**Children’s PLAY SYMPOSIUM**

**Friday 8th February 2013**

**Institute of Technology Sligo**

**10.00 am – 4pm**

**Sligo Education Centre**

**Introduction**

Ireland benefits from the contribution of wide range of professionals, educators and influential scholars to matters of child care and education. These include practitioners in childcare settings; infant class teachers in national schools; lecturing and research staff; ECCE graduate and post-graduate students, and other professionals who support children’s play experiences.

**Aims of the Symposium**

The aim of this Symposium is to provide a platform for dialogue on current research and practice in the area of childhood play within Ireland and Europe. It will provide an opportunity to examine the numerous factors that impact and influence the quality of ‘Play’ and ‘Outdoor Play’ in children’s lives. We will explore the potential for collaboration between practitioners, educators and scholars regarding children’s play research and practice experiences. Viewed against the above backdrop, this day-long event is designed to:

* Establish and build relationships between these individuals;
* Identify the experience and expertise of these individuals;
* Identify and establish the potential for collaborative research and practice development.

It is the intention of the Symposium to provide an inclusive, inter-active and informal space to enable the sharing of experiences between the individuals in these areas, thus identifying the barriers and enablers to promote greater collaboration in this area. While the Programme is structured, the event is intended to be participatory and the agenda will be driven by the contributions of participants on the day.

**Abstract and Registration**

Due to the limited number of places (50), all wishing to attend are asked to fill in the Registration Form and return it to me at trisha.maclaughlin@gmail.com before Monday January 7th 2013.

Participants wishing to display posters at the symposium please contact me through trisha.maclaughlin@gmail.com or 0877474189.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Please complete and return to me at** **trisha.maclaughlin@gmail.com** **before Monday January 7th 2013 to confirm your attendance. Admission to the symposium is free and lunch will be made available. If you have any further enquires you can contact me on 0877474189.**

**Name:**

**Dept/School/Institution/Service:**

**Programmes/Teaching:**

**Areas of Interest/Current Research Subjects:**