

Daily Digest **Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews**

The Daily Digest is a compilation of articles gathered from the online editions of major Irish international newspapers. Articles cover social, economic and policy matters as they relate to children and families. [See here.](#)

In this issue we bring you up to date news of the impending Referendum on Children's Rights on 10th November, a development which will improve the lives of children now and into the future. We also look at the worrying statistics on child poverty from both the CSO and ESRI, the new children's law centre and the high costs of sending children to school.

There are details of Barnardos Training and Resource Service Open Day on 26th September as well as information on new publications, training courses and events, and library resources available.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Barnardos Training and Resource Service

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News and Developments

Referendum on Children's Rights: 'Yes for Children' Welcomes Wording



Barnardos, as part of 'Yes for Children', warmly welcomes the publication of the Bill to enable the holding of a [Children's Referendum](#) on November 10. We fully support the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances

Fitzgerald TD, in her determination to build the maximum consensus in support of the Referendum, and we will do all in our power to assist that process in any way we can.

We look forward to open, healthy and constructive debate about the issues affecting children and pledge ourselves to campaign openly and honestly for change that will ensure a better future for all

children in Ireland.

'Yes for Children' believe passionately that this is a golden opportunity to enable the people of Ireland to send a strong and powerful message. All of us want to see our children protected. All of us want to see respect for our children and their childhood. All of us believe that the children of Ireland must be heard and taken seriously. All of us want to ensure that the things that happened to children in the past will never happen again.

Ireland now has the opportunity to name children as a priority and to ensure that childhood is cherished and protected. We all pledge to work side by side, with the Government and the Opposition, and with the people of Ireland to ensure real and lasting change.

Yes for Children is a national movement led by Barnardos, the Children's Rights Alliance, the ISPCC and Campaign for Children. The campaign is committed to an open and honest debate on the issues that affect the real lives of children in Ireland. Yes for Children will engage with Government and the Opposition, and with the people of Ireland to ensure that children are protected and childhood is respected.

Read [the wording of the referendum](#).

CSO Figures Highlight Stark Reality for Families with Children

CSO figures released on 6th September show the urgent need to ensure the protection of children in Budget 2013. The figures, a thematic compilation of statistics on child poverty based on the [CSO's Survey on Income and Living Standards](#) from 2004 to 2010, provide evidence to back up the real life experiences of families across Ireland.



The statistics clearly illustrate the challenges that the recession has posed to families with children. Deprivation rates for households with children rose from 13.8% in 2007 to 28.2% in 2010 which is a

reflection of our societal failure to protect children from the onslaught of the economic collapse. Families across the country are struggling to provide the basics their children need on decreasing incomes. This report serves as a reminder that we need to do more to protect children and families in our budget adjustments.”

Barnardos’ CEO, Fergus Finlay, said: “The numerous debates on cuts and savings that are currently underway in relation to Budget 2013 must reflect the reality that many families are not able to survive on the incomes they have. There are increasing numbers of families for whom some level of social welfare support is essential in making sure there is food on the table and electricity to heat their home.”

Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland

The report [Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland](#) was launched by Joan Burton TD, Minister for Social Protection, in April. The report is based on the national Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2009 of 1,800 households with children. The report, published by the Department and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), finds that over a quarter of children aged 2 to 15 are experiencing deprivation. It also shows that parents are diverting household resources to protect children.

Dorothy Watson, one of the authors of the report, said: "We knew already that children were at a higher risk of poverty than adults. Now we have a better understanding that a range of factors are important in enabling parents to protect their children. An adequate income is clearly the basic requirement. Beyond this, mother's education, employment – especially of the mother – and family stability are also important." Minister Burton concluded: "The report supports international and national evidence that addressing poverty requires a multi-dimensional long-term strategy that cuts across many policy domains. I look forward to working with colleagues across Government, to not only address child poverty but also promote the longer-term well-being of children and improve children's life chances."

Children's Law Centre to be Set Up

Earlier this year a steering committee secured funds to establish a law centre for children in Ireland. There are similar law centres around the world. In Ireland, children cannot initiate legal action without a 'next friend' and they have difficulty in accessing legal remedies for violations of their rights.



The aim of the law centre is to advance the implementation and the exercise of children's rights through increased and enhanced use of the law and the legal system nationally and internationally. It will pursue this aim by undertaking strategic litigation, improving the quality of representation in children's cases and providing children and those who work with and for them with general and specialist legal information about their rights. In conjunction with partners, it will also advocate for the progressive reform of the law relating to children and their rights.

