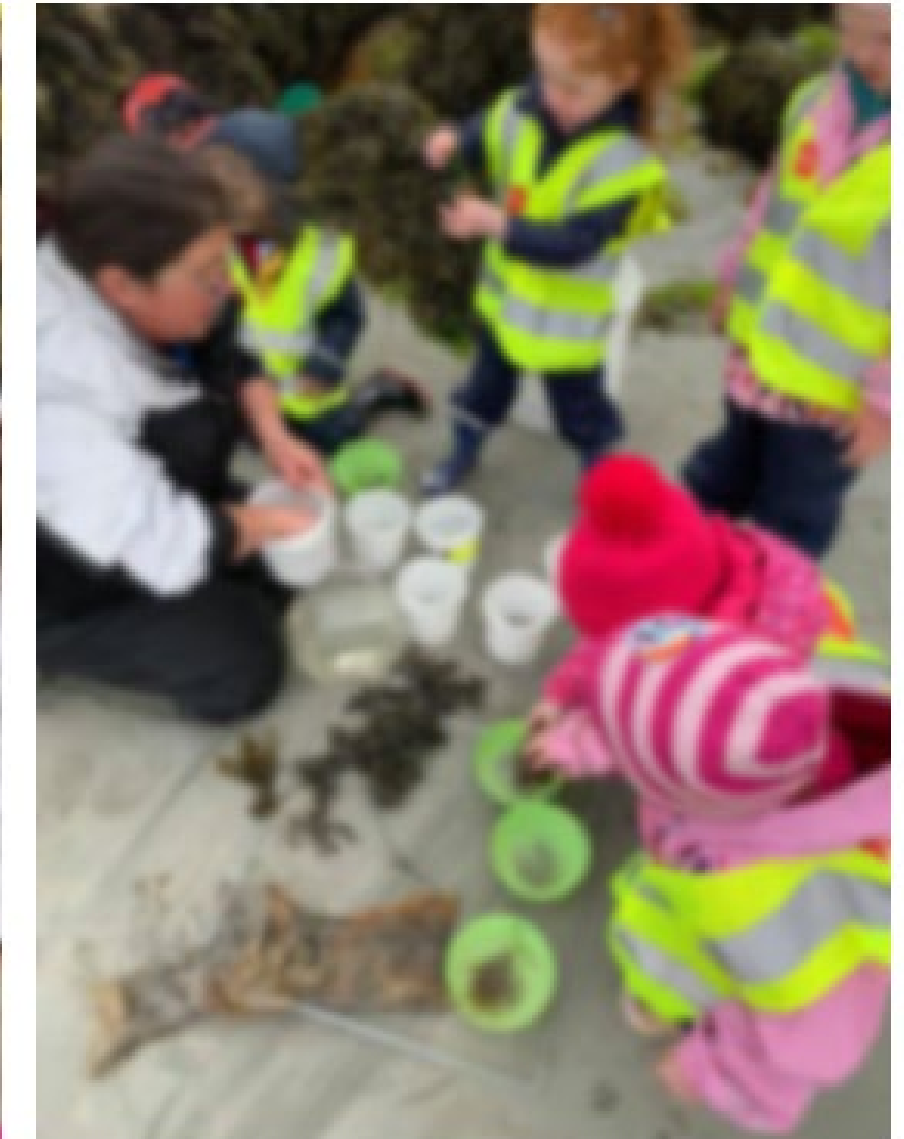


Beach School, providing professional development based on ocean literacy for early year educators

- Dr. Noirin Burke, Galway Atlantaquaria
- Caitriona Ryan , Early Childcare Education and Learning, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (formerly from the Galway Childcare Committee)
- Geraldine Doran , Galway Childcare Committee
- Anna Quinn, Galway Atlantaquaria
- Andrea Leufer, Galway Childcare Committee



First piloted in 2018/2019, beach school delivered a marine learning experience outside of the classroom to children at a pre-school age (3-5 years) in the Galway, in the West of Ireland.



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- The school was based around a visit to the local seashore, plus a follow-on visit to the crèche or Montessori setting.
- The trial was carried out between Galway Atlantaquaria, Galway Childcare Committee and Wonder Years Pre-school and was funded through the community action 'LA21' fund.

