



**Cluas**

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*Opening up the  
opportunity  
to overcome  
developmental  
obstacles*

*With a Cluas programme  
children who struggle  
can discover how to  
listen, understand and  
communicate*

cluas 

## Introduction

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Every child is unique – unique in the way he or she develops and grows. A child's development from baby to toddler, from child to teenager and teenager to adult, usually follows an expected pattern. Sometimes this pattern of development is delayed. The delay may be mild or severe.

## How would you know if your child's development is significantly delayed?

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You may have been aware that your child has had a difficulty from an early age. He may not have reached the motor milestones as expected. He may never have crawled. You may have had difficulty toilet training him. His speech may be difficult to understand particularly by strangers – this may be a Speech and Language Disorder. Your child may have spoken a few words for a short time and then stopped speaking, or he may never have spoken at all.

Having little or no language often causes a lot of frustration. Because they can't communicate, some of these children withdraw into their own world. They may also wander around aimlessly and alone. They may not play as other children do and are often seen repeatedly spinning the wheels of a toy train or car, not learning to push it along in the way children usually do. Some of these children may be said to have Autism or Asperger Syndrome.

Your child may be constantly moving or fidgeting, unable to concentrate on any one activity for more than a few seconds. He's unable to listen or follow instructions, constantly forgetting what he is supposed to be doing. He may be thought to suffer from Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder.

Other children may have difficulty reading. They may be unable to read at all, or when reading they may leave out the little words, confuse words and letters or leave out the endings of words. These children may have a Specific Learning Difficulty or Dyslexia.



## Tomatis Therapy Programmes

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Dr. Alfred Tomatis (a French Ear Nose and Throat consultant) spent most of his life studying and researching the ear and communication. He recognised that listening begins in the womb and that babies hear and listen to their mother's voice before they are born, giving them the desire to communicate.

Listening is the ability to tune into selected sounds and understand their meanings, and so is different from hearing which is simply passive. Many young people with developmental difficulties have excellent hearing but are poor listeners.

The sounds heard in the womb stimulate the vestibular system in the inner ear, to develop. The vestibular system is involved in the control of balance, co-ordination, and the sense of touch. It is connected to other parts of the brain dealing with feelings, decision making and thought processing.

Dr. Tomatis developed a piece of equipment called the Electronic Ear. Using classical music and a recording of the mother's voice, the Electronic Ear retrains the way we gather and process information.

## What happens when you contact Cluas?

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You will be sent a developmental questionnaire to complete. The next step is an assessment and listening tests where possible. These are carried out in a gentle and playful manner. The results will be discussed with you. Following the assessment your child will be shown around the centre where his therapy will take place.

## Therapy programmes at Cluas

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The assessment will identify where your child's development has been interrupted. A specific programme will be designed to encourage development. During therapy your child will be supervised by a Listening Therapist who will organise structured constructive play and activities.

Cluas is open throughout the year, and programme start dates are ongoing. Each programme consists of daily sessions which are two hours long. A listening programme consists of three stages, which run Monday to Friday:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
lasts for 15 days. There is a 2 hour session on each of these days.	begins four weeks after the completion of stage 1. This is an 8 day stage, two hours a day.	begins four weeks after the completion of stage 2. This is an 8 day stage, two hours a day.

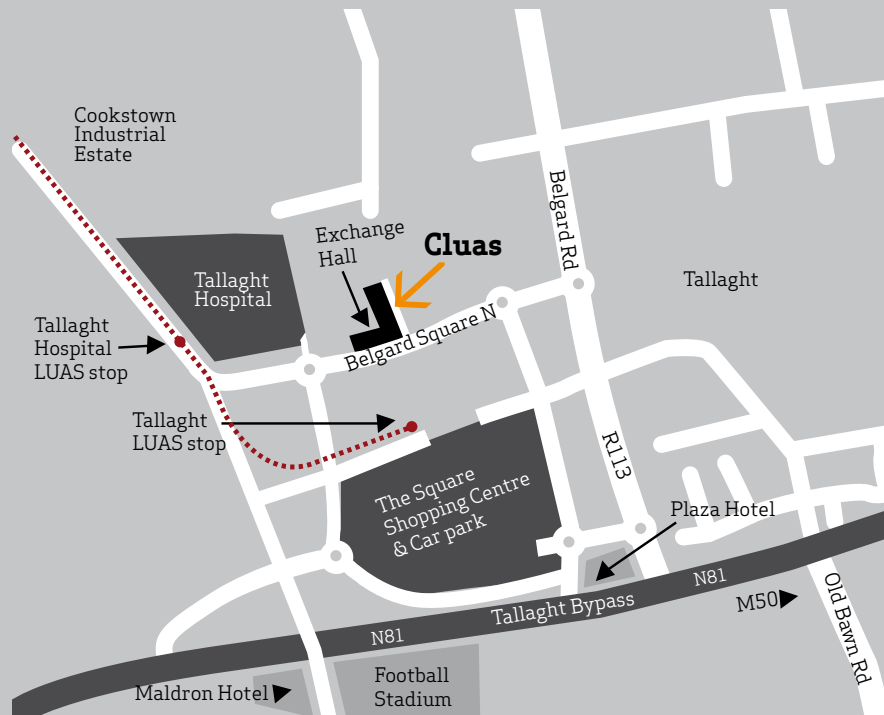
There are 3 listening sessions throughout the day: 8am; 10.45am; and 2pm.

## Where is Cluas?

Cluas is in Exchange Hall, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, D24, close to the LUAS red line and Tallaght Hospital.

**Driving:** From M50 Junction 11 take exit for N81 to Tallaght, and follow road signs to Tallaght Hospital. Go straight on at Hospital roundabout. Turn left through gates, into Exchange Hall, follow Blue P public parking sign, turn left through archway and down ramp to basement car park. Cluas is on the ground floor just past the archway entrance to underground car park.

**Luas:** From Dublin City, take Red Line to Tallaght Hospital stop. Turn left and follow signs to Hospital: walk past Hospital entrance on left at roundabout. Turn left, through gates, into Exchange Hall. Cluas is on the ground floor just past the archway entrance to underground car park.



## Who will you meet at Cluas?

### Pascal Maher

- B.A., M.A. Psychologist, Psychotherapist, F.T.A.I., I.C.P, H. Dip. Ed., Dip. N.D.T., IARCTC. Clinical Director, Cluas.
- Pascal has worked as a Guidance Counsellor, Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Neuro Developmental Therapist with children, teenagers and adults.
- Pascal has worked in Secondary Schools for over 20 years helping children to cope with the consequences of their difficulties. In order to address the causes of their difficulties Pascal trained as a Tomatis Consultant, opening the first Tomatis Centre in Ireland in 2003.

### Ronan Maher

- B.A. Psychology, Dip. N.D.T., IARCTC. Tomatis Consultant, Cluas.
- Ronan is a Tomatis Consultant having trained with Tomatis Development in Paris, at the Spectrum Centre in Washington and the Tomatis Institute Hamburg.

In addition our clinical team includes a team of Listening Therapists and a Neuro Developmental Therapist.