



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

List of organisations for schools, young people, and families based in the Republic of Ireland

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About this list

This list includes organisations relevant to neurodivergence (for example, those focusing on dyslexia, autism, and other diagnoses), and those focused on **education, families, and children**, because this is closest to the LEANS Project's remit.

The list is intended to be a useful starting point for people who may be looking for information, advice, or practical support. It does not include all organisations working in these areas, but has largely focused on larger or national-level organisations. Some of these also operate in NI. We encourage you to look up what is happening in *your* area in terms of groups, services, and local charities. There are many smaller but excellent groups, and it wasn't feasible to find and list them all! We also know that there are some diagnoses that aren't currently covered by this list at all. We hope to expand it in the future.

Contact information and organisation remits may change over time. We encourage you to **please check with individual organisations** about what they currently offer, to which people, and how best to contact them.

Please be aware, inclusion on this list:

- Does not constitute an endorsement of these organisations, or their information or services.
- Does not imply that these organisations have any relationship with, or knowledge of, the LEANS research project/ LEANS programme.

Categories *Click a category to jump to that section*

- [1. General organisations](#)
- [2. ADD and ADHD](#)
- [3. Autism \(ASC/ASD\)](#)
- [4. Dyscalculia and dyslexia](#)
- [5. Dyspraxia \(DCD\)](#)
- [6. Developmental Language Disorders \(DLI\)](#)

1. General organisations

For supporting children and young people, families, wellbeing, inclusion; general disability-related organisations

A Lust for Life

<https://www.alustforlife.com/>

Multi-award winning Irish mental health charity based in Ireland that uses content, campaigns and events for young people to facilitate wellbeing. They also offer a programme of resources for schools.

Barnardos

<https://www.barnardos.ie>

Barnardos' mission is to deliver services and work with families, communities, and our partners to transform the lives of vulnerable children who are affected by adverse childhood experiences.

Cara Centre

<https://caracentre.ie>

Cara is a national pan-disability sport organisation providing a collaborative and partnership platform to increase sport and physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities across Ireland.

Enable Ireland

<https://enableireland.ie/>

A national disability services provider supporting children, adults, and family members with "a range of disabilities including physical, sensory, intellectual disabilities and autism". They provide a wide range of services, including an Assistive Technology Training Service. Website also includes listings of local services and supports. They also host a multi-topic resource hub that includes education content.

Inclusion Ireland

<https://inclusionireland.ie/>

Inclusion Ireland's mission is to champion the rights of people with an intellectual disability in Ireland through securing the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). They provide information and advice, advocacy support, training, seminars, and conferences. Inclusion Ireland also works with policymakers.

National Council of Special Education (NCSE)

<https://ncse.ie/>

The NCSE was set up to improve the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs arising from disabilities, with particular emphasis on children. They provide supports to schools, and advice to educators, parents and guardians. In addition, they undertake and disseminate research and provide policy advice to government.

Rehab Group

<https://rehab.ie/>

Organisation championing diversity and inclusion. They are a community-based service provider for people of all ages who experience disabilities or disadvantage, and have multiple locations across Ireland.

Sports Inclusion Officers

<https://www.sportireland.ie/participation/sports-inclusion-disability-officers>

Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) aim to increase the participation of people with disabilities in sport, fitness and physical activity throughout the country. This is achieved through working in partnership with statutory agencies, sports clubs, community groups, facility providers, schools, disability service providers and people with disabilities.

Spunout.ie

<https://spunout.ie/about>

Spunout is Ireland's youth information website created by young people, for young people. We aim to educate and inform our readers about the importance of holistic wellbeing and how good health can be maintained, both physically and mentally.

2. ADD & ADHD

ADHD Ireland

<https://adhdireland.ie/>

Offering ADHD information and resources for both children and adults, as well as for parents and professionals. They offer a phone/email helpline, and organise training and events.

3. Autism (ASC/ASD)

AsIAM

www.asiam.ie

Ireland's national autism charity. In addition to providing online resources and autism information, they run a dedication information line. They offer multiple training programmes aimed at different audiences including schools.

Aspire Ireland (The Autism Spectrum Association of Ireland)

www.aspireireland.ie

This organisation seeks to improve the quality of life for autistic people in Ireland. It offers autism-related support, information on topics including education, and runs events.

Middletown Centre for Autism

<https://www.middletownautism.com/>

An all-island Centre of Excellence for educating children and young people on the autism spectrum. The centre runs a learning support and assessment service for children and young people, and the online resources section of the website covers a range of topics, including practical strategies around daily life skills and sensory processing. They also offer a range of training courses for adults.

4. Dyscalculia and Dyslexia

Dyslexia Association of Ireland

<https://dyslexia.ie/>

Online information hub with content about dyslexia and dyscalculia. They directly offer some dyslexia and dyscalculia assessment services (Dublin-based; €), and workshops for children

and adolescents with dyslexia. They also run courses on understanding and supporting dyslexia for primary teachers, secondary teachers, and parents.

5. Dyspraxia (Developmental Coordination Disorder/DCD)

Dyspraxia/DCD Ireland

<https://www.dyspraxia.ie/index>

Find online information about DCD, including a list of common FAQs about this diagnosis and what it means. The organisation hosts talks, webinars, and events. They offer a telephone helpline and can give advice about the diagnostic process. The website also hosts a list of regional, age-specific DCD support groups.

6. Developmental Language Disorders (DLD)

If you are looking for information on Specific Language Impairment, try the organisations in this category.

RADLD (Raise Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder)—Ireland committee

<https://radld.org/ireland/>

Raise Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder or 'DLD' (previously RALLI campaign). Through RADLD you will learn more about DLD, access resources and find out how to raise awareness. The Ireland committee page provides information on local contacts and events around DLD.

Many, many thanks to Mairead Murray, Cat Hughes, Joan McDonald, and all others who offered suggestions for the original and revised versions of this list!

Do you want to suggest an organisation that should be on this list, or have you found out that one of these organisations is no longer operating? You are welcome to e-mail us at LEANS@ed.ac.uk, though please be aware that due to team capacity we do not have a regular schedule for making updates. *Thank you!*