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Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

In this final issue of Early Year eNews this year we bring you the welcomed news of the launch of *First 5, A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families*. This first ever cross-Departmental strategy is a 10-year plan to support babies, young children and their families. It recognises the importance of a child's development in their early years and how crucial the role of play, supporting parents and providing timely healthcare and quality early learning care environments are.

This eNews also brings you updates about other developments in the early years sector as well as issues relating to children and families. We also have information about Barnardos training events, new publications and additions to our library resources. If you have any comments or suggestions about our Early Years eNewsletter [we would love to hear from you.](#)



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Sinéad

News and Developments

Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families

Barnardos welcomes the publication of the [First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families](#). This long awaited strategy recognises the importance of the early years in a child's development and the crucial roles of play, supporting parents and providing timely healthcare and quality early learning care environments.



The ambitious ten-year plan will deliver:

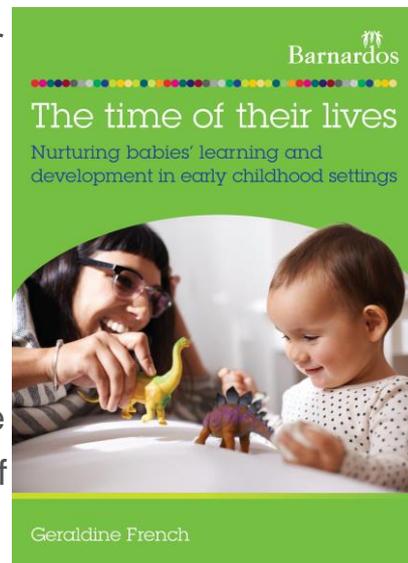
1. A broader range of options for parents to balance working and caring
2. A new model of parenting support
3. New developments in child health, including a dedicated child health workforce
4. Reform of the Early Learning and Care (ELC) system, including a new funding model
5. A package of measures to tackle early childhood poverty

There are many welcome initiatives under this 10-year strategy as it recognises the value of children as children now and not just for the adults they will become. As with all new strategies, there is much anticipation and expectation that it will be fully implemented. This strategy re-commits the Government to fulfill key actions in some already published strategies as well as promising to undertake new actions. However, to achieve its wide-ranging ambition and goals, significant investment and resources are required along with a full timeline to monitor progress. We look forward to seeing the publication of its Implementation Plan in May 2019.

[You can read the full report here.](#)

Launch of **The time of their lives**

Barnardos launched our latest publication for early childhood educators [The time of their lives: Nurturing babies' learning and development in early childhood settings](#) in the Institute of Education in DCU in November. Written by Dr Geraldine French, this publication aims to inspire those who work with our youngest citizens to appreciate the wonder, joy, learning and development of babies in the first eighteen months of their life. It provides an understanding of theory, coupled with practical strategies, to enhance the learning and development of babies responsively, respectfully and sensitively.



This publication presents up-to-date research, encourages the development of reflective practice and supports meaningful engagement with babies. [Buy online now.](#)

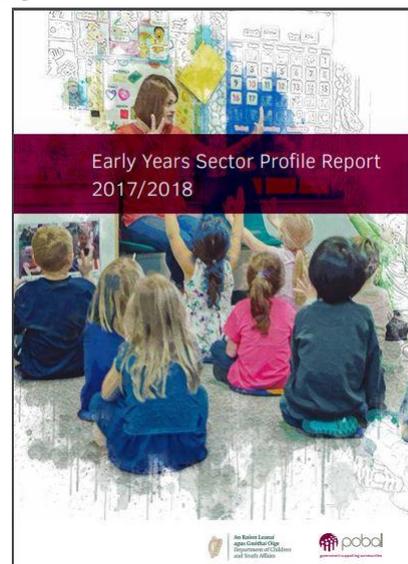


Speaking at the launch (from L to R) Dr Geraldine French, Programme Chair of the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education in DCU and author of the publication; Barnardos

CEO Suzanne Connolly; Dr Anne Looney, Executive Dean, Institute of Education, DCU

Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017/2018

Early in December Minister Katherine Zappone launched the [Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017/2018](#), developed and published by Pobal for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The comprehensive findings are based on the largest ever survey of the early years sector, with responses from a total of 3,928 childcare services (88% of childcare facilities) providing significant insight into current childcare numbers, fees, staff qualifications and wages. Overall, there are estimated to be 202,600 children attending early years services nationwide (an increase of 9%). While the total capacity within the sector has grown by approximately 6%, this has not kept pace with increased demand, with the total number of vacant childcare places reducing by 31%.



New Centre for Early Childhood Studies

A centre for early childhood studies that aims to place Ireland at the centre of the global map of early childhood research has been formally opened at DCU's Institute of Education. [The Early Childhood Research Centre](#), the first such dedicated research centre in Ireland, will promote collaboration in research, policy and practice in the field of early childhood studies. The establishment of the centre follows the appointment last year of Professor Mathias Urban as the Desmond Chair in Early Childhood Education.

