

Avril McMonagle

Meantóir



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MEANTÓIR

Professional Supports for
Early Childhood Education

Avril McMonagle's breast cancer diagnosis in 2017 was a lifechanging moment, forcing her to take stock of her life and career.

She wanted her next step to be as innovative and creative as possible so did something she had long dreamed about — setting up her own business.

Meantóir, a specialist support service for early childhood educators and childcare service providers, was established in January 2019 in Inishowen, Co Donegal.

As an expert in the field of early education, Avril was always a real driver for innovation and change; finding solutions to problems in the sector was something she loved. She is continuing this work with Meantóir.

Avril previously held a number of high-profile education roles, including at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, where she was part of a small team responsible for Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. She was also Manager at Donegal County Childcare for 14 years.

Meantóir had a stellar first year in business but then Covid hit. Despite challenges, Avril successfully brought all her training online and interest in the company's app, Mosaic, exploded. Mosaic allows childcare providers to share a child's early learning and care with their parents in real time.

Avril found ACORNS allowed her time out of the business for thinking space, to hear other people's experiences, and to know that she was not alone – especially during Covid.

While running a business can be tough and worrying, it is also very rewarding. Avril believes it was her best career move ever and is happier in her work than she has ever been.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine