

Word from the Coordinator

THANK YOU...Welcome to the third issue of KCCC's newsletter. As some of you may know I have just returned to KCCC after becoming a "Mummy" for the first time. I've been inducted into a whole new world, a whole new life...it involves sleepless nights, long days and a whole new language namely ECCE!

I have been struggling to get my head around ECCE since I returned...41 week option, 38 week option, 50 week option, online returns, fee policies, etc.

So I just want to say a big THANK YOU firstly to all the staff, particularly Emily and Alison for having got their heads around the scheme and who have worked relentlessly all year to support services to do the same.

Secondly to the childcare services in the County who have also managed to get their heads around the scheme and who are committed to providing quality early childhood experiences for children.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of you for the success of the programme in Kildare. We have over 219 services participating in the scheme and pretty close to 100% of eligible children are now availing of a childcare place. This is a phenomenal achievement and the benefits to those children will remain with them throughout their lives.



Sitting amongst the toys in Aisha, Julie's baby girl

This did not happen overnight, over the past 10 years there has been huge investment in Early Childhood Education and Care to put the infrastructure in place and to develop and enhance the quality of Early Childhood and Care to enable this scheme to become such a success.

We know the scheme has had many hiccups and we are feeding back information to the OMCYA in the hope that next years scheme will run more smoothly and more timely for services. If you as a provider have any ideas of how the administration of the scheme can be improved please let us know.

It is not just the number of children participating in the scheme that counts. It is also the quality of their experiences.

Again we are delighted with the number of childcare services in Kildare who are availing of our Quality Outreach Programme devel-

oped by our Development Workers. Details on how to avail of this programme are detailed inside. We are also working with the relevant organisations in rolling out Siolta and Aistear to services in Kildare further details are also inside.

WELCOME to Tommy Skehan who is the new chair of Kildare County Childcare Committee, we are delighted and lucky to have Tommy on board. Tommy has a wealth of experience in local government and policy development and KCCC will gain significantly from his input.

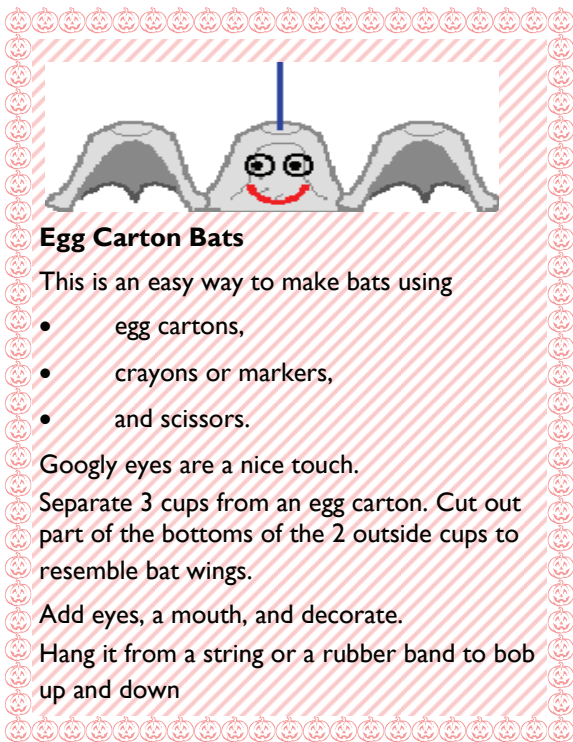
A warm WELCOME back to Fiona Burgess who will be working with Marianne and Fidelma to continue to provide quality supports to all childcare services in the County.

As a new parent I have been coming across some really good parenting sites I personally find packed full of tips and advice www.parentlearningclub.com I look forward to meeting you all again soon.



KCCC is delighted to be organizing a trip for Childcare Providers and Childminder's to the **Play Resource Centre in Belfast on Saturday 4th December 2010**. This is a wonderful opportunity for continuing professional development of all childcare practitioners. This will be an exciting day out, giving providers a chance to network and exchange information in a laid back atmosphere. The **Play Resource Centre** provides members and visitors with a unique package of resources and materials, advice, ideas and training for people working with children, young people and community groups.