Home Works Study Event

The [Home Works](#) study, commissioned by the Children's Rights Alliance, and completed by Dr Ger Scanlon and Grainne McKenna from the DCU Institute of Education, provides insights into the educational experiences of children living in homeless accommodation. It draws upon the efforts of parents, teachers and school principals to respond to the needs of children and families within their school communities.

New Childcare Committee Website

The City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs) have launched a [new website](#) with useful information for both parents and providers. A key role of the CCCs is to facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible childcare services for the overall benefit of children and their parents by taking a child-centered and partnership approach and this website outlines what the CCCs can offer.



Mo Scéal: Moving from Preschool to Primary

The NCCA [Mo Scéal: Moving from Preschool to Primary templates are now available online](#).

Mo Scéal means ‘my story’ and the templates help to tell the story of the child’s learning and development. This information will be shared with parents and, with their consent, with the primary school. The templates are a resource that preschools and schools might find helpful as they collaborate in supporting young children and their families at this key transition. As transition is a process over many months, ideas for fun and engaging activities are also available [online](#).



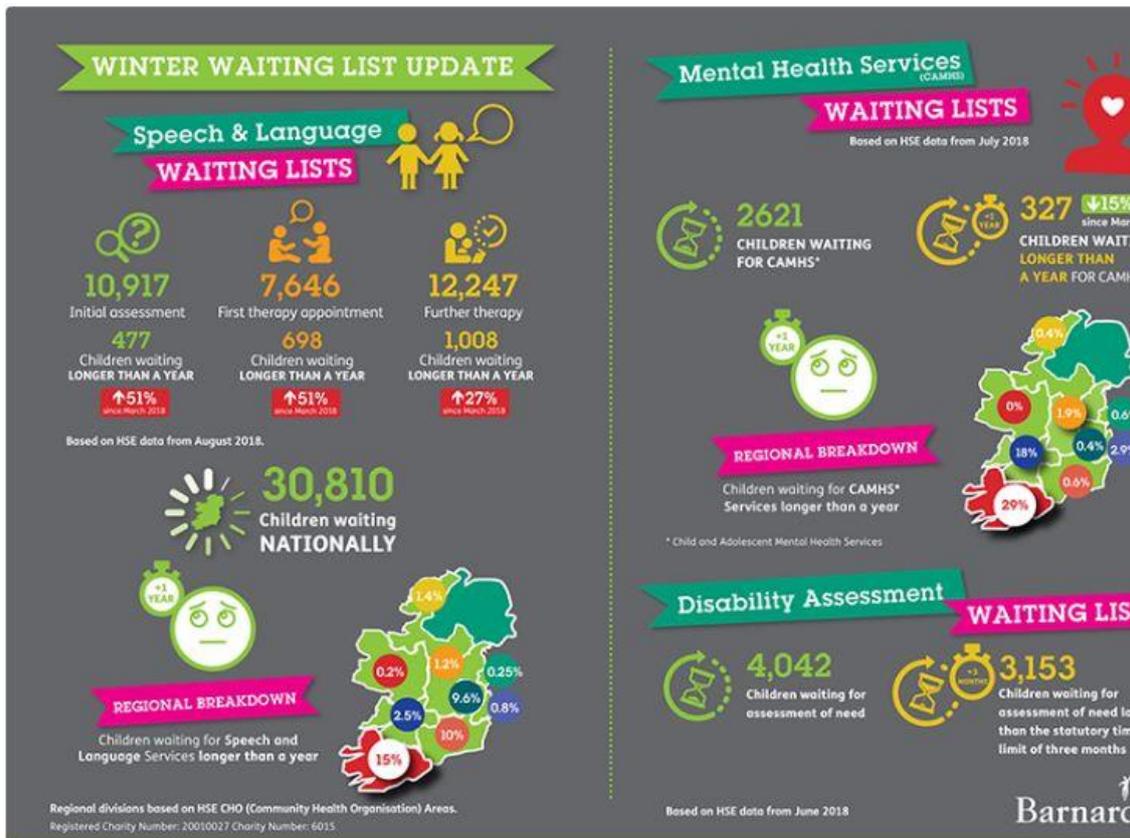
Home / Early Childhood / Mo Scéal

Mo Scéal

Preschool to Primary Transition. These are materials to support children's move from preschool to primary school.

Barnardos Winter Waiting Lists Report

Barnardos new [Winter Waiting List Report](#) clearly shows that 37,473 children were waiting for mental health, disability and speech and language assessments and services across the country; some of these children haven’t even received an initial assessment or diagnosis.



