



NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FLAGSHIP PROJECT

### **INVEST IN REALISING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL**

Sensational Kids is a high impact charitable organisation that has changed the lives of over 6,000 children from all over Ireland by providing early intervention services for disadvantaged children with additional needs. In order to reach all the children who need our services, we have been ambitiously scaling our reach throughout the country, but with an ever increasing need we have now outgrown our current headquarters in Kildare and are on a mission to create a new forever home with the National Child Development Flagship Project. This will be a state-of-the-art facility, located in Kildare, housing our headquarters and our activities providing affordable accessible intervention services for the children and families in need, but we need your support to make it a reality.

#### Why we exist

Today 1 in 4 children in Ireland has a special educational need, and with 45,000 children on waiting lists for speech therapy and occupational therapy our services are a lifeline for families whose children would otherwise be waiting 3-4 years to access services. This lost time can echo through a child's life resulting in a lack of opportunity as the grow, making timely intervention critical in ensuring they have better outcomes throughout their life.

#### What we do

We are a unique high impact charitable organisation, bridging the gap between public and private early intervention services, with centres in Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught. We provide vital subsidised frontline therapeutic healthcare supports, such as speech & language, occupational therapy and educational psychological assessments for children with additional needs, ensuring that children in need have access to supports when and where they need them in their community. www.sensationalkids.ie



## **New Flagship Child Development Centre**

We have outgrown our main Child Development Centre in Kildare, so we are now embarking on our most ambitious flagship project – a capital project to develop a state-of the art, forever home for the organisation. The project involves the purchase of a prominent site in the Kildare Town area, on which we will build this first of a kind Flagship Child Development Centre and national headquarters. The facility will allow us to reach even more children and provide an appropriate space to make possible the provision of a range of affordable and accessible child development assessment and intervention services for the benefit of children of all ages and all abilities to enable them to reach their potential.

#### **The Project**

This new child development centre will consist of a flagship building of approximately 17,000 square feet, together with landscaped sensory gardens and a therapeutic outdoor play area for children attending our services. The facility will be located, designed, and constructed so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

#### **The Cost**

The build including purchase, design, project management, legal, and ground works will cost over €7 million euros. Sensational Kids is securing a level of funding through a government run scheme, however, we need €600,000 to get the project off the ground.

#### Make the investment in children's potential

You can be part of delivering transformational change for 28,000 children in the next ten years. Through this exciting, innovative, capital development project that will have a national reach, Sensational Kids aim to close the gap in the provision of supports to children with special educational needs and children in need of additional supports, eliminating the waiting lists and financial barriers that impede access, so that they can go on to live their lives to their full potential.



# The Impact - Pean's Story



When he was six years old, Dean was struggling to read even basic words, and because of this he was becoming increasingly withdrawn in school. He was struggling with his speech, and friends and teachers found it difficult to understand him.

"The service from Sensational Kids has changed my family's life" When his mom brought Dean to Sensational Kids, he met with Sarah, one of our Speech Therapists. Working patiently and persistently together, Dean's speech began to improve

dramatically. He is now back to his bubbly self, he can communicate much clearer and his reading has come on in leaps and bounds.

His mom was so proud to share that he now can read a full book, where a year previous he could barely read a couple of words. She told us that, "Honestly, the service has changed my family's life"

## **Contact Details:**

If you are interested and want to learn more about the project and how you can support Sensational Kids, contact Karen Leigh, Founder and CEO of Sensational Kids on karen@sensationalkids.ie or phone 045 520900.