

Sensational Kids
Therapy • Toys • Training



**Candidate Briefing
Document**

Fundraising Manager



Sensational Kids
Therapy • Toys • Training



Creating Better Futures For Children with Additional Needs



Visit Our Website
www.sensationalkids.ie



Our Story

Sensational Kids was founded in 2007 by Karen Leigh, a mother whose personal experience navigating Ireland's fragmented and under-resourced therapy services for children with additional needs inspired her to create a better solution. When her own child faced long waiting lists for essential therapy services, Karen realised that many families in Ireland were in the same position, unable to access or afford the support their children desperately needed.

While visiting California for her own son's treatment, Karen had the opportunity to explore state-of-the-art sensory motor gyms. These world-class facilities showcased cutting-edge approaches to therapy, providing children with engaging environments tailored to their developmental needs. Karen was deeply inspired by what she saw in California and was determined to bring similar facilities to Ireland. This vision became a cornerstone of Sensational Kids, ensuring that children in Ireland could benefit from the same high-quality therapeutic environments.

Determined to address this gap, Karen established Sensational Kids as a social enterprise and charity with a mission to provide affordable, accessible, and high-quality therapy services.

Starting from a single centre in Kildare, Sensational Kids has since grown into a national organisation, with four Child Development Centres across Ireland, that has already supported 10,000 children.

Karen's vision remains at the heart of Sensational Kids: ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of financial or geographic barriers.



Who We Are

Sensational Kids is a national charity and non-profit dedicated to transforming the lives of children with additional needs. Founded with a vision to make therapy services accessible to all children, our organisation provides life-changing, timely therapy evidence-based therapies and assessments for children and adolescents who may otherwise face long waiting lists for essential services publicly.

As a non-profit organisation, every service we offer, all donations and every product we sell in our child development store directly supports our mission of making high-quality, accessible therapy a reality for all children so that no child is left behind.



Our Services

Sensational Kids specialises in the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based therapies for a wide range of developmental and neurological challenges, including:

- Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD)
- Developmental Delays
- Autism
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Down Syndrome
- Genetic Disorders
- ADHD and Attention/Focus Differences
- Cerebral Palsy
- Dyspraxia/Motor Planning Deficits
- Vestibular and Balance Disorders
- Auditory Processing Disorders
- Language Delays
- Emotional and Behavioural Challenges

Our team of skilled professionals includes Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Play Therapists and Chartered Educational Psychologists who work collaboratively to create individualised treatment plans for each child.



Sensory Motor Gyms

Our Sensory Motor Gyms are designed to provide a rich sensory environment where children can explore, develop, and thrive. These gyms incorporate equipment that supports the use of sensory integration principles in therapy targeting areas of neurological development, including enhancing processing in the vestibular, proprioceptive, and tactile systems..

What sets our gyms apart is their focus on evidence-based practice and personalised intervention. Using play based activities, we help children's nervous systems process sensory input in organised and meaningful ways. Over time, this approach enables children to respond to and interact with their environments more successfully, leading to improvements in motor planning, balance, focus, and emotional regulation.

Our Child Development Centres provide specialist sensory motor gym facilities to meet the often complex sensory needs of the children we support. Sensory-motor skills are foundational for physical, cognitive, and social development, influencing a person's ability to navigate and interact with the world.



Child Development Centre Locations

Sensational Kids now has four Child Development Centres, strategically located in each of the four Provinces of Ireland. Sensational Kids operates in Kildare Town, Clonakilty in West Cork, Claremorris in Co. Mayo and Clones in Co. Monaghan.

Kildare

Sensational Kids,
Unit C2 Kildare Business Park, Melitta
Road,
Kildare Town, R51 WP02
045 520900
info@sensationalkids.ie