The Trip to the Play Resource Centre will give participants inspiration and ideas through a 1.5 hour workshop with an experienced artist. Groups can also collect free waste materials and have access to the low cost art and play shop. The **Scrap Store** is described as an 'Aladdin's Cave'. In the warehouse you will find a wonderful assortment of waste materials. The materials on offer are extremely varied in colour, texture, shape and size, providing an important free source of play and creativity for groups working with children and young people **For more information or if you would like to come along on the day please contact KCCC 045-861307**



Egg Carton Bats

This is an easy way to make bats using

- egg cartons,
- crayons or markers,
- and scissors.

Googly eyes are a nice touch.

Separate 3 cups from an egg carton. Cut out part of the bottoms of the 2 outside cups to resemble bat wings.

Add eyes, a mouth, and decorate.

Hang it from a string or a rubber band to bob up and down

Registered Nanny, the Bespoke Childcare Solution!

Childminding Ireland is launching a new category of Registered Member, the Registered Nanny! In recent times Childminding Ireland has received an increased number of calls from parents seeking an in-house solution to their Childcare needs and by Childcare providers expressing an interest in working in the child's home.

In response to this demand, a new category of membership is established, that of the Registered Nanny. Childminding Ireland recognises this form of childcare, provided by a Registered Nanny, as consistent with the values and quality outcomes afforded by small group, mixed age childcare, with continuity of care and flexibility to meet the need of individual families.

The Registered Nanny will complement the original category of membership within Childminding Ireland, that of the Registered Childminder. Childminding is the most traditional, largest and preferred form of Childcare for parents of children of all ages!

The Minister for Children Mr Barry Andrews, T.D., welcomed this new initiative and added that 'the provision of a vacancy matching service by Childminding Ireland will help ensure that parents who wish to avail of a Nanny Service have access to a register of suitable childminders and nannies who are committed to the delivery of quality childcare'. A comprehensive information pack has been compiled to support Nannies who Register with Childminding Ireland, covering topics such as, the role and responsibility of a Registered Nanny, Registered Nanny Insurance, as well as information on the formal business side of their employment.

Childminding Ireland will offer a free nationwide vacancy matching service to Parents seeking a Registered Childminder or Registered Nanny.

Parents accessing Registered Nannies will be provided with information on the requirements of becoming an employer.

For more information on the Registered Nanny visit www.childminding.ie or you can call

Childminding Ireland on 01 – 287 8466

Childminders Quality Awareness Programme

Kildare County Childcare Committee are pleased to announce they will be running a FREE, 15 hour course for parents, childminders and prospective childminders in November 2010.

Elements of the Quality Awareness Programme (QAP) include:

- Child Development
- Hygiene, Health & Safety
- The well-being of children
- The importance of play
- Choosing childminding
- Supports for childminders

Venue: Kildare Education Centre, Kildare Town

Dates: Mondays, 1st November to 6th December inclusive.

Times: 7.30-10.00pm

A Barnardos Certificate of Attendance will be awarded on completion.

**For further details, or to book your place,
contact Bridie Clancy, Childminders Advisor on 045 907851
or e-mail bridie.clancy@hse.ie**

www.reassureme.com Is a new online child safety initiative. [Best practice tips for parents](#)

Don't rely on a program to do your job! Filtering and blocking programs can be a part of your Internet safety plan at home, but they don't take the place of an informed and involved parent.

Be Pro-Active Attend our [free online classes](#) and spend some time listening to and speaking with other concerned parents.

Participate with your child online Get to know the services and programs your child uses – ask them to show you how their favourite chat room works, or the online gaming that they participate in.

Make a promise and keep it! Promise your children that you won't get angry if they come to you with a problem about an online situation. Stay calm and remember that your child trusted you to help when they came to you – don't let them down!

Plan ahead Talk to your children about the things that they may encounter online. You don't have to scare them, but teach them that your values offline match your values online. Spend time using search engines with your children – and showing them how to be a discriminating surfer.

Encourage their other interests Children shouldn't spend excessive amount of time online – it's just not healthy for them. Encourage them in their offline activities.

Think "Mall" You wouldn't drop your child off alone in a mall, so don't "drop them off" online either. Keep an eye on them!

