

Daily Digest

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.](#)

Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews

In this issue of Childcare eNews, we bring you details of the Barnardos School Costs Survey, which found that many parents are struggling to cover the costs of their child's return to school. We also share the latest findings from both the Growing Up In Ireland study, which focuses on mothers returning to work and childcare choices for infants, and the evaluation of the Pre-School Education Initiative for Children from Minority Groups, which will assist in the implementation of a diversity and inclusion plan for the early years sector in the coming years.

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As always we bring you up to date on Barnardos new publications, upcoming training events and library resources.

We hope you enjoy reading

Best wishes

Sinead Lawton

News and Developments

Another School Year – Another Crippling Financial Burden for

Parents Results of Barnardos School Costs Survey 2013

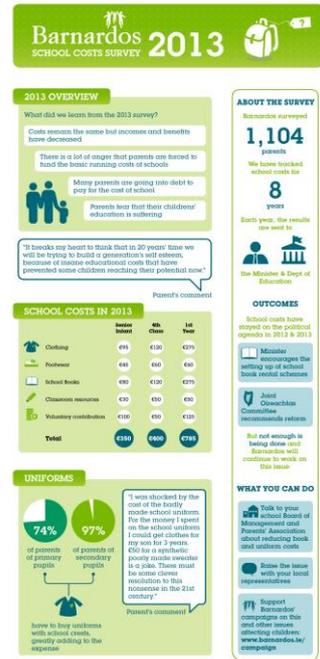
'My child missed 17 days of school last year due to not having a lunch. How are the real poor people of Ireland to keep up with these costs. Secondary school costs scare the hell out of me already with 3 years to go.'

The feeling of frustration and despair is palpable from the comments of parents who completed the [Barnardos School Costs Survey](#) as they struggle to cope with the high costs of sending children back to school. There is an overriding sense of anger that not nearly enough is being done to address these costs by either the Government or at local level through the Patron Bodies, Boards of Management or Parent's Associations.

This year's survey found that on average parents are paying €350 for a child in senior infants, €400 for children in 4th class in primary school and €785 for children going into first year in secondary school. School books and uniforms continue to pose the highest cost to parents, although voluntary contributions and school transport costs also weigh heavily on parents' budgets.

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

[See Barnardos School Costs Survey 2013: Full Infographic](#)



Mother's Return to Work and Childcare Choices for Infants in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland - The National Longitudinal Study of Children has published a new report from the study on mothers' return to work and childcare choices for infants in Ireland. [Mothers' Return to Work and Childcare Choices for Infants in Ireland](#) investigates patterns of paid employment among mothers following the birth of their baby; the extent and nature of

non-parental childcare for infants in the first nine months; and the association between childcare choices and infant health. The report uses a large sample (over 11,000) of mothers and infants from the nine-month infant cohort of the national longitudinal study of children: Growing Up in Ireland.

Key Findings:

Child Care and Return to Work

- Relatively few mothers return to work before their child is aged six months, and a significant proportion return at 6-7 months. This suggests that in Ireland, as in other countries, the duration of paid maternity leave plays a strong role in mothers' employment patterns after childbirth.
- Early returners to work (before six months) were more likely to be self-employed mothers and young mothers.
- Highly-educated mothers were more likely to return to work than low-educated mothers, but only when paid maternity leave had ended.

Types of early childcare

- At nine months, just under 40% of infants were in regular non-parental childcare.
- Of children in non-parental childcare, 42% were cared for by relatives (mostly grandparents); 31% by non-relatives (mostly childminders) and 27% in centre-based care.
- Relatives were more likely to be the carers in the case of low-income families, and younger mothers.
- Information from carers also revealed less frequent one-to-one interactions with infants in centres compared to home-based carers (both relatives and non-relatives).
- There were more children's books, as indicators of the learning environment, available in childcare centres than in home-based care settings.
- Many people caring for nine-month-olds did not have childcare-related qualifications.
- Qualifications were higher among centre-based carers, though even here they were relatively low.

[See the full report here.](#)

Government Approve Revised Heads of Children First Bill

Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, has announced that the Government has approved the revised Heads and General Scheme of the Children First Bill and has approved the drafting of this legislation by parliamentary counsel.

The proposed Children First Bill will place obligations on professionals and organisations working with children to report suspected child protection concerns, to share information and to engage in inter-agency and multi-disciplinary working. In parallel with the development of legislative proposals to put Children First on a statutory footing, significant work has been undertaken by Minister Fitzgerald and her Department to achieve full and consistent implementation of the revised Children First Guidance. Implementation measures progressed to date include:

- Publication and dissemination by the HSE of a 'Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook'.
- Training for front-line professionals, including joint- training between Gardai and social workers.
- Establishment of a Children First Implementation Inter-Departmental Group to bring central government oversight to the implementation process.
- The approval last week by Government for the publication of Children First Sectoral Implementation Plans by relevant Departments on their websites.



