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Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

Hello <<First Name>>

In this issue of Early Year eNews we bring you updates about the National Childcare Scheme including information about funding available to early years settings to support its implementation.

This issue also provides information about other developments in the sector such as a new elearning programme as part of AIM, guidelines for degree programmes in ECEC and consultation on exemptions for certain children in the ECCE scheme and more.

As always, we bring you information about Barnardos training events, new publications and, in this issue, an exciting new offer from our library.

If you have any comments or suggestions about our Early Years eNewsletter [we would love to hear from you](#). We are looking forward to the three-year plan from the First 5 strategy expected in May and will bring you details of this as soon as it is in.

Sinéad

Publications Coordinator, Barnardos

News and Developments

National Childcare Scheme



On 11th March, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, announced the launch of the National Childcare Scheme, the pathway to quality, accessible, affordable ECEC and School-Age Childcare in Ireland. The Minister also announced a national communications campaign for the scheme to raise awareness and help both parents and providers to prepare for the scheme's opening in October, including the launch of [a new website](#).

Increase in Capital Funding for Play and Recreation, and for ICT

Minister Zappone has announced an increase in funding for children's play and recreation facilities across Ireland. Local Authorities can now apply for funding for projects under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation for up to €30,000.



There will also be capital funding available to providers who sign up to the new National Childcare Scheme to allow them to purchase ICT support. This will assist settings in meeting their obligations under the new Scheme to record and report attendance. [Read more on this here.](#)

New e-Learning Programme

As part of the Access and Inclusion Model, from early May, 500 places will be made available on a new e-Learning programme in Sensory Processing.

AIM Sensory Processing and Early Learning is an introductory course aimed at

practitioners working directly with children in pre-

school settings. The programme is delivered online and includes four

modules. The programme aims to support practitioners to develop their basic knowledge of sensory processing in order to enhance the

participation and engagement of all children in the ECCE programme, and especially children with autism. More information and details about how to apply will be available soon from Better Start.



The National Disability Authority Report

At the end of March, a report by the National Disability Authority of the

consultation process into overage exemptions for certain children in the Early Childhood Care and Education programme (ECCE) was launched. To progress the issue, Minister Zappone has asked that a group of experts in ECEC, education and health, together with a parent representative, be convened to agree the next practical steps in as short a timeframe as possible. [You can read the full report here.](#)

Guidelines for Professional Education Degree Programme for Early Childhood Education and Care

The Departments of Education and Skills and Children and Youth Affairs have [launched Professional Award Criteria and Guidelines for Initial Professional Education \(Level 7 and Level 8\) Degree Programmes for the early childhood education and care sector in Ireland.](#) The purpose



of these criteria and guidelines is to support the development by higher education institutions of professional awards for early childhood educators, at Level 7 and Level 8 on the national framework of qualifications. The aim is to ensure consistency of approach and quality in provision of education and that graduates are fully prepared to take on the complex challenges of practice in this field.

Teach Me As I Am Early Years Programme

The Centre for Early-Childhood Research at Mary Immaculate College has launched [an evaluation of the Teach Me As I Am Early Years Programme.](#) The programme was developed by AsIAM, a not-for-profit, charitable organisation founded in 2015 to provide an information and support service to the autism community in Ireland, to provide an



introduction to autism for early childhood educators. The evaluation suggests that the Teach Me As I Am Early Years Programme has impacted positively on participants' knowledge(s); practices and values in providing for autistic children in the early years.

UN Sustainable Developmental Goals Through the Lens of a Child joint report

Launched in March, [this report](#) outlines the activities, outcomes and deliberations of a workshop entitled 'SDGs through the Lens of a Child' organised by the Department of Children. The report also consolidates key policy deliberations of an innovative World Café at the forum.

New Online Safety Act

Barnardos welcomes [the announcement in March by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton TD](#) that he will introduce a new Online Safety Act to ensure that children can be protected online. Among other things, an Online Safety Act would place new requirements on operators to operate an Online Safety Code, which would set out the steps they are taking to keep their users safe online and build safety into the design of online platforms through the application of technology and human intervention.

New Website to Support Families Grieving Loss of a Baby

A new website Pregnancyandinfantloss.ie has been set up to support families in Ireland grieving the loss of a baby. The website was launched by the INFANT Centre at University College Cork in partnership with the Irish Hospice Foundation. [The website](#) will offer the latest research into the

cause of baby loss while promoting emotional well-being and offer details on how to access the appropriate support services.