Set an Example If you download pirated MP3 files, don't be surprised when your child's teacher calls you in for a conference about plagiarised homework.

A time and place for everything Keep your computer in a "common" room – where you can keep an eye on it! You wouldn't allow a stranger in the bedroom with your child, don't allow them in via computer either. Grant your children Internet access only when you are at home and awake. If they can't hang out at the park at 2:00 a.m., they shouldn't be surfing then either!

Be fearless Don't be afraid of your computer or the Internet, they are wonderful tools that can enrich the lives of every member of your family. Trust your instincts and jump right in. The more you know, the better you can protect your family.



Inspiring Staff in your setting- at times a huge task that gets lost in the daily running of a busy centre.

NCNA provide you with advice and information on what to do & how to do it.

Inspiring Staff

Have you ever wondered why people stay working in a particular setting? What is it that motivates staff over a period of time?

Some of the positive approaches managers can take to encourage and support staff to want to be the best they can be are as follows;

Be optimistic – from the start of the process to recruit new members of staff, think positively about the people you interview, believe the person has the potential to succeed, and when you believe that a person has a desire to succeed, and then your support can make a difference.

Build on strengths – No one is perfect, everyone has short comings, and so remember that they were hired because of the talents you saw there, not the weakness you perceive. If you encourage a new employee to improve on an area of strength, they will be less threatened because they are on familiar turf. Then as they feel rewarded by their improvement in a “safe” area, you can gradually nudge them to improve in areas they are less comfortable with.

Provide feedback – feedback is important, everyone likes to know what they have succeeded at and also consider how improvements will be made if someone is not aware of areas where improvement is necessary. Feedback should always be constructive and supportively given. Give feedback regularly, not just when something is not as you wish it to be.

Give staff welfare high priority - supportive work environment benefits all members, Staff members are

people with lives, families and issues outside their work and sometimes these can impact on work. Think about how you can support staff when necessary.

Team spirit – when we advertise, one of the key skills we request is the ability to work as part of a team. However, we need to put effort into building a team, it doesn't just happen. Team work needs to come from the top and to be consciously promoted by the manager and rewarded by the manager also. Team work can take many formats, encouraging peer support, sharing of ideas, seeking input from all staff regarding issues arising, rotating the chair at meetings. Rewards can take the format of employee of the month, or staff outings or many other activities where all staff are included.

Inspiring commitment – As a manager you need to inspire staff, having a vision for your organisation that gives meaning to the work is important. Vision and inspiration is infectious and spreads through a setting energising as it spreads.

Setting high standards – managers need to have an unflagging commitment to high standards which are maintained even through a crisis, pride in high standards is a powerful motivator to staff as they are achieved.

Removing obstacles to people's success – managers are servants to the team, providing resources to help staff grow and perform. They take seriously the responsibility of removing obstacles that get in the way of people doing their jobs, whether its replacing equipment or reorganising staff structures.

Encourage risk taking – Sometimes as managers, our intentions are belied by our actions. We may encourage staff to be creative yet convey through body language, a sense of disapproval when they try new activities. We may ask for solutions to a centre problem and then criticise suggestion that are made. If you expect people to act creatively, you must send a strong message that you support them. You must encourage people to take risks and thanks them for having the courage to disagree with you. You must provide a rich environment of books and materi-

als, trips and workshops to keep people thinking and growing and most importantly you should demonstrate that you too, are willing to take risks.

Make work fun – remember that laughter and joy are important parts of our day and there should be opportunities to share in the joy of working with young children

Cultivate professional pride – Childcare is an important profession, and we have a long history of caring. We make it possible for our country's economy to function. We provide a nurturing and stimulating start in life for millions of children, and we should have pride in being part of the early childhood profession.

Help people see results – Helping staff see the impact of their work on children's lives is very important. By observing children closely this impact will become clear and will be very rewarding. Helping a shy child come out of their shell or calm an aggressive child is a reward that very few professions can offer.

Remember, as a manager, you can impact the greatest change in a setting but your own attitude, vision and wish to bring out the best in people you work with.