Do you have a couple of hours to spare in October? If so we would be delighted if you could help out with our **Buckets for Barnardos** campaign this October? We're holding our third annual Nationwide Collection and we need your help to make it even bigger and better. Volunteers will be collecting for Barnardos in Tesco stores throughout the country. So if you have a few hours to spare on 25th October and would like to get involved just register [here](#) or email volunteers@barnardos.ie.

Early Years Care and Education



HSE Early Years Inspection Reports

The HSE has begun the process of publishing retrospective Inspection Reports on Early Years Services. Interested parties can visit the [Pobal website](#) for a list of service providers, inspection reports, and the associated correspondence. The HSE will continue to update this list in the coming weeks and months.

The publication of early years inspection reports is the first step in implementing the Pre-School Quality Agenda and it will promote greater transparency and accountability, and will help to inform parents and the public generally. The reports being published at present are the most recent report available for each service.

The Minister has also announced that from the 1st July 2013 all newly completed inspections will be available online on completion of the inspection process and quality assurance checks.

The Pre-school Education Initiative for Children from Minority Groups

An evaluation report has been published of [The Pre-school Education Initiative for Children from Minority Groups](#). This initiative, funded by the Department of Education and Skills, Early Years Education Policy Unit, targeted ECCE services with children from minority groups in attendance. The Pre-school Initiative for Children from Minority Groups' key action was the delivery of diversity and equality training and mentoring to ECCE practitioners in five ECCE services in each of the 32 County and City Childcare Committees' areas. The process of the Initiative was closely monitored by the evaluation team which allowed a invaluable insight into how such a programme can make a difference for children and their families. There has been huge learning from the Initiative and the recommendations from this report will assist in the implementation of a Diversity and Inclusion plan for the sector in the coming years. [You can access the report here.](#)

Barnardos Publications

After School: Providing an Inspirational After School Programme of Activities for 4–12 Year Olds

The main focus of this publication from Barnardos and BCCN is to enhance understanding of what children of this age need in after school settings and to support those delivering services to meet those needs through a high quality programme of activities.

[After School: Providing an Inspirational After](#)



[School Programme of Activities for 4–12 Year Olds](#) consists of a book and a CD. The book looks at the what, the why, and the how of after school services giving background information, things to think about, ideas for practice and examples of activities. It sets out the context for after school work by providing a brief overview of provision in Ireland and other countries, information on children's social and emotional learning, an understanding of the importance of play and types of learning modalities for children in this age group within a programme that is well-balanced. The book also looks at particular issues in relation to after school, such as transitions, homework, project-based learning activities, technology, the arts and natural environments.

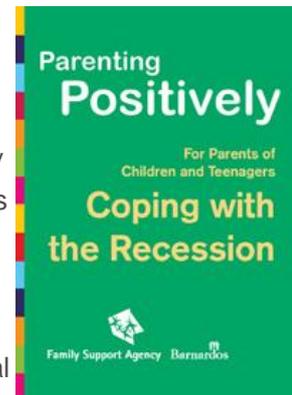
The CD then sets out 230 activities that can be carried out in an after school setting to enhance children's learning and support their ongoing development.

[Buy online now for €25.](#)

Free Ebook

Parenting Positively - Coping with the Recession

Parenting Positively is a series by the Family Support Agency and Barnardos that provides information and guidance to parents. The series covers general wellbeing and parenting skills as well as the complex life issues of death, separation, bullying, parental drug or alcohol problems and domestic abuse.



[Coping with the Recession](#) is for parents of both children and teenagers who want to support their children to cope with the impact of recession on their emotional wellbeing. This might involve unemployment, reduced working hours, having to move home, one parent having to move away to work, financial worries and less money to pay for items which were previously routine, and the pressure these can put on families.

This ebook also gives further resources that you can follow up for more information and help on the issue covered.

[Download this free publication now.](#)

ChildLinks (Issue 1, 2013) Bullying

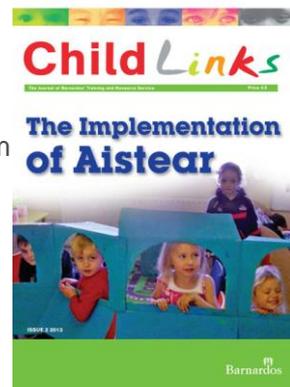
This latest edition of ChildLinks contains articles from Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, Trinity College, Dublin; Department of Education and Skills; Ombudsman for Children's Office; School of Media and Centre for Social and Educational Research, Dublin Institute of Technology; Barnardos;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



[Buy this issue now for €3.](#)

ChildLinks (Issue 2, 2013) The Implementation of Aistear

This issue of ChildLinks includes articles from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA); Barnardos; Donegal County Childcare Committee; youngballymun; Geraldine French, Early Childhood Specialist; and various practitioners implementing Aistear into their services.



