

Daily Digest

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

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Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews



On Saturday 10th November, the people of Ireland voted to place children at the heart of the Irish Constitution. Thanks so much to all of you who supported the yes vote, and who contacted us to offer help and encouragement during the campaign. As always, we really appreciate your support.

This newsletter brings you recent news and developments including Budget 2013, which Barnardos has called regressive, unfair and unsustainable. There is also information about various reports and projects recently launched as well as details of new publications, training courses and events, and library resources available from BTRS.

We hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Barnardos Training and Resource Service

Budget 2013



Barnardos is deeply concerned about the impact the measures outlined in Budget 2013 will have on children and families across Ireland, particularly those struggling on low incomes. This Budget belies the Government's commitment to fairness and equity in the face of recession. The cumulative effect of cuts to key child-related social welfare payments coupled with the imposition of wide ranging taxes will have a detrimental impact on vulnerable low income families. It will inevitably lead to greater incidences of poverty and deprivation for children.

In particular, we are appalled that the Government has applied another flat rate cut to Child Benefit outside the context of reforms to child income supports as well as reductions to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance.

[Read Barnardos reaction to Budget 2013 in full.](#)

Department of Children and Youth Affairs - budget analysis

Overall Department budget is €443m in 2013, an increase of €16m on 2012.

- Barnardos welcomes the maintenance of Free Part Time Pre-School Year which costs €175m.
- Allocation of €14.5m for the creation of 6,000 after-school places for children in primary school. The places will be targeted at low-income families where the parents are availing of an employment

opportunity through the Department of Social Protection's INTREO service which is designed to help unemployed people get back to work, training or education. It is planned that interested childcare providers, both community and commercial, will be paid a subsidy where a parent is referred by the Department of Social Protection. Schools who are interested in providing on-site after-school provision may also be included. Work on a pilot scheme will begin in early 2013. Barnardos is concerned that the primary motivation for introducing such a scheme is to activate parents back into the labour market as opposed to focusing on children's needs and the development of greater professionalisation and quality in the childcare and after-school care sector. It falls far short of the promised commitment to 'Scandinavian style childcare model'.

- A budget of €2.5m is earmarked for the roll out of 'Area Based Approaches to Child Poverty'. This initiative will build on and continue the work of the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) which supported projects in Tallaght, Ballymun and Darndale.
- Barnardos welcomes the continuation of Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme for community based crèches and the Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) scheme which provides childcare places for qualifying FAS and VEC students.
- Allocation of €20.4m for new detention facility for young offenders in Oberstown is also very welcome. Work is due to begin in 2013.
- Allocation of €546m to the Child and Family Support Agency which will be fully operational in 2013 with approximately 4,000 staff. This is down from €568m in 2012. It is important that the Agency is given sufficient resources to achieve all its objectives, especially in the area of prevention and early intervention. The first year is crucial to ensure that the Agency can implement consistency and high standards across all child welfare and protection services.

- €5 million has been allocated to provide for a number of initiatives including a new capital programme for Youth Cafes and other youth projects as well as schemes funding Play and Recreation and Parent and Toddler groups.
- For youth services there is reform funding streams from five to one from January 2013. There will be no cut to funding for local voluntary youth clubs.

For an analysis of the Budgets of other Government departments such as the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Social Protection from a children and families perspective [click here](#).

Other News and Developments



Life as a Child and Young Person in Ireland: Report of a National Consultation

In November, Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs launched [Life as a Child and Young Person in Ireland](#): Report of a National Consultation. Minister Fitzgerald stated: “This report documents the views of 66,705 children and young people and is the biggest public consultation with children and young people ever conducted in Ireland.”

Education emerged as a key issue in the consultation with children and young people expressing satisfaction with the

Irish education system. However 22% of children and 27% of young people also indicated that they would like to change some aspect of the education system. In particular, young people highlighted concerns such as the need for a greater emphasis on science facilities and better use of technology in schools as well as the need for additional play and recreational facilities.