Marie McGrath Thanks so much to Geraldine, Heather, Noreen, Julia and all of the other staff and parents & grandparents that made this day possible. Oisín had a fantastic day & has not stopped talking about it all evening. Apparently he didn't even have time to eat the marshmallows because he was too busy playing! His favourite part was making circles in the sand with a flower pot!



Michelle Lane Thanks ladies for the lovely morning. The children have great memories from this morning. Emily told me this evening it was her best day ever. Thanks again.



Like · Reply · 1w

↪ 1 Reply

Ursula Rooney Thanks a mill for giving them a great day out, Olivia loved it. Nothing like a day at the beach with your friends the weather def didn't bother them 😊



Like · Reply · 1w

↪ 1 Reply

Martha Doyle Thank you to all the staff for such a lovely day, Sophia and I really enjoyed it and she hasn't stopped talking about it 😊👏



Like · Reply · 1w



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- It was expanded in 2019/2020 to include settings from Galway City and County but due to Covid restrictions the project was altered to incorporate more service providers, with engagement with the childcare practitioners themselves.
- This expansion included new funding sources to help grow the programme



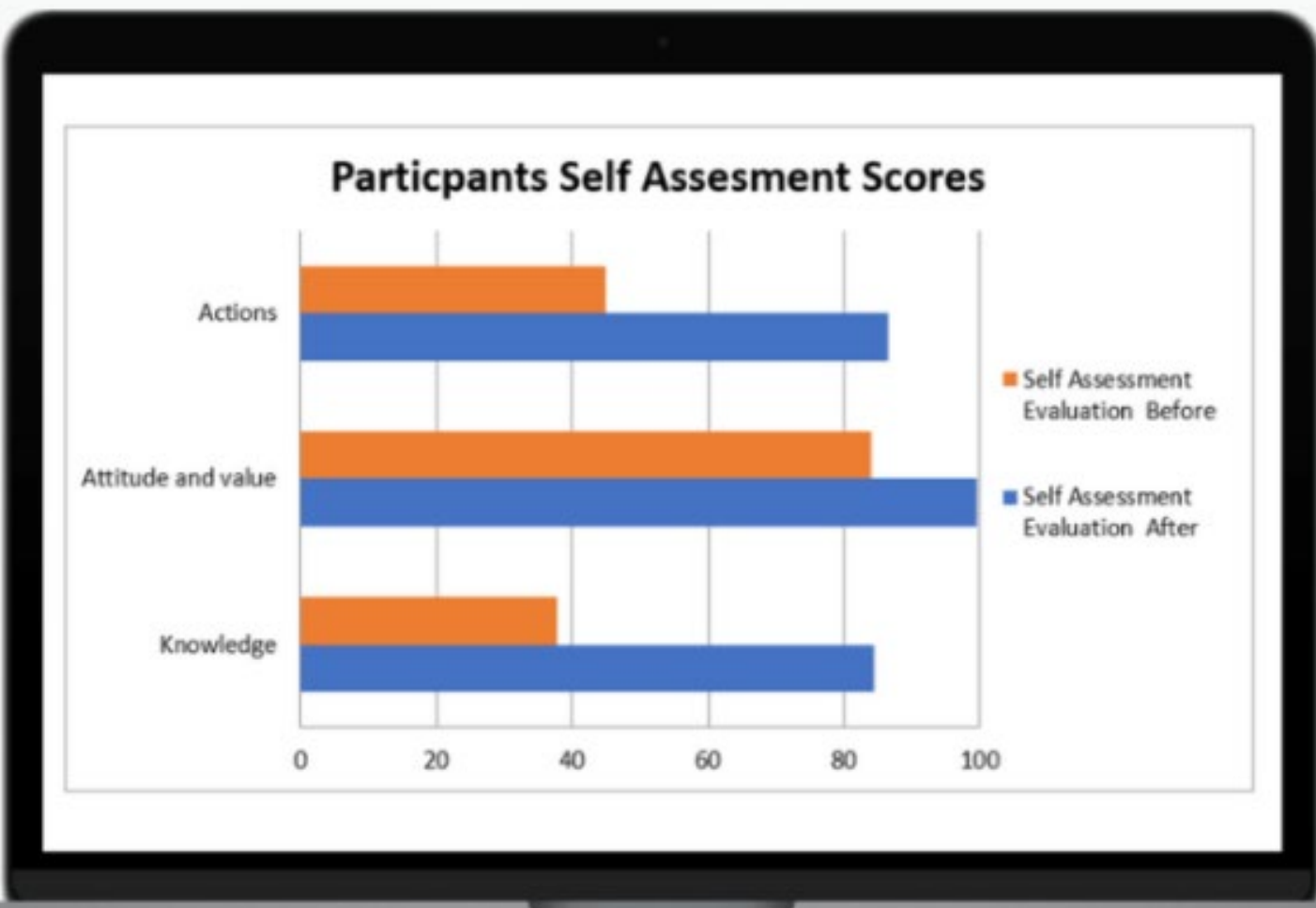
During the expanded beach school, participants were tested on their ocean literacy knowledge, before being introduced to the seven Ocean Literacy (OL) principles.