Report on Child Protection

Minister for Children, Frances Fitzgerald, published the [2011 Report of the Special Rapporteur for Child Protection](#). This is the 5th such report by Dr. Geoffrey Shannon. The report makes many recommendations ranging from the need for constitutional reform to the need for service reform, and includes detailed recommendations in relation to the Government's ongoing legislative programme, specifically in the areas of Garda vetting, putting Children First on a statutory footing and the withholding of information in relation to offences against children and vulnerable adults. Among the recommendations are the following:

- Non-Irish national parents of Irish citizen children should be given permission to reside and remain in Ireland and this should be recognised as giving effect to recent case law (the Zambrano judgment) and not as a matter of discretion.

- Research is needed on the matter of the various bases on which children are taken into care and whether adequate levels of family support at an early stage are currently being provided to prevent the taking of children into care. In exceptional circumstances and where a child has already come to the attention of social services, any person who has 'reasonable grounds' should be able to apply to court to seek to have a child at risk placed in the care system.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be incorporated into Irish law. This would ensure that children's rights are considered when policy is being drafted. It would also permit individuals to invoke the convention in the court system and permit the courts to apply it as a matter of Irish law.
- A referendum to include children's rights in the Constitution should be held as soon as possible.

Parents Hit Out At Steep School Costs in Barnardos School Cost Survey 2012

987 parents responding to [Barnardos' School Costs Survey 2012](#) have expressed frustration and anger at the continued high costs of sending children to school. Despite findings that in some cases costs have remained stable or reduced slightly since 2011, parents continue to struggle to meet schools' demands with increasingly stretched household incomes.

Barnardos' CEO, Fergus Finlay, said: "Many parents are being forced to make very difficult choices and many are getting into debt to pay for uniforms, books and other education expenses. Concrete solutions for tackling the costs associated with sending children to school are long overdue."

Key findings from the Survey include:

- For primary school children: 23% of parents are paying between €76-100 and 18% are paying €101-125 for uniforms.
- For secondary school children: 17% of parents are paying €150-€174, 17% are spending €175-€200 and 15% are exceeding €250 for uniforms.

- For primary school children: 27% of parents are paying between €76- €10 for books.
 - For secondary school children: 37% of parents are spending over €250 for books.
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Barnardos Submission: Review of Legislation on Prostitution

Barnardos is a member of the Turn Off the Red Light campaign. <http://www.turnofftheredlight.ie/>. We responded to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality call for submissions on the 'Review of Legislation on Prostitution' in August 2012.

[Read the submission from Barnardos](#)

Barnardos Training and Resource Service Open Day - 26th September 2012



On Wednesday 26th September, Barnardos Training and Resource Service will be holding an open day in our library in Christchurch Square, Dublin 8 between 10am and 4pm. The whole team will be here to offer you help and support, or feel free to just pop in to say hello and have a browse around.

Colm and Elizabeth, our information officers, will be on hand all day in the library to help you find those books you need or that information you have been looking for.

Have you been thinking about arranging training on child protection, literacy and numeracy, or quality practice? Imelda and Michele will be both be here to discuss your training needs and give advice on how to improve your own work practices.

There will be a wide array of publications available free on the day. As well as our Parenting Positively series and other parent's guides, a range of guides for practitioners and issues of ChildLinks will also be available free on the day. There will also be a 10% discount on any books purchased in person on the day so come in and have a chat with Eimear and Martina and see what's on offer. Sinead, our publications co-ordinator, will be on hand to offer guidance as to which Barnardos publications would best suit your particular needs or interests.

So come and have a browse around, a cup of tea and a chat. We look forward to seeing you!

Early Years Care and Education

Early Years Children First Committee

An Early Years Children First Committee has been set up to ensure the effective implementation of Children First within the early years sector. The revised Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children were published in July 2011 and the government are in the process of bringing new legislation around this. This will mean that organisations within the early years sector will be responsible for implementing Children First and having a Keeping Safe Plan in place. Each organisation will have to audit their Keeping Safe Plan annually and ensure that they have effective policies and procedures in place. This will be a significant piece of work for all early years organisations.



Publications for Early Years

Around the country many young children are attending pre-school services for the first time. While the children might settle in quickly,

parents are often anxious about leaving their children in someone else's care for the very first time. Barnardos has two booklets for parents that might help during this initial period.

[Learning Together](#) provides parents with information about the value of early childhood learning and the impact it can have on a child's quality of life, their whole development and their future opportunities and experiences.



[Partners in Learning](#) helps parents to understand how they can work with early years providers to give their child the best opportunities and experiences possible.

