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Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews

In this issue of Childcare eNews we look at Barnardos response to the Children and Family Relationships Bill. This Bill will lead to greater equality for children in the eyes of the law no matter who is bringing them up.

We also take a look at developments in early years education and care including an update on pre-school inspections and two studies outlining the benefits of early years education. There is news of children's internet usage in Ireland, a recent rally organised by the Association of Childhood Professionals, the evaluation results of the Triple P Parenting Programme and more.

We also invite you to take part in Barnardos professional services survey which will help us to grow and improve our services.

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

Regards

Sinéad

News and Developments

Barnardos Professional Services Survey

Barnardos has for many years provided **training, library services and publications** to organisations and professionals working with children and families in Ireland. We invite you to take part in [a survey](#) of professionals and organisations who have used our training, library or publications services since 2012, to assess your experience and level

of satisfaction. By giving us your opinions, you'll help us to grow and improve our services – we would like to thank you in advance of taking part in the survey which is being conducted by Behaviour and Attitudes on our behalf.

**Start the
survey now**

The Children and Family Relationships Bill

The Children and Family Relationships Bill will lead to greater equality for children in the eyes of the law no matter who is bringing them up.

Fergus Finlay, Barnardos' chief executive, welcomes the Bill as long overdue. 'Every child needs love, security, stability and safety if he or she is to grow, and this Bill is an important step in that direction. This legislation is simply catching up with the reality of thousands of children living in non-traditional family settings, providing greater legal security for their relationships with those loving them and bringing them up.'



[Read more here.](#)

Nominee for the New Ombudsman for Children

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr James Reilly, has announced the name of the new Ombudsman for Children to be appointed by President Michael D Higgins. The appointment is to be made subject to the approval of both houses of the Oireachtas.

Dr Niall Muldoon has been selected by the Public Appointments Service. Dr Muldoon is currently the Director of Investigations at the Ombudsman for Children's Office. Dr Muldoon, a Registered Clinical and Counselling Psychologist, was formerly the National

Clinical Director of CARI. He has worked in the area of child protection for nearly 20 years.

Net Children Go Mobile

A new report on internet usage among nine to 16-year-olds has been published. [The Net Children Go Mobile report](#) is being published in conjunction with new materials for primary schools designed by [Webwise](#), an internet safety initiative funded by the Department of Education and the European Union.



Net Children Go Mobile is a two-year research project funded under the European Commission's Safer Internet Programme. Seven countries participated in the project: Denmark, Italy, Romania, United Kingdom, Ireland, Portugal and Belgium.

The [new report](#) shows that the vast majority of Irish children believe they know more about the internet than their parents, yet 43 per cent still don't know how to use the "report abuse" safety button on social networking sites. Nearly two-thirds of the 500 children surveyed for the report by Dublin Institute of Technology researchers Dr Brian O'Neill and Thuy Dinh claimed greater digital literacy than their parents, and girls claimed to have more skills than boys.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Triple P Parenting - Evaluation Results

Since 2010, the Longford-Westmeath Parenting Partnership has been delivering the Triple P parenting programme across the two counties. The results have recently been published of a major evaluation of the programme, which has demonstrated positive benefits both for children and for parents.

[Read the evaluation in full here.](#)



'Quality Costs, Invest now!' Campaign

On 17th February, the Association of Childhood Professionals (ACP) organised a rally at Leinster House which was attended by up to 2,500 people. The aim of the rally was to call for increased investment in quality early childhood care and education and better pay and condition for professionals in the early years sector. The rally also aimed to highlight the vital role played by childhood professionals in supporting the children and families in the foundation stage of development.



[Read more here.](#)

TACTIC Resource for Children Going Into Care

A new resource, designed to help children and young people going into care, has been launched by Dr James Reilly, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The material, a storybook and a set of guidebooks, has been designed by children and young people who are themselves in care. The advice and information being provided in the books benefits immeasurably from the experience of persons who know at first hand the real issues involved.



[More information is available here](#)

Early Years Care and Education

Better Start

[Better Start](#) is a new national initiative established by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to bring an integrated national approach to developing quality in early years education and care for children aged from birth to six years in Ireland. This new initiative will provide a specialist on-site mentoring service, more details can be found on [their new website.](#)



Early Years Inspectorate Update

The Child and Family Agency has introduced a revised model of Pre-School Inspection. Commencing on 26th January 2015, the primary scope of pre-school inspection are the areas of Governance, Welfare and Safety.

[The revised Inspection Tool and documentation can be downloaded here](#) and all pre-school services are encouraged to review this documentation and evaluate their performance within these thematic areas.

Department of Education and Skills (DES)

The Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan, T.D., recently announced her intention to establish an Early Years Education Advisory Group to provide advice on education related issues in the early years sector (0–6 years age group). Heino Schonfeld will represent Barnardos on this group.

Study on the Effective Use of Early Childhood Education and Care in Preventing Early School Leaving

This study aims to get a better understanding of the evidence base behind the relationship between good-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) and early school leaving rates and to support the work of the European Commission and Member States, within the Strategic Framework Education and Training 2020. Specific objectives of the study include:



- Development of a state of the art conceptual framework for analysis, reviewing existing research across Europe and beyond (all previous research that is available in European languages – most importantly longitudinal)
- Collecting new data and analysing relevant policies and their effects across Europe
- Providing recommendations for actions that could be taken at European and national level to improve the effectiveness of ECEC services, to promote ECEC and to contribute to the development of a more comprehensive approach to tackling underachievement and early school leaving.