[Buy this issue now for €3.](#)

Barnardos Training and Consultancy



Continuing Professional Development 2013 - Upcoming Events

- **Child Protection Master Class** - 26 September 2013 (The Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin 8)
- **Adventurous Play** - Saturday 5 October 2013 (Nenagh, Co Tipperary - venue tbc)
- **High/Scope Implementation Course** - 17 October 2013 - 10 October 2014 (The Carmelite Centre, Aungier Street, Dublin 2 and Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8).
- **Paediatric First Aid Course** - 19 October 2013 (Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8).
- **Child Protection Awareness** - 16 November 2013 (Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8).

[You can find more information about each course and book places on our website.](#)

To discuss any of the above training events or your tailored training requirements, please contact Barnardos at training@barnardos.ie tel: 01 4530355 Ext 413.

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

Child Protection Masterclass

The Masterclass will be opened by Boyd Dodds, HSE National Lead for Children First, who will give an overview of the policy and legal

changes affecting the area of child protection. This will be followed by two Barnardos Workshops (all participants will be able to attend both):

- Workshop 1 will help you to consider whether your child protection policies are up to date and fit for purpose.
- Workshop 2 will help you consider the complex challenges faced when dealing with child protection.

The Masterclass is aimed at Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) in early years services, staff from family support projects, Springboard staff and childcare practitioners working with young children. Participants must have completed child protection training to attend the Masterclass. [Book now on our website.](#)

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.

[Check out the new resources we have in stock.](#)
[Or why not have a look at our online catalogue.](#)

NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY

Early Years Practice: Getting it Right From the Start

By Nóirín Hayes

This book for students and practitioners working in the field of early childhood education and care integrates the theory and principles of the curriculum framework Aistear, together with the quality standards of Síolta, to provide a context for everyday practice in early years settings.



- Unlocks links between Aistear and Síolta providing a clear direction for combined effective use.
- Defines key competencies from Síolta by exploring the four themes of Aistear.
- Uses examples from Aistear and Síolta to expand on and illustrate key aspects of best early years practice.
- Strengthens understandings of what constitutes good practice.
- Introduces reflective practice as a means of raising the quality and effectiveness of practice within early years settings.
- Draws on research to highlight the effects of quality practice on the development and education of young children.
- Encourages reform for more effective and rewarding early years practice.

Prof. Nóirín Hayes is a developmental psychologist and early years specialist. She is a former senior lecturer at the Dublin Institute of Technology and Director of the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER). She is the author of *Early Childhood*, co-author of *Engaging Young Children*, and has produced a number of reports and articles on practice and policy in early childhood education and care.

Upcoming Events



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

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

After School and Outdoor Play Conference

Crann Support Group & Border Counties Childhood Network

Date: 21st September 2013, 10am – 4.30pm
Venue: Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath

This conference will include inspirational speakers, hands-on workshops with practical ideas for early childhood and after school educators and the opportunity to visit an exciting outdoor play facility. The conference aims to provide information and guidance to inform the delivery of inspirational After School services and Outdoor Play facilities for children aged 6 months to 12 years old.

The new publication from Barnardos and BCCN *After School: Providing an Inspirational After School Programme of Activities for 4–12 Year Olds* will be officially launched at this conference.

Further Details: visit www.crannsupportgroup.ie or www.bccn.ie

The Global Gathering for Early Childhood

Early Childhood Ireland

Date: 16-19th October 2013
Venue: Aviva Stadium, Dublin

This conference brings together world leaders in the areas of play, learning, social justice and self-regulation who will provoke thinking on the topic of Today's Children, Tomorrow's World, Turning Points. Each day conference speakers will present their latest thinking on themes that are relevant to children's lives and to those of us who care, work and research with them and their families.

[More info on this conference here.](#)

4th Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference **Social Work Development Unit (UCC), The Child Protection and Welfare Teams, HSE South and the IASW Southern Branch**

Date: 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.](#)

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing: Impact on Outcomes for Children and Young People
Children's Research Network Ireland and Northern Ireland

Date: 10th December 2013

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

The Children's Research Network Ireland and Northern Ireland is organising a conference on the topic of Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. This 2nd conference Ireland aims to promote high quality research, policy and practice on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and to provide opportunities for networking for all sectors working in this area.

Early bird registration rates are available until 31st October 2013.

Further Details: visit www.childrensresearchnetwork.org/

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