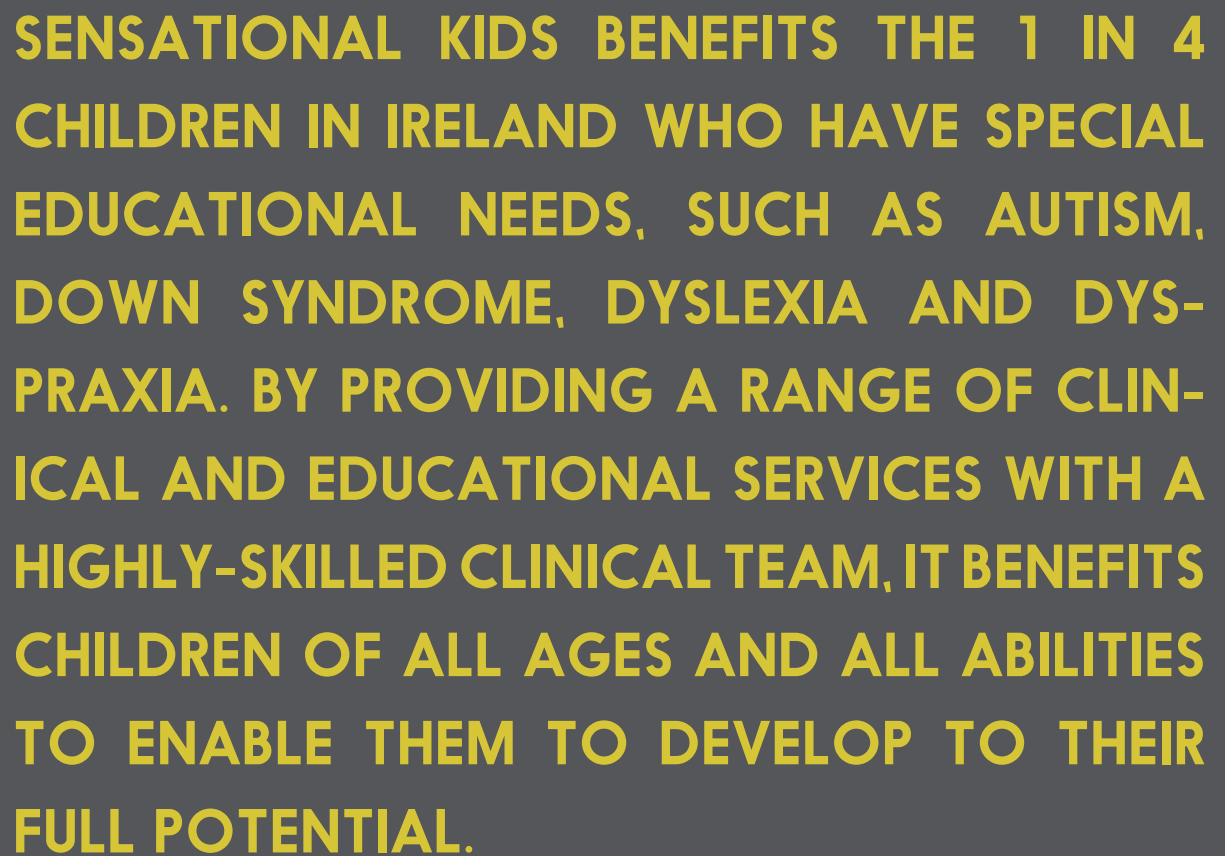


SENSATIONAL KIDS



SENSATIONAL KIDS





SENSATIONAL KIDS BENEFITS THE 1 IN 4 CHILDREN IN IRELAND WHO HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, SUCH AS AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME, DYSLEXIA AND DYS-PRAXIA. BY PROVIDING A RANGE OF CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WITH A HIGHLY-SKILLED CLINICAL TEAM, IT BENEFITS CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND ALL ABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.



THE ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED BY KAREN LEIGH,

a mother who found she needed services for her son, Connor. Karen also found that they were on a government waiting list that was years-long for those services and therapies Connor needed immediately to help him get ahead. Private therapies were available but costly and out of reach to most families.

