

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.](#)

In This Issue

- News and Developments
- Barnardos Publications
- Barnardos Training and Consultancy
- Barnardos Library
- Upcoming Events

Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews



The early years sector is under intense focus following on from the findings of the RTE Prime Time investigation *A Breach of Trust* into practices at crèches. This has created great concern for both parents and staff in early childhood care and education settings. We bring you an update of the response of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to this, including the plans to increase the required qualification standards of early years staff.

We also bring you details of the launch of the Association of Childhood Professionals which represents 22,500 childcare professionals across the country as well as other news and developments.

We would like to thank all of you who took part in the Barnardos Training and Publications survey. The information provided will be invaluable in forming our future publications and training plan. Details of Barnardos new publications, upcoming training events and library resources are given below.

We hope you enjoy reading

Best wishes

Sinead Lawton

News and Developments



Minister Fitzgerald commits to comprehensive Pre-School Quality Agenda

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD, has committed to a comprehensive Pre-School Quality Agenda. 'In past years there has been too much of a focus on building facilities and not enough on building children's futures. I am committed to addressing this legacy and to building a system of quality, affordable and accessible pre-school and childcare; and to ultimately improving the experience and outcomes for children.' The Minister added that 'my Department and I have been working on a comprehensive Pre-School Quality Agenda.'

The Minister said that this agenda involved working to:

- Increase the required qualification standards of early years staff
- Support implementation of Síolta and Aistear, including examining the establishment of nationwide mentoring supports
- Implement new National Pre-School Standards

- Introduce registration of all early years care and education providers
- Develop a more robust, consistent and regular inspection system
- Publish inspection reports online by 1st July
- Ensure action is taken in response to findings of non-compliance
- Increase sanctions for non-compliant early years providers

Addressing proposals for a second free-pre-school year, The Minister said 'I see my pre-school quality agenda... as a first step in a multi-annual which could eventually lead to the introduction of a second year.'

[More information is available on the DCYA website.](#)

Association of Childhood Professionals National Launch

The Association of Childcare Professionals was launched nationally this month by Minister Frances Fitzgerald at the Department of Education and Skills in Dublin. The Association aims to represent over 22,000 professionals working in early years and school age care across the country. It calls for the Government to support the sector and provide the necessary resources, including a minimum standard of education for all staff and a national registration for early years practitioners. [Check out the Association's website for more information.](#)

Investing in Children - reducing child poverty

The European Commission recently published [*Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage*](#), a recommendation on child poverty and child well-being that provides a clear framework to guide national policy on the reduction of child poverty.

The Ombudsman for Children Act Extended Remit 2013

The Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002 was extended on 30th April 2013 bringing a significant number of new public bodies and organisations providing a service to children on behalf of the State under the complaints and investigations remit of the Ombudsman. Among these bodies are the National Council for Special Education, the National Education Welfare Board, the State Examinations Commission, the Courts Service and the Adoption Authority. [Read more here.](#)

Minister Fitzgerald launches 116000 Missing Children's Hotline

Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, has officially launched the 116000 Hotline for Missing Children in Ireland. The 116000 Hotline will provide emotional support to children who are missing, their families and others responsible for the missing child and also offer guidance and advice to callers regarding a missing child. This 24/7 support service is run by the ISPCC with financial support from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the EU. [Get more information here.](#)

Barnardos' Vision for Family Law Reform

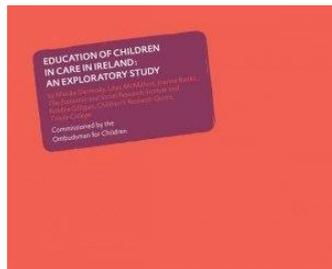
Children are getting lost in the emotional and legal turmoil following family separation and breakdown. At a conference in Croke Park on 29th May, Barnardos called on the Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter, to make sure that his upcoming reform of the family law system puts the focus on children in separation cases and introduce a whole system of supports to help families deal with the upheaval of separation.

Barnardos' Head of Advocacy, Catherine Joyce, said: "The

process of family separation can be very scary for children. It raises questions for them about whether they will get to see both their parents, where they are going to live, will they need to change schools, and will they be near their friends? Children need to be kept informed of what's happening and what it will mean for them. They need to be listened to by their parents, the courts and others involved in their case. The research shows that children don't want to be the final decision makers in these situations, but they want the decision makers to listen to them and take what they want into consideration.”

[Read more about the conference here.](#)

Education of Children in Care in Ireland: An Exploratory Study



[Education of Children in Care in Ireland: An Exploratory Study](#), commissioned by the Ombudsman for Children's Office, presents the results of a recent study on education for children in care in Ireland. The overarching aim of this study is to identify how the Irish education system can best support attendance, participation and attainment in education by children in care.

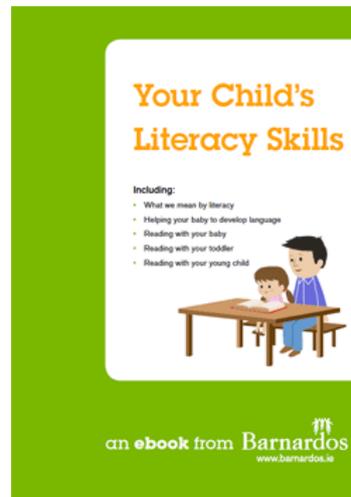
Barnardos Wedding Run



The first Barnardos 5k Wedding Run takes place in the Phoenix Park on Saturday 20th July. This is a fancy dress run where you're invited to come dressed as whichever member of the Wedding party you'd like to be! After the run celebrate at our post race Wedding Reception with music, fun and entertainment provided by Weddings Online and partners, 98FM and more! Register today [here](#).