Mayo

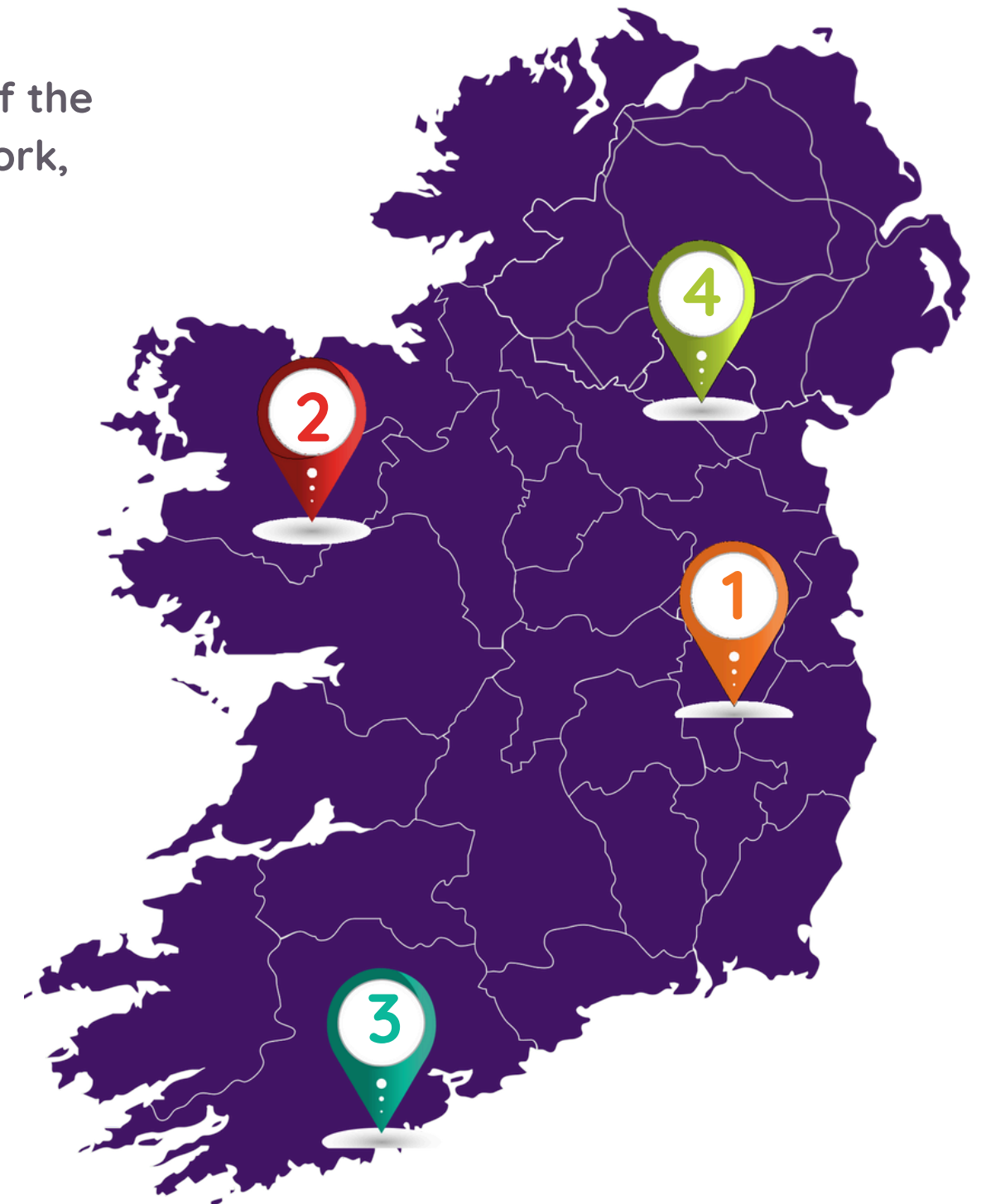
Sensational Kids,
Lakeside
Retail Park, Claremorris, Co Mayo,
F12 P2H9
094 9357005
claremorris@sensationalkids.ie

West Cork

Sensational Kids, 2nd Floor,
Building G, West Cork Technology Park,
Clonakilty, Co Cork,
P85 VF62
023 887 8208
clonakilty@sensationalkids.ie

Monaghan

Sensational Kids,
Unit 8 Clones Business Technology Park,
Clones, County Monaghan
H23 P294
047 52671
clones@sensationalkids.ie



Fundraising Manager

Join Our Team as a Fundraising Professional!

This is an opportunity for a fundraising expert to come on board with us and significantly impact the lives of children with additional needs. You will play a vital role in our team, helping to create brighter futures for children and families throughout Ireland.

Key Details:

- **Reporting To:** CEO
- **Location:** We offer flexible working arrangements, with office locations at our child development centers in Kildare Town, Claremorris, Clonakilty, and Clones.
- **Hours of Work:** 35 hours per week
- **Salary:** Based on experience



Fundraising Manager Position Overview

As the Fundraising Manager, you will work in close partnership with the CEO and the Communications & Philanthropy Manager.

This position requires a profound passion for our mission and a dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children with additional needs.

Being part of a small team allows you to embrace the variety of this job opportunity. You will see challenges as opportunities for growth, exhibit a strong work ethic, recognize new possibilities, and enjoy connecting with others to enable them to support the families and children we serve.



Essential Skills

- Demonstrated success across a variety of fundraising streams, including trusts and foundations, corporate fundraising, community fundraising, and developing regular giving.
- A proven track record in a similar role within a small team.
- Financial literacy with a solid ability to manage budgets and meet financial targets.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, enabling the establishment of positive and effective relationships with a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders.
- Familiarity with the charity and/or not-for-profit sectors.
- Experience working with and reporting to Trustees or Boards.
- Proficiency in public speaking and representing the organization to the media.
- Experience in pitching proposals for funding opportunities.
- The ability to connect through storytelling.
- Capability to work independently and take initiative.
- Skill in building rapport with individuals.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- A commitment to continuous learning and personal growth in your role.
- A positive attitude and mindset.
- The willingness to seek support and assistance when needed.