Some people might feel stuck, but Karen decided to set up Sensational Kids in 2007 to fill a need for families like hers. Today, Sensational Kids is providing occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, play therapy and educational psychological assessments to thousands of children.

"Currently there are 45,000 children in Ireland on waiting lists for therapy services," says Karen. "Families are often looking at waiting lists of three years and more. We know that early intervention is crucial for children with additional needs. That's where Sensational Kids comes in. It bridges the gap between public and expensive private therapy services, and we ensure it is accessible for children who otherwise might not receive any therapies at all."

Sensational Kids is now providing once-unattainable services to families who previously had very little hope or chances for their children. "Our services are affordable thanks to our donors," says Karen. "Our ethos is that no child is ever turned away."



Photo: Aengus McMahon

SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS

HAS ENSURED THAT CHILDREN IN NEED THROUGHOUT IRELAND HAVE ACCESS TO VITAL SUPPORTS WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED THEM.

- ♥ Thanks to The Ireland Funds 2018 Flagship Award of €80,000 over two years, over 500 additional children a year have received services. Adding to an existing facility in Kildare, Sensational Kids tripled its number of facilities operated and opened additional child development centers in Cork and Mayo.
- ♥ Since its founding, Sensational Kids has now changed the lives of over 6,000 children, saving their families over €1.5 million in therapy fees.

"Support from The Ireland Funds has played an enormous role in setting Sensational Kids up as a national organization that can meet the needs of children with additional needs from all over Ireland. With continued support from the Flagship Award, we are now on course to exceed our targets and change the lives of 28,500 children over the next ten years, delivering 154,000 therapy interventions, saving their families €6.5 million in therapy fees." — Karen Leigh, Founder of Sensational Kids.

WHAT IS POSSIBLE

WITH MORE FUNDING?

- ♥ Sensational Kids recently started hippotherapy, an occupational therapy using horses. It is seeking donors to help fund the costs of hiring the area and horses (current cost is €300 per week) to work with children.
- ♥ Sensational Kids has been awarded the Social Innovation Fund Growth Fund. For every euro/dollar raised up to €510,000, they will get 100% matched funding from the Irish Government, which would help increase their social impact and financial sustainability. It is currently seeking funding to make this possible.
- ♥ Continued investment in a new Kildare flagship HQ facility is a large-scale legacy project which gives a social impact investor the opportunity to do something meaningful and tangible
- ♥ Additional funding for phase two of the Mayo facility development in order to meet the great demand for services in that area.

To learn more about how you can support these extraordinary investment opportunities, contact The Ireland Funds.

"Both our daughters are on the spectrum and are now receiving speech and occupational therapy. These services have changed their lives and the life of our family. There is no way this would have been accessible without the work of Sensational Kids." — *Austin, father of twins Alicia and Shauna (age 7)*

SHAUNA





Photo: Aengus McMahon



Jamie's Story with Sensational Kids

We first came as Jamie was having horrible thoughts and wanted to hurt himself, pulling terrible tantrums, and as an eight-year-old, they were very hard to handle.

When I rang Sensational Kids to explain my case I was at my last wits. We were in for our first visit the next week and since then he has been going from strength to strength, from a child that wouldn't go into school, hated everyone around him and himself. Jamie has been doing play therapy with Yvonne. He loves it and can't wait to come in.

He loves working in the playroom because he can run, jump, be as rough as he likes to be and not get hurt. Jamie has since been diagnosed with dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and sensory processing disorder. Since this and before, things have gotten much better as Yvonne has showed Jamie tricks he can even use during the day to ground himself and stop his anxiety. He now goes into school with no problem, knows his own body when he is starting to get angry, how to relax himself, and not have an outburst (this is a really good thing not even just for Jamie but for the whole family) Simple things like we couldn't bring him to a shop without an outburst and now we can, which means so much to us. As Jamie gets older these are life skills that he needs to know.

Basically, I could not thank Yvonne and Sensational Kids enough, because we were at our wits end with Jamie and hoping he would not hurt himself. All them thoughts are now gone, and we can relax a little."

WE HAVE OUR BOY BACK.

✔ *Jamie's Mum*

WE HAVE OUR BOY BACK.



VIDEO:

**Watch how The Ireland Funds
has strengthened the work
of Sensational Kids**