Both of these booklets can be downloaded from www.barnardos.ie or if you are working in an early years service and would like to get hard copies to give to all parents of children attending your service contact Eimear Marron on 01 4530355 eimear.marron@barnardos.ie.

BTRS Publications

What's New? Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years

The aim of [What's New?](#) is to support educators in early years services in making children's new experiences as smooth as possible and helping them to learn to cope well with change, now and in the future. The guide gives an overview of the research and theories underpinning the topic of transitions, suggest sound foundations for good practice and give suggestions, ideas and resources for managing many types of transitions.



This book is being launched on 17th October in Dublin. Keep an eye on www.barnardos.ie for more details.

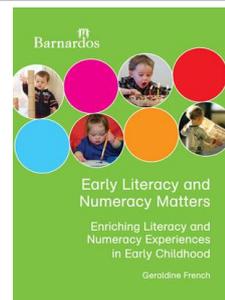
Can We Help? A Guide to Supporting Children and Families in Early Years Services

The role of early years services in supporting families centres on the early learning and development needs of children. Early years services need to work in partnership with parents, using an approach that supports parent-child relationships and strengthens the capacity of parents to respond effectively to their child's learning and development needs. Where families need additional support, early years services are in a unique position to empower parents through information and social support, and also to act as a bridge between families and other services in the community. The aim of [Can We Help?](#) is to assist those working in early years to increase their knowledge and understanding of the range of challenges and stresses facing children and families today and what they can do to support families effectively.



Early Literacy and Numeracy Matters: Enriching Literacy and Numeracy Experiences in Early Childhood

[Early Literacy and Numeracy Matters](#) provides up-to-date theory and research on the critical importance of the development of both literacy and numeracy in early childhood and outlines the links with national documents such as Síolta, Aistear and The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. It explores the relationship between the development of language, early literacy and early numeracy and the importance of sharing information on children's learning in these areas with families. It also gives practical guidance to early childhood educators



on how they can enrich young children's literacy and numeracy.

Parenting Positively

Parenting Positively is a series by the Family Support Agency and Barnardos that provides information and guidance to parents of children between the ages of 6 and 12 and also parents of teenagers. The aim is to help to create a positive, loving and supportive relationship between you and your child.

Topics covered include General Parenting Skills, Bullying, Separation, Parental Drug and Alcohol Misuse, Domestic Abuse and Death.

You can get free copies of these publications by emailing us at resources@barnardos.ie or look at our [website](#) for more information.



Barnardos Training and Consultancy

Public Events Autumn 2012



To book a place on any of our training courses or for more information email training@barnardos.ie or telephone Martina Dumpleton on 01 453 0355

**Workshop and Book Launch - What's New: Transitions in the Early Years
Dublin City Centre, 1.30 - 4 pm**

This workshop will follow the launch of *What's New: Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years* (see above). The workshop will focus on identifying the various types of transitions experienced by young children, it will look at the nature of transitions as a process rather than a single event and will examine how early years educators can begin to have a deeper understanding of this process, its impact upon young children and how best to provide support for children and their families. It will link closely with Síolta, Standard 13: Transitions and with elements of Aistear.

This workshop will cost €30 and each participant will get a copy of the publication *What's New: Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years*.

This workshop will also run in Cork City Centre on 24th October 2pm-4pm.

22nd September - Organising and Planning Play for Numeracy and Literacy. Dublin 8

This workshop will provide practical information and ideas for incorporating numeracy and literacy into play. Barnardos' new publication 'Early Literacy and Numeracy Matters' will be given to all participants.

15th October - Child Protection Awareness Workshop Dublin 22

Recent changes to Children First mean that staff should update their knowledge in this area. All staff working with children must understand and have a working knowledge of Child Protection. This workshop will look at signs and symptoms of abuse; roles and responsibilities of staff; and reporting procedure. The publication 'Protecting Children' will be given to all participants.

18th October - Children and Domestic Abuse. Dublin 8

Participation in this event will give early years professionals the opportunity to learn more about the impact of Domestic Abuse on children. They will develop strategies and tools to support any child in their service who is affected in this way. Barnardos Training Resource Pack on Domestic Abuse and Bullying will be given to all participants.

6th November 2012 - Cyber Bullying and Children. Dublin 7

All forms of bullying affect a child's psychological, emotional and social development. This workshop will focus on cyberbullying, its impact, and strategies to assist adults in effectively managing this form of bullying. Barnardos Training Resource Pack on Bullying and Parenting Positively Booklets for Children, Teens and Parents will be given to all participants.