Barnardos Publications

Free e-Books for Parents



eBook - Your Child's Literacy Skills

Reading with your baby or young child is a valuable way to spend precious time together. It is also one of the most significant experiences to help your child learn language. [Barnardos has produced a short ebook for parents to help you support your child's language and literacy development.](#)

eBook - Your Child's Numeracy Skills

Numeracy is more than just being able to 'do sums'. It is about having the confidence and competence to use numbers and think mathematically in everyday life. Helping your child to develop their numeracy will assist them in understanding so many things, from concepts of time, space, pattern and shape, to managing budgets, to measuring quantities for recipes. Barnardos has produced [a short ebook for parents to help you support your child's numeracy](#).

To receive the free ebooks, subscribe to the Barnardos Supporters News email. Once you have submitted your details, you will receive an email within the hour with a link to your downloadable copy of the ebook.

COMING SOON

After School

This book and CD, produced by Barnardos and Border Counties Childhood Network, provides support, knowledge, ideas and activities for those working in after school services to help them to meet the needs of the children in their service while enhancing their emotional, social, physical and cognitive development.

This publication focuses on the needs of children attending after school settings with regard to the quality and content of the programmes that are provided for them. There is a CD to accompany this book which offers an extensive list of activities for after school services in three categories: Everyday Opportunities; Experiential or Project Based Learning Opportunities; Community Service Learning Experiences.

This publication will be launched at the end of August. Keep an eye on www.barnardos.ie for more info.

ChildLinks - Bullying

This latest edition of ChildLinks contains articles from Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, Trinity College, Dublin; Department of Education and Skills; Ombudsman for Children's Office; School of Media and Centre for Social and Educational Research, Dublin Institute of Technology; Barnardos; Immigrant Council of Ireland; and BeLonG To Youth Services



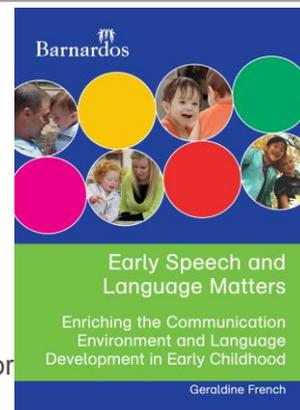
This issue will be available from the 1st July on www.barnardos.ie

Early Speech and Language Matters: Enriching the communication environment and language development in early childhood

[Early Speech and Language Matters](#) is a guidebook for early years educators that provides

up-to-date theory and research in relation to the development of speech, communication and language in early childhood. It also gives practical guidance to early childhood educators on how they can support early speech, communication and language development as well as guidance on what to do if there are concerns about a child's speech, language and communication development, how to address those concerns, and how to support children while waiting for speech and language therapy.

[Buy this book now for €25 plus p&p.](#)



Barnardos Training and Consultancy



Upcoming public training events include:

- Child Protection Awareness
- Adventurous Play/Risky Play
- School Age Programmes and Activities
- Paediatric First Aid
- Child Protection Masterclass
- HighScope Implementation

Keep an eye on our website www.barnardos.ie for details.

[Subscribe now](#) to receive Training Updates by email throughout the year.

We also provide:

- Tailored training events for professionals
- Parenting programmes and talks
- Consultancy service

To discuss training events or your tailored training requirements, please contact Barnardos Training & Resource Service at training@barnardos.ie or telephone 01 4530355 ext 413 or visit [our website](#) for more information.

Barnardos Library



Barnardos 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.

Below is a list of some of the new library resources we have on Early Childhood Care and Education.

[You will find a full listing on our Library Catalogue](#)

- [Children's Rights in Early Childhood Care & Education - Early Childhood Ireland, 2012](#)
- [Diversity and Equality in Early Childhood: an Irish Perspective - Gill & Macmillan, 2012](#)
- [Early Childhood Education & Care - Gill & Macmillan, 2012](#)
- [Parents and Professionals in Early Childhood Setting - Open University Press, 2011](#)
- [Good Practice in the Early Years, 3rd ed. - Continuum International Publishing Group, 2012](#)
- [Look Listen Learn...Observing Children at Play - Early Childhood Ireland, 2013](#)
- [Reflective Practice and Early Years Professionalism, 2nd ed. - Hodder Education, 2012](#)

- [Leadership and Early Years Professionalism - Hodder Education, 2011](#)
-

Upcoming Events



EDENN Conference: Making a Difference for all Children

Building Capacity for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in Early Childhood

Date: Saturday 22nd June 2013

Venue: Clarion Hotel, North Wall Quay, Dublin

Start Strong and the EDENN network will be co-hosting a conference on diversity and equality for practitioners in early care and education services. The keynote speaker will be Louise Derman-Sparks, an inspirational speaker from the US and author of the Anti-Bias Curriculum and the conference will be opened by Frances Fitzgerald TD, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

For more details and to register, please go to <http://edenn.org>

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect – ISPCAN

European Regional Conference on Child Abuse

Date: 15th - 18th September 2013

Venue: The Burlington Hotel, Dublin 4.

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 here.](#)

4th Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

Social Work Development Unit (UCC)

Date: Friday 25th October 2013.

Venue: Áras na MacLéinn (Student Centre), University College Cork

The aim of this conference series is to provide a space for practitioners in the area of child protection and welfare to hear about and debate new developments in the areas of research, policy and practice, and to network with colleagues. The conference will be of interest to social workers, policy makers, researchers, legal professionals, social care workers, students and anyone with an interest in the field of child protection and welfare. [Further details are available here.](#)

[You can find further details of events around the country on our website.](#)

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