Evaluation was carried out through

- Self assessment tools
- Trigger questions
- Reflection of practical child lead tasks.



Paper based forms, verbal feedback from parents, parents' comments on social media and online surveys were used



Self Assessment results from 2020 (n=11)



Topics included:

- biodiversity
- the physical marine environment
- caring for the ocean
- our emotional connection to the shore
- food from the sea
- and how the ocean is connected to our weather and climate

The approaches used included active learning, use of artefacts, using the environment, play and games, and guided discovery.



Now in its third year, the project is developing further. An online training platform for early years educators is currently in development.

Based on a series of online modules, practical tasks, reflective pieces, all based on the AISTEAR curriculum, which forms the early years education foundation in Ireland.



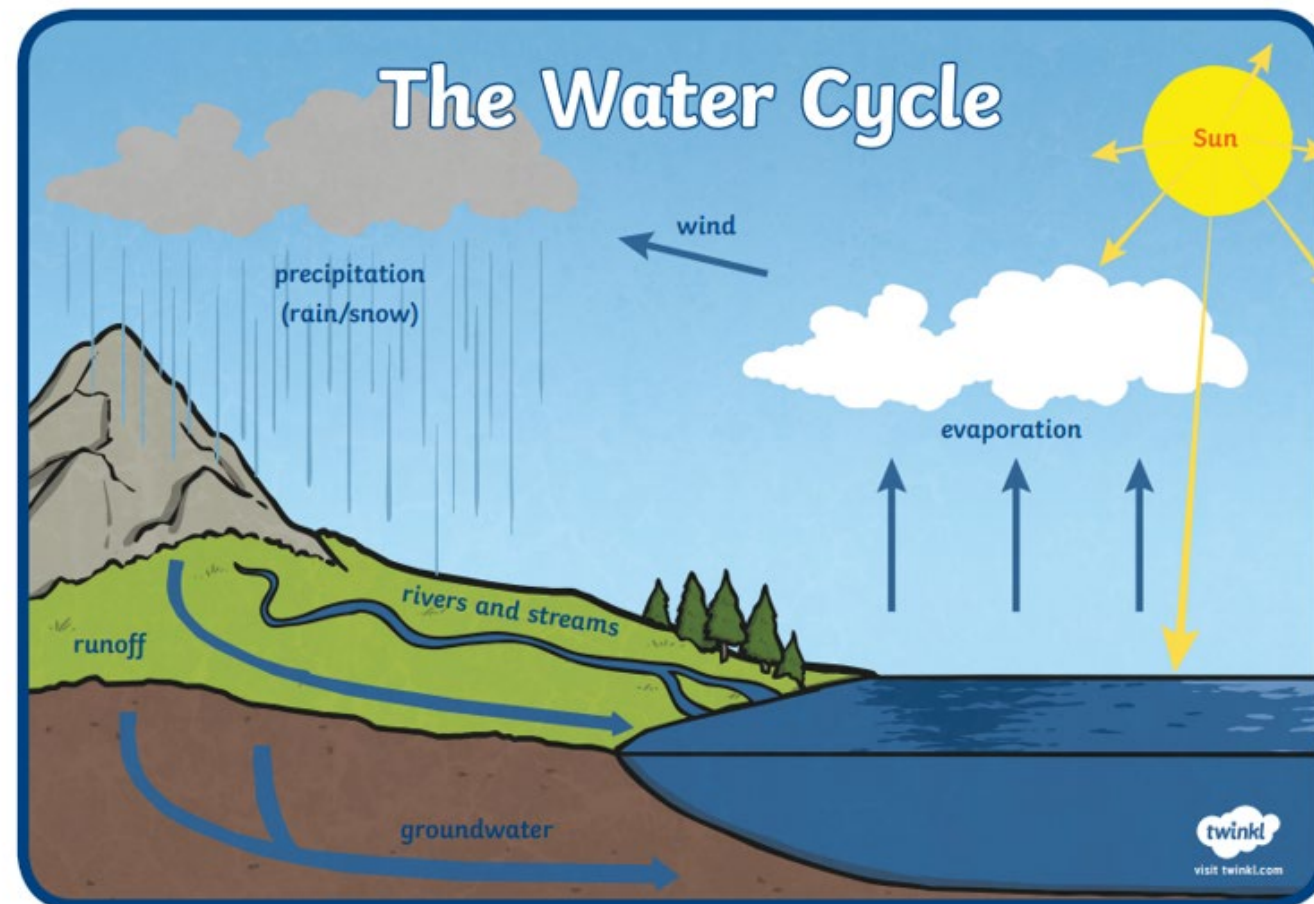
Module Elements :

The Ocean has a Major Influence on Weather and Climate

Learning Objectives

Understanding the effect, the sun has on water and the ocean currents.

Investigating the water cycle.



- 10-min Video
- Five Fun Facts
- Extra information and resources
- Links to other websites and information

Actions to Explore and Other Activities

Activity	Materials Needed
Observing the effects weather has on water throughout the seasons	Durable containers. Water. Decorations for ice art in winter e.g., petals, berries, leaves.
Water Cycle in a Bag	Sealable plastic sandwich bag, tape, water, markers, window that gets sunlight exposure.
Observe what happens when we put warm water and cold water together	Large clear bowl/clear container. Two small bottles. Red & Blue food colouring. Pipette or straw for transferring food colouring. Jug of warm water. Jug of cold water.

Assessment, evaluation and open-ended questions

What the online platform will look like

Ocean Connections EXTERNAL
Created By Agnieszka O'Keeffe · Current Version

REVIEW FEEDBACK ... Sign In

Ocean Connections
0% COMPLETE

- Introduction to Developing Ocean Literacy
- Module 1: Ocean Communities: Developing Ocean Literacy & ...
- Module 2: Ocean Shapes the Earth

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- 1 Explain the water cycle.
- 2 Say how the sun heats the ocean.
- 3 Know how the ocean moves heat around the planet.

Select play to watch a video on how the ocean influences our weather and climate.

Ocean Connections EXTERNAL
Created By Agnieszka O'Keeffe · Current Version

REVIEW FEEDBACK ... Sign In

Select play to watch a video on how the ocean influences our weather and climate.

The Ocean influences our Weather and Climate

0% COMPLETE

- Introduction to Developing Ocean Literacy
- Module 1: Ocean Communities: Developing Ocean Literacy & ...
- Module 2: Ocean Shapes the Earth

Year 2
24 Service
52 Staff
>100 families

Year 3+
Free online course
available to more
than 52 service
providers in Co.
Galway

Year 1
1 Service
19 Children
5 Staff
19 families



Watch Beach School 2020 - Connecting to AISTEAR
<https://vimeo.com/492061141>



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This project is brought to you by Galway Atlantaquaria and Galway Childcare Committee in conjunction with Healthy Ireland and the Community Environment Action Fund (LA21) 2020, in association with Galway City Council and Galway County Council.

Thank you to all the service providers, parents and children who took part in the Beach school Project and made it possible. And to Learning Rooms for working with us on the online platform.

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