Say “thank you” regularly, give positive feedback three times more often than negative feedback. Pass on to staff positive comments made by users of the service and remind staff of the difference they make in the child's life. Give book tokens, an early finish, a late start to someone who has shown extra effort.

There are many great reasons to work in early childhood, not least of which is the real difference we can make in the lives of children and families we serve.

Sandra Loftus

CHILDCARE AS A PROFESSION

The development of a professional body for childcare workers is in its infancy. In order for it to grow and develop, it needs nurturing, planning and most important of all, members. Become involved with this new and exciting development and be part of a movement that plans to gain for early year workers the recognition and respect they deserve.

AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDCARE PROFESSIONALS

This group will be for all those working with children from across a wide range of service provision. It aims to...

- Define a professional identity for people working in the early years and school aged childcare sector
- Form a body to which workers can affiliate
- Advocate for the rights of its members to equitable pay and work conditions
- Promote, develop and support the continuing professional development of childcare professionals

WHO CAN JOIN

Anyone working in Sessional Pre School/Playgroup Settings, Full daycare settings, Montessori Schools, Naionrai, Steiner Schools, Community and Family Centres with Childcare Provision, Workplace Creches, Afterschool Services, Child-minders offering home-based family daycare or Educational Institute Creches

REQUIREMENTS FOR JOINING

- Minimum Qualification of Fetac Level 5 (previously Level 2) in Childcare or its equivalent
- Commitment to attending 40 hours per year of Continuing Professional Development
- Signing up to a code of ethics and adhering to best practice
- Payment of a membership fee

WHY JOIN

- Early Years Workers deserve to be recognised youngest and most vulnerable citizens
- A professional body can speak for and on behalf
- There is strength in numbers

HOW TO DEVELOP A GROUP IN KILDARE

Contact Fiona Burgess at Kildare County Child

KCCC are creating a list of childcare workers w give you assistance in setting up your own Group in the Country.



We would like to hear from you. If you have an idea for a topic you would like to see covered in the Newsletter, let us know.

E-Mail: admin@kildarechildcare.ie



Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)

Kildare VEC's Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) provides an opportunity for young people and adults to return to part-time, flexible learning or a re-entry route for those in the workplace who wish to upgrade their skills in line with emerging needs.

Adult Guidance Adult Education Guidance Service provides educational guidance for adults in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Adults can explore their options and obtain up-to-date accurate information to help make decisions about education as well as career and life choices. The service is available to any adult who is taking part in adult education or who is considering adult education courses (VTOS, Basic Education or Community Education etc). The service is free and confidential.

Facilities include: an up-to-date careers library with a wide range of information on further education and learning options; computer assisted guidance using Pathfinder, Careers Direction, Qualifax.

See www.kildarevec.ie or call 045 448512 or 045 988000 for more information.

Quality Outreach Programme

Response continues to be excellent to KCCC's Quality Outreach Programme. Our Development Officers are offering extra support to childcare providers in developing their capacity through enhancing the provision of quality childcare.

Our Development Workers **Fidelma Martin, Marianne Casey** and **Fiona Burgess**, can provide advice and information specific to your needs on topics such as Siolta/Aistear, best practice, policies and procedures, finance, record keeping, legislation, human resources, curriculum development, training, play, communications or any other quality related topic identified as being needed. To avail of this mentoring service,

Call KCCC on 045 861307 to obtain a Request for Quality Support form

which will allow you to communicate to us the areas where you feel you might need some support or advice.

A Development Worker will call you to discuss your needs and together with you, will plan how best to provide support. If necessary, a one-to-one mentoring service will be available.



Kildare County Childcare Committee Parents Representative

ARE YOU A PARENT LIVING IN COUNTY KILDARE?

DOES YOUR CHILD ATTEND A PRESCHOOL, MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP OR AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE IN THE COUNTY?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN IMPROVING CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDRE IN YOUR COUNTY AND HAVIN A VOICE IN THE FUTURE PLANNING OF CHILDCARE SERVICES?

