

Who we are:

The Centre provides services for adults with intellectual disabilities in the form of work type activities and training in lifeskills, work habits and work skills.

Much of the work we do is contract work for other companies. These are repetitive tasks. We would also like to develop a product that we could produce on-site.



The gardening team potting some plants.

Our daily chores roster assists in teaching important lifeskills.

Weekly training in health topics is ongoing, according to the Department of Health, Health Awareness Calendar. Life skills and work habits also form part of the weekly training.

Optional extra activities include dancing, gardening, pottery, beading and other crafts.

Social activities are currently limited due to the Covid Virus. But we aim to offer more social activities for adults with intellectual disabilities to fulfil a variety of interests.

How we started

The Joyce Chevalier Centre started as a support group for mothers with children with disabilities in 1972 after Joyce had a son with Down Syndrome. This group became an organization under the supervision of St Kieran's Presbyterian Church and changed and developed as the needs in the community altered. In 1999 the Centre was established as an adult workshop and became a Non-Profit Organization. Our funding comes from fundraising, Department of Social Development funding, student fees and from the work contracts.



Our students have been performing an essential service of food labelling during the lockdown.

The workshop is an option that someone may choose as a place to learn skills, be part of a team and to develop their self-confidence. This may lead to an open labour market job or may be where the adult prefers to remain.

Each adult has an individual development plan which addresses areas that they would like to develop, either in skills, work habits or social relationships. Support needs are also addressed in this plan. Each person has individual skills which the Centre tries to develop.

Two programmes

The Centre offers two programmes. The Protective Workshop is for adults with low support needs who can work independently and learn new skills with minimal support.

The Day Care programme is for adults with higher support needs and whilst many of the activities are the same in both programmes, the adult receives more support to complete tasks. This programme also offers more variety and a more relaxed setting. We aim to add a sensory programme to this workshop but are waiting to develop the space for it first.

Many of our activities run with both workshops integrated.

Admission requirements:

We do encourage potential students to visit the Centre as the student needs to feel like they would like to work here.

Our exclusions from our programme are:

1. Violent or aggressive behaviour (sadly we cannot accommodate unpredictable behaviour for the safety of the other students).
2. Dependence in self care such as toileting and eating. We do not have the facilities or staff to accommodate students who need assistance with toileting.
3. Children. We are strictly an adult service.
4. Resistance to being part of the programme. We encourage young adults to come into the programme as starting work as a mature adult is often difficult. However, we require that the person wants to be at the Centre and wants to be a part of our programme.

However, if this is a programme that interests you as a family member or potential service user, please contact us as we would like to know the needs of our community and respond to them in some manner if possible. It is through this approach that the service has grown and developed over the years.

Who attends the Centre?

Our workshops serve adults who are not suited to the open labour market because of their support needs.

A variety of activities keep us very busy.



“To shine your brightest light is to be who you truly are.”

– Roy T. Bennett