The key findings in our analysis shows:

- Mental health services: CHO4 area (Cork and Kerry) remain the worst with 29% of children in those areas waiting more than a year for a CAMHS service.
- Speech and Language services: 50% increase between March and August 2018 in the number of children waiting more than a year for either an initial assessment or therapy appointment for speech and language.
- Disability: 78% of children (n =3,153) have been waiting longer than the three month statutory time limit to undergo an Assessment of Need with CHO4 (Cork and Kerry) area faring the worst.

[This report](#) highlights a case study for each and how Barnardos helps these families.

National Parents Council Helpline

The National Parents Council have recently launched a Confidential Helpline service for parents of children in Early Years settings giving information and support. The Helpline is a confidential service open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. The Helpline can be contacted by phone Tel: 01 887 4477 or by email: helpline@npc.ie

Barnardos Training and Consultancy

The HighScope Curriculum for 3-6 year olds

Thinking about training in Spring 2019? We are now taking expressions of interest for the HighScope Curriculum



course. The course is designed for those working with young children from 3-6 years of age who wish to begin to use the HighScope approach in their setting. The course provides participants with:

- The opportunity to explore the areas of the HighScope Curriculum for preschool children
- The opportunity to discuss and reflect on the theory, principles and practice which underpin the HighScope Curriculum
- An active learning experience and a mixture of individual small group, large group activities and discussions.

The course will be held over 12 full days within a 12-month period to enable participants to gradually introduce the Curriculum in their setting. Assignments will be set at the end of each day. At the end of the course, the trainer will carry out a site visit to each setting. On successful completion of all of these course requirements participants will receive a HighScope Ireland Certificate of Implementation.

To register your interest please email training@barnardos.ie

For more information on upcoming training events in 2019 keep an eye on [Barnardos website](#). Planned events include Child Protection, Designated Liaison Person, Making the Most of Supervision and Promoting Positive Behaviour. If you require in-house training for your team contact Ger on training@barnardos.ie /01 4530355

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, members 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)



To assist members accessing our online content, we plan to produce video tutorials that demonstrate database and eBook searching in the New Year. Links to these will feature in an upcoming members'

update.

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, membership benefits and packages below.

New Early Years Books in Our Library

[Bringing the Froebel approach to your early years practice](#)

Tovey, Helen. Routledge, 2017

[Developing empathy in the early years: a guide for practitioners](#)

Garnett, Helen. London Philadelphia, Jessica Kingsley Publishers
2018

[Loose parts 2 : Inspiring play with infants and toddlers](#)

Daly, Lisa & Beloglovsky, Miriam. St. Paul, MN, Redleaf Press 2016

[Child development : Concepts and theories](#)

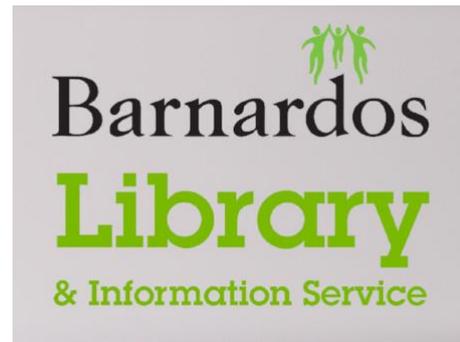
Mercer, Jean. Sage Publications Ltd 2018

[Doing your early years research project](#) (4th ed)

Roberts-Holmes, Guy. Sage Publications 2018

Benefits of Library Membership

- Borrowing rights to [Library collection](#)
- Full off-site access to [eBooks](#), Databases and [Research Journals](#)
- Subscription to Childlinks, Barnardos' journal (3 issues per year)
- 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



Contact the Library for more details. Tel: 01 4549699 or email: resources@barnardos.ie

Barnardos Publications

ChildLinks Issue 2, 2018 Diverse Families

The introduction of the Child and Family Relationships Act in 2015 represented a transformation in the legal recognition of families in Ireland. The Act modernises family law in a way that is inclusive of and sensitive to the reality of contemporary family life in Ireland and to meet the needs of children living in diverse family types. This issue of ChildLinks looks at this diversity in family types in modern Ireland and contains articles from the Department of Sociology and Social Sciences Institute, Maynooth University, One Family,



Kinship Care Ireland and The Irish Foster Care Association.

[Buy online now.](#)

BUY ONLINE
NOW

The time of their lives: Nurturing babies' learning and development in early childhood settings

Upcoming Events

The Early Childhood Ireland Annual Conference

Where: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

When: 12 and 13 April 2019

Providing Leadership to the First 5 is the theme for The Early Childhood Ireland – National Conference & AGM. The conference will explore Ireland's first national early years strategy and look at the implications for owners, staff and children. It will examine the type of leadership that will be required to deliver on the new strategy, and provide an opportunity to consider our current and emerging practice in this context. [More information available online.](#)



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