

## Case 4: Fledglings



### Who?

Fledglings was established in 2007. It is an education focused social enterprise, based in Dublin, Ireland. The company operates as a registered charity.

### What?

Fledglings is a not-for-profit, social, franchise-based business providing high quality, early years education for the children of Tallaght West in Dublin. Fledglings offers additional supports such as Parent Support Coordinators and Speech and Language Therapists who are funded through philanthropic donations. Fledglings also provides accredited training for early years educators, as well as courses in parenting and a course for grandparents.

### Why?

Fledglings was born out of the belief that high-quality early education for children is essential if they are to achieve their full potential in primary and secondary education and in later life. The real benefit of the business lies in the quality and value of the early education that the children receive. The fact that parents are themselves able to take up further training or employment is an additional positive side-effect.

### How?

Each of the eight Fledglings services is self-funded and breaks-even. Its income is made up of fees paid by parents and the contributions made from Government. Some philanthropic funding has been won

for additional elements such as parental supports.

### Where?

The Fledglings initiative was created in response to the lack of high quality early years education in Tallaght West, Dublin. Trained early years educators (many of whom were trained by Fledglings) are supported in establishing new Fledgling services throughout Dublin which operate in a similar way to a franchise.

### Conclusion

Fledglings began as a purely social enterprise, but it has become more commercial as it has grown. As it realised that it needed to do more than create qualified early years educators. As these early years educators got their qualifications, Fledglings began to help them in creating their own services and to support them in becoming employers of others. This is an on-going process in which Fledglings is moving towards a model whereby those services will in the long term become franchisees and provide self-sustaining income to Fledglings as the central franchisor.

### Web Links:

<http://www.ancosan.ie/early-years.html>

### Supporting Video:

The story of An Cosán (Fledgling's founding Body)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimSUUB\\_yOs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimSUUB_yOs)