

## 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.

Sensational Kids also offers training and E-Learning courses for parents, teachers, and caregivers, alongside virtual appointments and consultations to provide support wherever it's needed.

Find out more at  
[www.sensationalkids.ie](http://www.sensationalkids.ie)

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## Why Choose Sensational Kids

- **Timely Intervention:** We provide access to evidence based high-quality therapy services without long delays.
- **Proven Outcomes;** A recent independently evaluated outcome measurement project over two years, demonstrated that children attending therapy services at Sensational Kids achieve outcomes above and beyond what is considered to be clinically meaningful change.
- **Family-Centred Care:** Our approach prioritises the needs of both the child and their family. The family are viewed as key team members and goals are established collaboratively. Families are included as active participants in the therapy process.
- **Innovative Facilities:** Our Sensory Motor Gyms offer cutting-edge therapeutic spaces designed to facilitate the developmental progression for each child in a fun and playful environment.
- **Non-Profit Mission:** As a charitable organisation, there are no shareholders benefiting from profits. Instead all income is ploughed back into our therapeutic services for children.

## At Sensational Kids our therapy support team employ the following evidence based models of practice:

- Ayres Sensory Integration®
- Trauma informed approach
- Neuroaffirmative
- Perceptual Motor
- Sensory Motor
- The CO-OP approach: a child centred, performance-based, problem solving approach that enables skill acquisition through the process of strategy use and guided discovery
- DIR floor time
- SOS Feeding
- CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy)
- Person centred and trauma informed practice



**Sensational Kids**  
Therapy • Toys • Training

[www.sensationalkids.ie](http://www.sensationalkids.ie)

## Who We Are

Sensational Kids is a national charity and not-for-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.

## Where to Find Us

We operate four provincial Child Development Centres across Ireland, including:

- Kildare: Our flagship centre and headquarters serving Leinster.
- West Cork: Serving families in the Munster region.
- Mayo: Supporting children and families in the west of Ireland and Connacht.
- Monaghan: Providing therapy services to children in the northeast region and across Ulster.

### Kildare

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Kildare Town, R51 WP02  
045 520900  
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### Mayo

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### West Cork

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## 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.

## 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.



## What Makes Us Different

- **Special Interest in Sensory Integration:** Our Child Development Centres provide bespoke sensory motor gym facilities to meet the sensory needs of the children we support.
- **Proven Outcomes:** A recent independently evaluated outcome measurement project over two years, demonstrated that children attending therapy services at Sensational Kids achieve outcomes above and beyond what is considered to be clinically meaningful change.
- **Our Clinical Team:** Our clinical team is supported and trained by experts in sensory integration, ensuring that children with sensory needs are receiving evidence-based sensory therapy to Ayres Sensory Integration® international standards.
- **Affordability and Accessibility:** Supported by fundraising and grants we provide high-quality therapy services at significantly reduced costs, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent children from receiving the help they need.
- **Social Enterprise Model:** Sensational Kids operates a sustainable, non-profit model, with a unique approach of reinvesting revenue from our shop and services back into the provision of therapy, making it more affordable. There are no shareholders who profit. All revenues are ploughed into our therapy supports for children
- **Holistic Approach:** We offer a range of supports under one roof, from occupational and speech therapy to educational and developmental resources for children with a variety of additional needs.
- **Family-Centred Care:** Our focus extends beyond the child to include empowering and educating families, ensuring they have the tools and support necessary to foster development at home.
- **Nationwide Impact:** Sensational Kids has a growing national presence, with Child Development Centres in Kildare, Cork, Mayo, and Monaghan, serving children and families throughout Ireland.