New Study Looking at Print v eBooks

A [new research study](#) from development behavioral pediatrics at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital has shown that toddlers interact more with their parents when they read print books compared to electronic versions. Researchers studied 37 pairs of parents and their toddlers reading three different stories in three book formats: an electronic tablet with enhanced visual and sound effects, an electronic tablet without enhanced effects, and a print book with illustrations. The number and types of interactions the families shared were then tallied. The findings showed that parents had the most engagement with their toddlers in storytelling when they read print books. They also were able to get through more of the story in the five minutes if it was read aloud from a print book. Toddlers, too, made more statements with print books, and non-verbal signs of bonding were greater when print books were read.



Barnardos Training and Consultancy

Barnardos have a number of [open training events](#) coming up:

Children First, Child Protection Training [22 May](#) - Dublin 8

Children First, Child Protection Training [29 June](#) - Dublin 8

Designated Liaison Person Training May & June - Dublin & Cork SOLD OUT

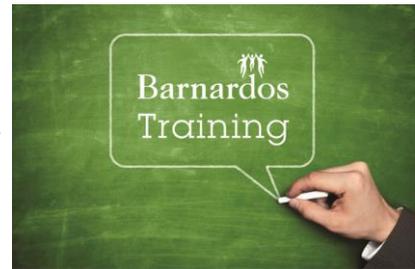
We will be setting new dates for training events in the Autumn over the

summer and this will include a number of events specifically for early years providers. [Find out more on our website](#)

Barnardos also offers tailored training and one of our training officers would be happy to discuss your training needs with you. Please contact Ger at training@barnardos.ie if you are interested in organising training for your colleagues/organisation.

“I requested that the organisation avail of Barnardos Training service as 2 staff members had previously attended Children First training off site and found it to be informative, well organised, practical and inclusive. The recent delivery of the tailored training was excellent, professional, adhered to the legislation and was delivered in a style to suit the variety of professionals and staff members attending. Feedback from staff has been very positive particularly with reference to increased knowledge of reasonable grounds for concern, mandated duties and reporting procedures for staff of St Gabriels. Staff have reported that the trainer was warm, knowledgeable and professional. I will be strongly recommending Barnardos Children First Training to colleagues as we have had such a positive experience.”

Maura Walsh, Social Work Team Leader/DLP, St Gabriels



Free Online Course - Learning Environments in Early Years

[Learning Environments in Early Years](#) is a FREE online course designed to help early years educators to provide quality environments for the children you work with. [Sign Up Now.](#)

Barnardos Library and Information Service

Barnardos Library and Information Service focuses on issues relating to children and families. Although the library itself is located in Dublin, the library service operates on a nationwide basis to its members. How do we do this? Once signed up as a full member, you can browse and access our various collections:



- 2,000 Print books (reserve them and we'll post them out to you – free of charge)
- eDocuments (click the view link and download).
- Journals and journal articles (login and view/download)
- eBooks (login and read)

Whether you are in Dublin or Donegal, if you have an interest in children and families the Barnardos Library and Information Service is for you. See new early years book additions, article samples, membership benefits and packages below.

Are you a City and County Childcare Committee, Better Start or Area Based Childhood Programme employee?

If the answer is yes, then good news. All CCC, Better Start and ABC employees are entitled to **FREE Barnardos Library membership** with all of the benefits. To join please click [here](#)

Are you an Early Years Provider?

If the answer is yes, then also good news. Barnardos Library have created a special discounted membership for **only €10 per annum** for all early years providers. Benefits of the package include:

- 2,000 Print books (reserve them and we'll post them out to you – free of charge)

- eDocuments (click the view link and download).

To register and pay please click [here](#)

New Early Years Books in Our Library

[Nurturing Children](#)

Music, Graham. Routledge, 2019

[Exploring Science with Young Children](#)

Russell, Terry & McGuigan, Linda.. Sage Publications, 2016

[Mathematics in Early Years](#)

Montague-Smith, Ann. Cotton, Tony. Hensen, Alison & Price, Alison. Routledge, 2018

Full Text Articles Available from the Library Databases

Below is a sample of the 1,000s of articles available from our databases:

Garrity, S., & Canavan, J. (2017). **Trust, responsiveness and communities of care: an ethnographic study of the significance and development of parent-caregiver relationships in Irish early years settings.** *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, 25(5), 747–767.

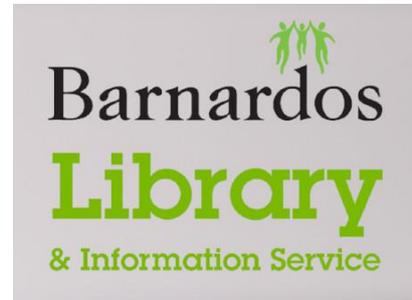
O'Rourke, C., O'Farrelly, C., Booth, A., & Doyle, O. (2017). **'Little bit afraid "til I found how it was": children's subjective early school experiences in a disadvantaged community in Ireland.** *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, 25(2), 206–223.