[The full study can be accessed here.](#)

The Economics of Early Childhood Investments

A new report has been launched on the occasion of the U.S. White House Summit on Early Childhood Education, hosted by President Barack Obama.

[This analysis](#) by the President's Council of Economic Advisers describes the economic returns to investments in childhood development and early education. Some of these benefits, such as increases in parental earnings and employment, are realised immediately, while other benefits, such as greater educational attainment and earnings, are realised later when children reach adulthood. In total, the existing research suggests expanding early learning initiatives would provide benefits to society of roughly \$8.60 for every \$1 spent, about half of which comes from increased earnings for children when they grow up.

[Get the full report here](#)

Barnardos Publications

Protecting Children: A Child Protection Guide for Early Years and School Age Childcare Services (2nd Edition)

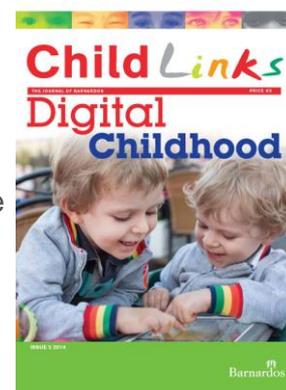
This comprehensive guide to child protection for early years and school age childcare services has been revised and updated for 2015. The book covers relevant legislation, the policy context, principles and procedures relating to child protection. There is also guidance in relation to best practice for working with children, parents and other agencies.

This new edition is now available and costs €25 +p&p. Copies can be ordered [online](#) or by emailing resources@barnardos.ie.



ChildLinks - Digital Childhood

One of the defining features of contemporary childhood in many societies is that children grow up in a world where digital technologies are prominent and taken for granted. There is no doubt that interactive digital technologies have become much more widespread and accessible to children from an early age, influencing children's play, interaction and even identities. A major question is whether these new influences really shape new childhood, or they represent only new ways of satisfying children's unchanging psychological and social needs.



This issue of ChildLinks contains articles from Brock University, Canada; The LITtLE (Linking Innovative Technology to Learning in the Early Years) research project, IT Sligo; Early Childhood Ireland; University of Gothenburg, Sweden; St. Nicholas Montessori College and Barnardos.

Copies of this issue of ChildLinks can be ordered [online](#) or by emailing resources@barnardos.ie.

Subscription to ChildLinks, issued three times per year, is included in the annual membership fee of Barnardos' Library (see below). For non-members there is a charge of €3 per issue (plus postage) or an annual subscription of €12 inclusive of postage. If you are not a member and would like to take out a subscription please [contact us](#).

Barnardos Training and Consultancy

[Implementing the High/Scope Approach 2015](#)

- Starting 26 March, Dublin, running for 12 Fridays throughout 2015

This [12-day training course](#) will provide participants with a working knowledge of the High/Scope approach to care and education in pre-school settings and an ability to successfully implement the High/Scope Curriculum in their pre-school settings.

Keep an eye on [our website](#) for details of other events coming up over the next few months. Events will include Child Protection and Supervision training. [Subscribe now](#) to receive Training Updates by email throughout the year.

To discuss your tailored training requirements, please contact Barnardos Training Service at training@barnardos.ie tel: 01 4530355.

Barnardos Library and Information Service

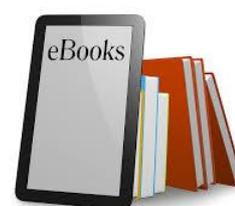
Become a Member

Barnardos' Library and Information Service provides access to a specialised collection of books, academic journals, research reports and much more. The Library, on the ground floor of Barnardos' Christchurch building, has recently been renovated and is open to both members and non-members, Monday to Friday, 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. If you would like to become a member of the Barnardos' Library and Information Service, you can join [online](#), call 01 4549699 or email resources@barnardos.ie.



eBook Collection

Barnardos' Library and Information Service is in the process of creating access to a selection of online resources. In line with this development, the Service now has a growing collection of eBooks which are available on a 24/7 basis to all Library & Information Service members. The eBook collection covers a range of topics such as child development, child protection, early childhood care and education and more. We are sure our members will find this collection to be a very useful resource and we intend to add to it on an on-going basis.



[The eBook collection is accessible online](#). Log-in details are available from the Library and Information Service. Please phone or email for more information.

Upcoming Events

Quality Childhood Services in Ireland: Working Together to Shape our 2020 Vision

Date: Fri 20th & Sat 21st March 2015

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

The National Childhood Network, formerly Border Counties Childhood Network, is holding this two day conference which will provide an opportunity for a broad range of stakeholders to come together, discuss, debate and agree the way forward to ensure the delivery of quality childhood services in Ireland for all. For more information visit www.ncn.ie.

Play on the Brain

Date: Friday 17th and Saturday 18th April

Venue: Croke Park, Dublin

Early Childhood Ireland are holding a conference in April in which participants will hear from the experts, children, educators, researchers and key note speakers as to why we need make a stand for play. [Find out more information here.](#)

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