council at their annual conference

21 April 2006

For Immediate Release

A new DVD for Parents will be presented to the National Parents Council at their Annual conference in the Park Inn Hotel, Dundalk this coming Friday 21 April by Dr. Anne Looney, Chief Executive of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The DVD entitled *The What, Why and How of children's learning in primary school* which has been developed by the NCCA and was made in consultation with parents across the country to find out what they wanted to know about what their children were learning in primary school, and how best to support the child's learning at home.

The DVD which was officially launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin last month was developed following the NCCA's first phase of the review of the primary school curriculum. The review found that schools, teachers and principals wanted support in engaging parents more in the life of the school.

In the coming weeks 250,000 copies of this free DVD will be on their way to schools and from there they will make their way to homes. The DVD is presented through the eyes of five children and it explains how the curriculum is structured and how children with special needs are supported. It gives practical advice on homework and information on assessment.

Speaking at the conference NCCA Chief Executive, Dr Anne Looney said “It is particularly fitting to present this DVD at a conference entitled *Interculturalism - A Patchwork Quilt – Embracing Diversity in Primary Education* giving that this DVD is available in five languages – English, Gaeilge, French, Lithuanian and Polish catering for an every increasing ethnic mix in our schools.” Dr. Looney also thanked the NPC for their support in making the DVD and said that “This DVD is a celebration of Irish Primary Education, of committed and skilled teachers, and welcoming, engaging schools and principals.”

The DVD begins with an overview of primary schools, and then the story of each stage of learning is told through the eyes of a child. Lucy shows us how important early learning is in the home. Colm, tells us about learning in junior and senior infants and Courtney walks us through learning in first and second class. Seán shows us what third and fourth class is like and Abeeha informs us about learning in fifth and sixth class.

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