Main Responsibilities

- Implement Sensational Kids' fundraising strategy.
- Consistently analyse results, interpret trends, and provide recommendations for improving the overall fundraising plan to maximise future income.
- Maintain strong relationships with existing funders, and identify additional trusts, foundations to target.
- Identify, engage and cultivate a pipeline of corporate donors, with a clear rationale as to why they should be approached, with a view to securing long-term partnerships that can deliver recurring revenue for Sensational Kids.
- Prepare impact reports for donors on the use and impact of their gifts.
- Prepare and submit grant progress reports.
- Maintain a consistent level of face-to-face meetings with new and existing prospects.
- Prepare and write, compelling and emotive fundraising and grant proposals, informational materials, and any other materials needed to secure gifts; and deliver memorable pitch presentations to prospective donors.
- Develop regular giving campaigns.
- Develop digital fundraising communications for digital media.
- Provide support to community fundraisers and community fundraising events.
- Prepare regular, timely and accurate reports for the Board of Directors, e.g., progress reports / financial reports, and updates against fundraising targets.



Meet Our Sensational Kids



JC and Brody's Sensational Story



Hugo's Sensational Story



Fiadh's Sensational Story



Remuneration/Non-pay Related Benefits

- Remuneration
 - A competitive salary commensurate with experience is offered for this role.
- Non-pay Related Benefits
 - Birthday Bonus gives you an additional paid day of leave on your birthday each year
 - 25 days paid annual leave plus bank holidays.
 - Free onsite parking
 - A Health Cash Plan which can reimburse you for up to 100% for a wide range of health care costs for you, your spouse/partner and any of your children under 21 living at home as well as personal accident cover. It also includes a free GP Advice Line, Virtual Doctor, Private Prescription Service, Counselling Service, Medical Information and Legal Advice.
 - An Employee Assistance Program
 - Employee Discount in our Child Development & Learning Store.



Benefits: Your Free Employee Assistance Programme

- Benefit from a free Employee Assistance Programme, which we have specially chosen to support our valued employees. Our Employee Assistance Programme gives you access to wellbeing support whenever needed. Our EAP provides you with immediate access to counselling support to help cope and deal more effectively with any personal or work-related problems
- As well as guidance from counsellors, we also provide employees with access to our on-demand health and wellbeing online platform and app, with a wide range of tools and resources to actively manage your day-to-day wellbeing from meditation, online exercise classes, webinars, & healthy recipes. This will give you access to hours of wellbeing content related to sleep, mental health, fitness and nutrition, benefits and rewards among other topics.
- Our EAP is available 24/7/ 365 days and offers support to you, your partner or spouse, and your dependent children over the age of 16 years, still living at home.



Benefits: The Health Cash Plan

Benefit from this employer subsidised Health Cash Plan which can reimburse you up to 100% for a wide range of health care costs for you, your spouse/partner and any of your children under 21 living at home as well as personal accident cover and a birth/adoption grant.

With your health plan employees are able to claim for costs such as dental check-ups, hygienist visits, eye tests, glasses and contact lenses making this benefit an impactful and well received employee benefit.

It gives you, your spouse/partner and any of your children under 21 living at home FREE:

- 24/7 access to a GP telephone consultation at a time to suit you
- Secure webcam Virtual Doctor Service
- Supply of Prescription Medication via Private Prescription Service
- Health Information Website 24/7
- Telephone Counselling Service
- Legal Advice Telephone Service
- Debt Advice



Why Choose Sensational Kids

- Timely Intervention: We offer access to high-quality, evidence-based therapy services. It's all about quality, not quantity.
- Proven Outcomes: A recent independent evaluation spanning two years revealed that children receiving therapy at Sensational Kids achieve results that significantly exceed what is deemed clinically meaningful.
- Passionate People: If you thrive in an environment with individuals who are deeply passionate about their work, this position is perfect for you.
- Team: We deeply appreciate our team members, and believe that our shared spirit, resilience, and commitment to making a difference in a happy work environment are essential to our mission.
- Non-Profit Mission: As a charitable organization, we have no shareholders reaping profits; instead, all income is reinvested into our therapeutic services for children.
- Small but Mighty: We may be a small organization, but we are ambitious and have big dreams.



How to Apply

Apply to:
Karen Leigh
CEO & Founder

Email: Karen@sensationalkids.ie

Address:
Sensational Kids
Unit C2 Kildare Business Park, Melitta Road, Kildare
Town, County Kildare, Ireland

Phone 045 520900
Mobile: 087 2833594

Closing Date for Applications: Thursday 12th June 2025

Sensational Kids is an equal opportunities employer



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