

Childhood Development Initiative

Invitation to Tender

Doodle STEAM
OCTOBER 2021

Background:

CDI is funded under the Government's Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC). It was initially established in 2007 through a partnership between the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and The Atlantic Philanthropies (AP), under the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP), which was set up with "the objective of testing innovative ways of delivering services and early interventions for children and young people, including the wider family and community settings," (DCYA, 2011). The ABC programme aims to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the country. The programme has a particular emphasis on improving health, educational and social outcomes for children and young people, and on improving the effectiveness of existing services for them.

Based in Tallaght West, CDI emerged from the professionalism, passion and persistence of a consortium of 23 concerned individuals and organisations in the community, who had a vision of a better place for children. Through innovative partnerships, they brought together the science of evidence-based practice and rigorous evaluation, with the spirit of an approach focused on the identified needs of children and families.

CDI designs, delivers and evaluates prevention and early intervention approaches across a spectrum of local needs including language, literacy, health, early years, conflict management and community safety. All CDI programmes are evidence-informed and manualised, and are delivered through existing structures and services.

Context:

Parent's involvement in their children's learning is a key mechanism through which we can support children to achieve developmental milestones, develop strong social skills and realise their full educational attainment.

All research points to parental styles of engagement having an enormous influence on, and being crucial in shaping their child's physical, emotional and cognitive development from birth through to and beyond their teenage years.

Parental involvement is cited as central in the curriculum frameworks for the early years (Aistear), primary and post primary education.

The DES STEM Education policy statement notes that

'Engaging with high-quality STEM experiences at a young age can have a lasting impact on learners, as it can set the stage for their later engagement and success in these fields. Such experiences can encourage and support children to articulate and represent their explorations, discoveries, thinking and understanding which in turn can help build critical early STEM knowledge and skills. Building on this, the STEM education experience provides opportunities for learners, at each phase of their learning journey, to develop their STEM,' (2017-2026:6).

CDI has received funding to develop a programme to support parental understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) and to develop their confidence in talking about, promoting, and engaging in STEAM activities with their children in the home. We would like to develop a programme that will target parents of children in the six- to eight-year-old category. Supporting parental capacity at the earliest possible opportunities will lay a solid foundation for confident engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

The Task:

CDI is seeking an individual or group of individuals to develop an 8-week STEAM programme for parents and their children.

The successful bidder will undertake a literature review which will identify the activities and approaches best suited to enhancing parental knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards STEAM and how to support their children's learning. The literature review will reference key research and existing models to inform materials.

Following the completion of the literature review, materials will be developed as follows:

- A training programme for frontline staff (teachers and early years practitioners) to enable them to support parental capacity and confidence in relation to STEAM activities for children aged 6-8
- Materials for a parent education programme, highlighting the benefits of STEAM activities, and providing parents with tools and confidence to engage in these activities
- Information and awareness raising materials for parents to help them integrate STEAM activities into family life
- Activities for parents to undertake with their children, which promote STEAM language, activities and thinking in the home

The development of the above materials will be overseen by an expert Working Group which CDI will establish.

The materials will be piloted, and the successful bidder will then amend the final resources based on feedback. Please note: the piloting of the materials is not within the scope of this tender.

Timeline:

We anticipate this work commencing in December 2021 and being completed by May 2022.

Criteria:

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate:

- Research expertise and translating research into practice
- Demonstrable expertise in early childhood development, including STEAM
- Evidence of expertise in relation to workforce development
- Ability to communicate with a range of audiences

In addition, the following intellectual property clause will stand:

Any Intellectual Property (IP) developed, acquired, made or discovered by you during the Term of the Agreement, which arises in the provision of the Services in connection with or in any way affecting or relating to the business of CDI shall belong to and be the absolute property of CDI (the 'CDI IP'). You hereby assign to CDI the CDI IP for their full term throughout the world. CDI hereby grant a royalty free, non-transferable, non exclusive licence to you to utilise the CDI IP subject to the necessary protections which may arise under relevant legislation, including Data Protection Legislation. In addition, the parties hereby agree to grant upon request a royalty free, non-transferable, non exclusive licence to The Department of Children and Youth Affairs and its agents to utilise the CDI IP subject to the necessary protections which may arise under relevant legislation, including Data Protection Legislation.'

Budget:

The budget for this work is in the region of €18,000.

Scoring Criteria:

Applications will be scored on the basis of the following: -

- Proven track record in excellent writing and research skills
- Experience in translating research into practice
- Evidence of expertise in early childhood development (including STEAM)
- Previous experience of developing professional development programmes
- Cost
- Availability to complete the task within the proposed timeline.

Application Process:

Applicants should provide the following information to the address below by Friday October 29th, 2021

- Comprehensive CV, which includes reference to the criteria named above;
- Proposed methodology;
- Costs (including daily rates);
- Anticipated number of days to complete the work;
- Two recent professional referees; and
- Proposed timelines.

Contact Details:

Completed applications to be returned by 5pm on Friday 19th November to:
Philip Zambra, E: philip@cdi.ie Ph: 01 494 0030