In addition to this consultation with children and young people, over 1,000 submissions were received from parents, practitioners and organisations working with children and young people. The findings of this consultation will inform development of the new Children and Young People's Policy Framework which is currently being prepared by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Barnardos Training and Resource Service Open Day



On Wednesday 26th September, Barnardos Training and Resource Service held an open day. Thanks to all those who popped in for a browse around, a cup of tea and a chat, we hope you found it useful. It was a great day and we thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all. Keep an eye on this newsletter for future events!

Growing Up in Ireland Annual Conference 2012

The 4th Annual Growing Up in Ireland Research

Conference 2012 took place on Thursday 29th November 2012 at the Ballsbridge Hotel, Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The latest Key Findings from the Child Cohort at 13 years were launched at the conference. You can access these by clicking on the links below.

- [School Experiences among 13-year-olds](#)
- [Physical Activity and Obesity among 13-year-olds](#)
- [The Family and Financial Circumstances of 13-year-olds](#)
- [The Lives of 13-year-olds: Their Relationships, Feelings and Behaviours](#)

Together Old and Young (TOY) Project Launch

Work has begun on an EU-funded project on older people and younger children (under-8) learning together. DIT is hosting the first meeting of the 7-country consortium from 5th to 7th December 2012. The project will identify examples of innovative practice in intergenerational learning as well as develop and deliver training and design intergenerational activities. Towards the end of the project in October/November 2014, a seminar will be organised in DIT for stakeholders in Ireland to disseminate the results of the research and present learning materials that will be useful for developing policy and practice.

This is an opportunity for DIT and for Ireland to collaborate with European partners in investigating creative ways in which young children and older people can interact in mutually beneficial learning activities, formal and non-formal in a wide-range of contexts.

Any experience, information, ideas or suggestions that could inform the project are welcomed. Please contact us at anne.fitzpatrick@dit.ie or carmel.gallagher@dit.ie

Two New Reports from EU Kids Online

[Excessive Internet Use](#) presents new findings and further analysis of the EU Kids Online 25 country survey regarding excessive use of the internet by children. While 29% of 11-16 year olds have experienced one or more of the five components associated with excessive internet use, very few (1%) can be said to show pathological levels of use.

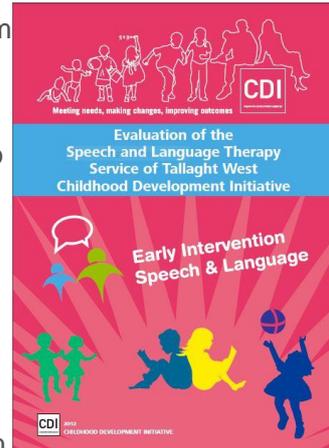
Children who are most vulnerable to excessive internet use and its negative consequences are generally older, have emotional problems and exhibit high levels of sensation-seeking. Spending more time online might lead children who are already psychologically vulnerable to pathological levels of excessive use.

[National Perspectives](#) reports the comparative experiences of children across the countries participating in EU Kids Online, for the benefit of researchers, research users, and other stakeholders working to improve the internet for children. Key statistics and country-specific commentary on children's internet access and use, activities and skills, risks and harm parental mediation and safety, and national policy implications are presented.

Early Years Care and Education

Two evaluation reports from Childhood Development Initiative in Tallaght

A series of evaluation reports from the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) in Tallaght West were launched in November. Two are of particular relevance to children's early years:



- [CDI's Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) involved provision of additional speech and language therapy, based in pre-school and primary school settings, with children referred to the service either by parents themselves or by staff. The service allowed children to receive speech and language therapy at a younger age, and with much shorter waiting times, than otherwise would have happened through the standard, clinic-based therapy service.
- [CDI's Doodle Den programme](#) is an after-school literacy programme, aimed at children in the Senior Infant classes of primary schools. It's a year-long programme aiming to boost young children's literacy through a varied programme of after-school literacy activities, three afternoons a week, involving games and fun activities. Running in parallel, the programme also involves a programme of literacy sessions with the children's parents and family literacy sessions.