HAVE YOU TIME TO SPARE TO ATTEND SOME MEEITNGS SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND INFLUENCE CHILDCARE POLICY AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF A DYNAMIC COMMITTEE,

PLEASE CONTACT KILDARE COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE AT 045-861307 FOFOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



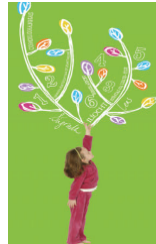
IPPA Autumn Roadshow 2010

8th November from 7.30 – 9.30 in the Westgrove Hotel, Clane, Co Kildare

How we adhere to the Síolta Principles in our service: Meeting your ECCE contract commitments in everyday practice with children and families. The ECCE contract requires services to adhere to the principles of Síolta. The Pobal ECCE Audit visits will in future check that services participating in the ECCE scheme are meeting this contractual commitment. This workshop will help practitioners to both practice the principles and prepare for the audit visit. The 12 Síolta Principles bring together principles of early childhood care and education that have been important in the sector for a long time. Síolta reminds us that we need to live and share these principles. Following this workshop practitioners will be able to:

- Discuss the Síolta principles with parents, children and inspectors
- Demonstrate how you implement them in everyday practice
- Document evidence of the principles in practice

To book, please email ctobin@ippa.ie, call 01 4630011



Occupational

First Aid / Fetac Level 5

INTRODUCTORY OFFER - €220 FOR THE FIRST 10 PARTICIPANTS (normally €350)

This is a 3-day course which complies with the Health & Safety Authority and is valid for 2 years. It includes Fetac registration fee, mask and book. Candidates will also learn how to use a Defibrillator and will be given the opportunity to use the machine. It will cater for children from birth to School Age.

Commencing January 2011

Also enrolling for Childcare Fetac Level 5 modules. All modules will be run Individually from Monday to Thursday from 9.30am-12.30 and 1.00-4.00pm. First 5 participants to cost €295 per module. Limited to 12 per class.

BOOK NOW TO SECURE A PLACE - CALL LINDA ON 087 1686500

Do you work with immigrant parents?

Would you like to improve your skills in engaging this target group?

Would you like access to programme materials and information, translated into ten languages?

Would you benefit from considering cultural issues and raising your own awareness regarding promoting positive parenting with immigrant families?

THIS WORKSHOP COULD BE JUST THE THING FOR YOU!

The Globe all-Ireland Programme for Immigrant Parents has developed a set of programme materials and an information pack, aimed at enabling immigrant parents to access services, understand how our system works and link to supports.

There is no charge for this workshop and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

DUBLIN WEST - 3rd November

NAVAN - 4th November

DUBLIN - 18th November

E-MAIL FOR MORE INFO - infotheglobe@gmail.com



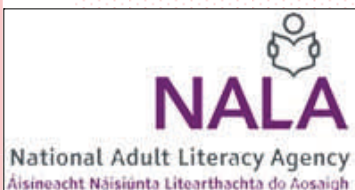
Are you unemployed? Do you want a qualification?

We have the course for you. Our new course will help you with:

- Writing CVs
- Reading job adverts
- Using the computer to apply for work

Ring Freephone 1800 20 20 65 -

Free Text 'Learn' to 50050



KCCC News

IMPORTANT NOTE : ALL INDIVIDUALS UNDERTAKING TRAINING HAVE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK ON THE VALIDITY OF ANY TRAINING THEY WISH TO UNDERTAKE

Siolta/Aistear Thematic Network Meeting

Sensational Kids Upcoming Programme

NCNA, in association with Kildare County Childcare Committee, are hosting Thematic Network Meetings in your area.

The focus of the first network meeting is Siolta & Aistear and is based on [Standard 13: Transitions](#): Ensuring continuity of experiences for children requires policies, procedures and practice that promote sensitive management of Transitions.

Maudlins House Hotel, Naas, **4 November 10**

The second Meeting focuses on [Standard 5: Interactions](#) : Fostering constructive interactions (child/child, child/adult, adult/adult) requires explicit policies procedures and practice that emphasis the value of process

and are based on mutual respect, equal partnership and sensitivity.

Maudlins House Hotel, Naas. **23 November 10**
The third meeting focuses on [Standard 11 Professional Practice](#) focusing on practicing in a professional manner requiring that individuals have skills, knowledge, values and attitudes appropriate to their role and responsibility

Maudlins House Hotel, Naas **7 December 10**

To book your place please contact:

Camille at 01 460 1138 Extn 4 or camilled@ncna.ie



HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS WORKSHOP

Handwriting without Tears is a programme that originated in America which has demonstrated success in teaching children to write.

SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2011

THE CARLTON HOTEL, DUBLIN AIRPORT - Price €225 per person

CALL SENSATIONAL KIDS TO BOOK

on 045 520900

MCM TRAINING Church of Ireland Centre,, Offaly St, Athy Co Kildare. mcm.training@yahoo.com

Day	Course	No. Of Classes	Time	Fee
Wed. 3/11	FETAC Level 5 Caring for children 0-6 years	12	7:00-9:30	€225
Thur 4/11	FETAC Level 6 Supervision In Childcare	12	7:30-9:30	€300
	FETAC Level 5 Special Needs Assisting	12		€300

Saturday Courses : November 2010 and January 2011

Day	Course	No. Of Classes	Time	Fee
Sat 6/13/20/27 Nov	FETAC Level 6 -Supervision in Childcare	4	10-4	€300
Sat 6/13/20/27 Nov	Introduction to Child protection	1	10-4	€50
Sat 6/13/20/27 Nov	FETAC Level 6 Train the Trainer	12	10-4	€450
Sat 6/13/20/27	FETAC Level 5 Special Needs Assisting	4	10-4	€300
Sat 6/13 Nov	Manual Handling course for the childcare Industry	1	10-4	€80
Sat 20/27	Basic food Handling course for the childcare Industry	1	10-4	€80
Dec 4	Conference: ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) Lunch provided	1	10-4	€100

Courses: Naas /November'10

Tues 2 Nov	FETAC Level 6 Child Development	12	7:00-9:30	€300
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Healthy Eating & Healthy lifestyles for Children & Families

Parents Conference 2010

KCCC's Parents conference was held on the 25th September 2010 in Kilashee House Hotel. The theme of the day was Healthy eating and lifestyles. Our speakers were Karl Henry and Paula Mee.

Karl has graduated with a B.S.C in Sport Management from University College Dublin, where he achieved a first class honours in his thesis on Obesity in Children and is well know for his work on RTE's 'Operation Transformation.'

Paula graduated from NUI Galway with a BSc in Biochemistry she is currently on the board of Consumer Foods in Bord Bia as a Nutrition Consultant and is also one of the presenters of RTE TV's Health Squad programme. The topic on the day were Eating/Planning/Balance, Healthy Eating and some practical tips for shopping and snacks and also exercise/motivation/education. The day was a huge success and was enjoyed by all who attended.



1st photo: Karl Henry **2nd Photo:** Karl Henry Tommy Skehan (Chair KCCC) Emily Moore, Paula Mee and Marianne Casey **3rd Photo:** Paula Mee gives a presentation on Healthy Eating

Tips for healthy eating and lifestyle:

Healthy Eating

DO:

- Practice what you preach – children will mimic parents eating habits
- Turn off the television during mealtimes
- Use the food pyramid to guide our food choices
- Offer healthy snacks between meals and offer tooth friendly drinks regularly
- Use a smaller plate at meal times to reduce portion sizes
- Swap 1 large chocolate bar for a snack/mini sized equivalent
- Use wholegrain/lower fat/lower sugar and salt alternatives

DON'T:

- shop on an empty stomach or shop without a list
- buy food that you don't want your family eating
- eat high fat/sugar snack during the day (e.g crisps/chocolate)
- drink high sugar/fizzy drinks unless it is with a meal
- push children to finish everything on their plate (generally they know how much food they need)

Variety is the spice of life and the key to healthy eating!!

Healthy Lifestyle

DO:

- Practice what you preach – children will mimic parents lifestyle eating habits
- Stand instead of sitting when on the phone
- Get all the family involved in activities such as cleaning, cooking and gardening
- Walk to the local shop instead of driving
- Get plenty of sleep and rest
- Exercise regularly (even if it is only mopping the floor to music)

DON'T:

- Drive short distances
- Make any excuses!!
- Take the escalator when you could take the stairs
- Turn on the TV when you could go outside and play with your children
- Use a car wash when you could wash your car yourself