

Polly Doyle

Polly & Andy

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A simple comment from Polly Doyle's four-year-old son broke her heart – and led her to set up her clothing company.

Andy is autistic and wasn't then able to communicate fully but, after pulling on new soft trousers, said: 'these don't hurt'.

As he happily ran off to play, Polly was devastated that Andy's clothes had been hurting. Polly, who was Andy's full-time carer, investigated clothing made from bamboo, which she felt was perfect for the layer of clothes next to your skin.

She could not find anyone in Ireland making such products so, in July 2019, Polly launched Polly & Andy from her home in Cheekpoint, Co. Waterford. The company makes seam-free and super soft bamboo socks for children and adults.

Polly & Andy is now stocked in 25 stores including Foxford Woollen Mills. Polly is working on a new range including soft top socks, with no cuffs. She is also planning to introduce new lines such as vests and underwear.

Polly has one other person employed part-time and is hiring for the run up to Christmas. She also has plans to build a purpose-built unit for the business at her home.

Being a participant on ACORNS gave Polly accountability and pushed her to achieve her goals. She also learned to delegate so she could focus on the core business – especially when coping with the enormity of the global pandemic.

And what about Andy? He's seven now and full of chat. And is very proud to see his friends, family and even teachers all wearing socks with his name on them.

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
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