28th November - Record Keeping – How to Keep Records on Children, Health and Safety, Observations etc. Dublin North

Keeping records in an appropriate and accurate manner is vital to ensuring that an efficient working system is in place. It can also be a legal requirement and can be affected by data protection requirements. Record keeping also involves good practice in terms of observations about child development and issues of child protection.

Other Events Around the Country

What's Working for Children Presents: Investing in Change-Social Innovation & The Incredible Years Approach

Date: Wednesday 19th September 2012 Venue: Camden Court Hotel, Dublin.

This conference will look at The Incredible Years as an example of how evidence based programmes have been used in many different contexts as a vehicle for social innovation and improved outcomes for children, families, and communities, as well as new and developing investment models for the delivery of public services. For more details see <http://www.archways.ie>

Life Story Work- Training Workshop 19th September 2012

Date: Wednesday 19th September, 2012, 2012 – 9.30-4.30pm
Exploring a child's life story – how do we think about life experiences of children who have been separated from their birth families, what tools help/hinder this work? For further Details: contact Regina at 0214357734 or rwalsh@bessborough.ie

A Brief Introduction to Anthroposophy

A series of participatory workshops for parents and teachers who have an interest in the Steiner philosophy.

Thurs 20th Sept from 6.30-9.30pm - 'Journey through the Steiner Waldorf class curriculum'

Thurs 27th Sept from 6.30-9.30pm - 'Eurythmy' facilitated by Tony Whittle

Thurs 4th Oct from 6.30-9.30pm - 'Rudolf Steiner- his world-view and impulse'

For further information email: training.iska@gmail.com

Child Protection: Defensible Decision Making

Dates: 24th & 25th September 2012 Venue: Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork

Understanding Child Sexual Abuse, Abusers & Internet Sexual Offending - 2 day workshop Student Counselling & Development, University College Cork. Further information and booking see <http://www.ucc.ie/en/studentcounselling/childprotection>

Researching Children's Outcomes: An All-Island Approach

Children's Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland

Date: 26 September 2012

Venue: Chartered Accountants House, 47 Pearse Street, Dublin 2

This conference will bring together researchers to consider the merits of, opportunities for, and challenges to, all-Island research on children's outcomes using existing data. Further

details: <http://childrensresearchnetwork.org/>

The Assessment and Treatment of Children and Young People: Providing an Excellent Future

Third National Mental Health Conference

Date: Thursday 27th September 2012 Venue: The Burlington Hotel Dublin.

Bringing world renowned experts to Ireland, in this time of change, the third National Mental Healthcare Conference will examine and debate the roles of those involved in shaping the provision of Ireland's Mental Health services. Further details: visit www.mentalhealthcare.ie

Inspiring Quality One Day Networking Event

Dublin City Childcare Committee

Date: 20th October Venue: Croke Park

Dublin City Childcare Committee will host a one day event dedicated to professional development. Further details: please check the website www.childcareonline.ie

National Council Special Education - Annual Research Conference 2012

Date: Wednesday 21st November, 9.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Hogan Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.

Further details available in September. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this conference email NCSEResearch@ncse.ie

Screenagers: Social media, digital media, and ICT as tools in youth work

Date: 23 November

Venue: To be confirmed

National Youth Council of Ireland – Annual Conference. For further details contact conference@nyci.ie

Parenting Support Morning from Barnardos Post Adoption Service

When: Friday 23rd November – 9.45am- 12.00pm

Where: Hilton Kilmainham Hotel, Inchicore Road, Dublin 8

Barnardos Post-Adoption Service are taking bookings for a new parenting support morning in November 2012. Parents who have recently adopted or whose children are older are welcome to come along to this meeting for an opportunity to seek advice and support and to share experiences.

Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- Attachment and emotion
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Play and sensory experiences

- School issues

Cost: €20 cover charge payable on morning - booking essential.

Please phone Aine O'Leary at (01) 4530355 or

email adoption@barnardos.ie to book a place.

'Growing Up in Ireland' Annual Research Conference 2012

Date: 29 November 2012

Venue: Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin.

Growing Up in Ireland – the National Longitudinal Study of Children, will hold its fourth annual research conference on Thursday 29th November at the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin. The conference will focus on research based on Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) data.

Further

details: http://www.esri.ie/news_events/events/forthcoming_events/event_details/index.xml?id=334

Barnardos Training and Resource Service Library

The BTRS library provides comprehensive information on a range of child related issues such as child protection, child development, family support, bereavement, adoption, diversity, parenting, childcare and much more.



[Check out the new resources we have in stock.](#)

[Or why not have a look at our online catalogue.](#)

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