Both evaluations found positive results. The reports - along with those from the evaluations of other Prevention and Early Intervention Projects (e.g. youngballymun and Preparing for Life) - will be important inputs in the development of future policy, including the National Early Years Strategy. Over the coming months further evaluations will be published from the CDI Tallaght programmes as well as from the other Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes.

BTRS Publications

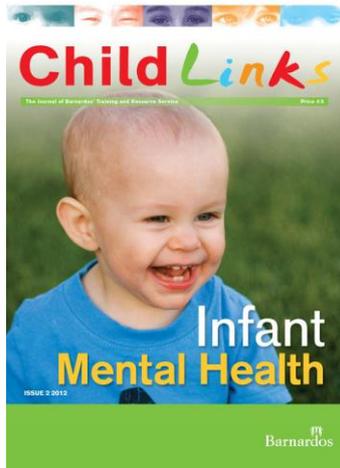
Publication launch - What's New? Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years



On 17th October, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald, TD, launched the latest publication from Barnardos Training and Resource Service - [What's New? Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years](#). The aim of the book 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 publication gives an overview of the research and theories underpinning the topic of transitions, suggests sound foundations for good practice and gives suggestions, ideas and resources for managing many types of transitions.

Photo from L to R: Imelda Graham, author of What's New?; Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Fergus Finlay, Barnardos CEO

ChildLinks (Issue 2, 2012) Infant Mental Health



This issue of ChildLinks on Infant Mental Health includes articles from: Deborah J. Weatherston, Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health; Stuart Shanker, The Milton and Ethel Harris Research Initiative; Ann Stellenberg, Programme Manager *youngballymun*, and Mary Fanning, Integration Facilitator for Ready, Steady, Grow *youngballymun*; Christine Hennessy, Barnardos Post Adoption Service; Dr. Angeles Cerezo, Designer of the Parent-Child Psychological Support Programme™; and Catherine Maguire and Rochelle Matacz, Senior Clinical Psychologists and Infant Mental Health Specialists, HSE North Cork

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



We offer practitioners, parents, carers and all people working with children a range of high quality and innovative training programmes, which are crucial to strengthen skills in the early years sector and to benefit children.

Public training events

Each year we provide a programme of public events covering many topical areas and suitable for those working in an early years service or in support services such as early years, community care, youth services and family support services. Parents may also benefit from some of

these events. Keep an eye on www.barnardos.ie for details of our events in 2013.

Tailored training events for professionals

When your service needs a particular issue addressed, call or [email us](#) and we can discuss a tailored programme to suit you and your staff's needs. We can help address many training needs such as supporting children's positive behaviour; child protection awareness; understanding bullying issues and more.

Parenting programmes and talks

We can design tailor-made parenting programmes for groups of parents of 0–18 year old children. These programmes will support parents to understand their children, respond effectively to their child's needs and support family life. We can also arrange one-off talks to groups of parents.

Consultancy service

This service provides an opportunity for organisations to avail of one-to-one guidance and advice on a variety of issues related to direct work with children or on management issues.

Contact Us

For more information about our training services, please contact us:

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Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

T: 01 453 0355

E: training@barnardos.ie

**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.](#)

Upcoming Events

ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Conference Dublin 15th - 18th September 2013

The theme of this conference is "Protecting Children in a Changing World" and includes the following sub-themes:

- Prevention of child abuse and neglect through early and sustained involvement
- Interventions and programmes for children and families experiencing adversity
- Addressing children's rights and participation
- Reforms in child protection and welfare policy
- Children in out of home care
- Building the evidence base
- Contemporary issues

Further details are available

at <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013>

4th Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

**Friday 25th October, 2013, University College Cork,
Ireland**

See <http://swconf.ucc.ie> for further details and for videos of

last years conference.

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