Hayes, N., Maguire, J., Corcoran, L., & O'Sullivan, C. (2017). **Artful**

Dodgers: an arts education research project in early education settings. *Irish Educational Studies*, 36(2), 203–219.

Benefits of Library Membership

- Borrowing rights to [Library collection](#)
- Full off-site access to [eBooks](#), Databases and [Research Journals](#)
- Subscription to Childlinks, Barnardos' journal
- Monthly Members' eUpdate – including updates on the latest research and reports
- Personal research and information query service – think this is the line you wanted to remove/change?
- Free events and priority invitations to publication launches & talks
- 10% discount on all Barnardos' publications



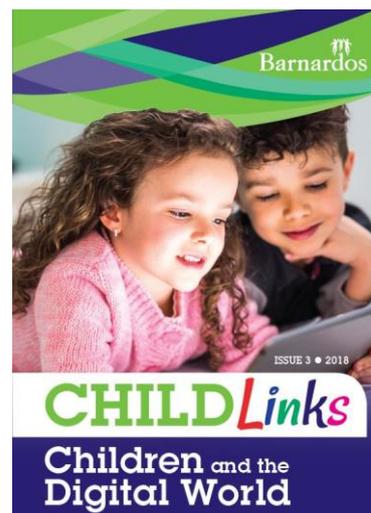
[Join now online](#) or for more details call us on 01 4549699 or email resources@barnardos.ie

Barnardos Publications

ChildLinks - Children and the Digital World

This new issue of ChildLinks considers the digital environment and the impact it has on childhood and on family life. This issue contains articles from CyberSafe Ireland, Children's Rights Alliance, DCU School of Education, Mary Immaculate College and Barnardo's Northern Ireland among others.

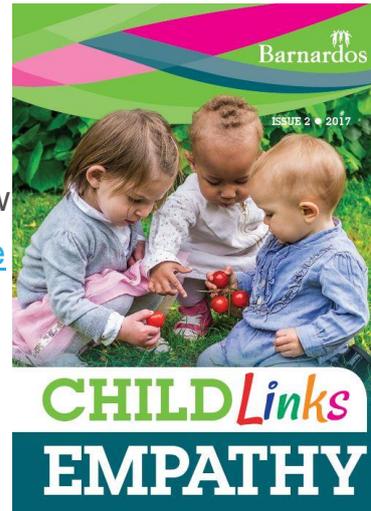
[Now available to buy for 3 euro.](#)



Past Issues of ChildLinks Now FREE to Download

A large number of back issues of ChildLinks are now available to [download for free from Barnardos online shop](#) for the first time. Topics covered include:

- Bullying
- Trauma
- Play
- Homelessness
- Infant mental health
- Empathy
- Language development



Save the Date!

Barnardos has a number of exciting new publications planned for launch this year including *Explore, Play and Learn through the Arts in Pre-school Settings*, our new book for early childhood educators produced in partnership with the [National Childhood Network](#) that will be launched on 8th June. **More details to follow.**



Upcoming Events

Irish Attachment in Action's National Conference, 'Why Attachment Matters from Trauma to Hope.'

Where: The Helix, Dublin City University

When: Friday, 17 May 2019

Practice Leads from across Ireland will deliver workshops and keynote presentations across a range of issues as requested by members and followers of IAIA. [Book now.](#)

The Healing Power of Play, Supporting Children and Teenagers to Heal from Trauma

Where: Child Vision, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

When: Thursday, 23 May 2019

Joanna Fortune will facilitate a day in Dublin that teaches therapeutic techniques suitable for working with trauma and disrupted attachment in children and young people. The techniques will be presented within the theoretical framework of trauma and attachment. Participants will leave the day with practical skills to add to their therapeutic toolkit in working with traumatised children and young people. [Find out more.](#)

Early Years International Professional Practice Conference 2019

Where: University of Ulster – Magee Campus, Derry

When: Friday, 31 May 2019

This conference will be valuable to anyone who works within the early years sector including local and national government officers, early years specialists, managers and practitioners, SureStart Coordinators and staff, nursery and childcare providers, management committee members, health professionals, education and social services staff, childcare students and community partnerships. [More information available here.](#)

World Anti-Bullying Forum

Where: Convention Centre, Dublin

When: 4-6 June 2019

The aim of this unique international and multidisciplinary forum is to broaden our understanding of bullying, build the bridge between disciplines stronger, and spread knowledge to practitioners, researchers and decision-makers around the world. [Find out more.](#)

OMEP Conference

Where: Cork Institute of Technology

When: Saturday, 9 November 2019

Keynote speakers at this event include Dr. Sylvia C. Chard, Professor Emeritus of Early Childhood Education at the University of Alberta, Canada, and Lyndsey Hellyn and Stephanie Bennett, co-founders of The Curiosity Approach. [More information is available here.](#)



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