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## Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews

In this issue of Childcare eNews we celebrate the passing of the Children's Referendum enshrining children's rights into Ireland's Constitution. This marks a new beginning for Ireland's children, giving equal protection to all children..

We also take a look at the latest investments in early years education and care and a new consultation process put in place to ensure investment delivers more affordable, accessible and high quality early years and school-age care and education.

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

Regards

Sinéad

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## News and Developments

### Children's Rights

On 24th April, the Supreme Court ruled on the 31<sup>st</sup> amendment to the Constitution of Ireland, finally passing the Children's Referendum. The insertion of an article enshrining children's rights into Ireland's Constitution ushers in a new era of support and protection for all children. Children will no longer be seen and not heard, but will have their rights enshrined in the highest law of the land.

Fergus Finlay, Barnardos' CEO, said, "The insertion of Article 42A into the Constitution of Ireland means the State will now recognise



children aren't 'mini people' with 'mini rights' but full members of society with rights all their own.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that today marks a new beginning for Ireland's children. They are no longer unseen and unheard in our Constitution. They are now placed exactly where they belong: in the very heart of our law and our society. We look forward to seeing the real impact of this historic amendment in the coming months and years: improved support and protection for children in our laws and policies, and young people who feel truly valued members of the Irish society."

Barnardos was at the forefront of the campaign to pass this referendum which will deliver improved protections for children's rights.

June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy, Barnardos, added, "The Supreme Court's ruling to uphold the decision the people of Ireland made in 2012 to allow the 'children's rights' article to be inserted into the Constitution is hugely significant. It means our Constitution now gives equal protection to **all** children. It will put a legal obligation on the government to improve State support for those most at risk.

"Among those children who will particularly benefit are children in long term foster care who will more easily get a 'second chance' to grow up in a stable and loving home. Children involved in court cases must have their **best interests put first and their voices taken into consideration** when decisions are being made which affect their lives and futures."

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## **Tusla Announces Details of Significant Early Intervention and Prevention Programme Prevention, Partnership and Family Support**

In April, Tusla – Child and Family Agency announced details of a comprehensive programme of early intervention and preventative work. The Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Programme will take place over three and a half years (2015-2018) and will embed early intervention and prevention within the Agency. The aim of the programme is to prevent risks to children and young people arising or escalating through building sustainable intellectual capacity and manpower within Tusla and partner organisations to perform early intervention work. The work is being made possible as a result of a once-off non-discretionary grant of €8.3 million from Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) and is supported by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway. The funding grant will:



- Help young people and families get supports early and at local level
- Embed MEITHEAL - Tusla led national practice model
- Promote enhanced interagency cooperation

[For more info see the Tusla website.](#)

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## Cow & Gate Big Toddle for Barnardos



Right now groups of children all over the country are lacing up their runners as they get ready for the 2015 Cow & Gate [Big Toddle for Barnardos](#), and you can join in the fun!

The Big Toddle for Barnardos is a fun sponsored walk for toddlers and is one of the biggest events for the under 5's in Ireland! Whether you're a crèche, a parent or a childminder, you can get involved by organising your own Big Toddle, anytime and anywhere of your choosing. [Register today](#) and we'll send you out your exciting **free fun pack** that has everything you need to organise your event, including hats, stickers and a fun colouring competition for your little ones to enter.

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## Early Years Care and Education

### Capital Investment in Early Years

The announcement in April by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, James Reilly, of a €7m capital investment budget for early years services is a welcome step. However, Barnardos cautions that it does not go far enough to address the barriers of availability and affordability that prevent children from participating in and benefitting from quality early years services.

June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy, Barnardos, said, “As we know the quality of the facilities in a large number of creches are in need of repair and refurbishment, so this cash injection will be put to immediate good use. As the Minister noted, there is clear evidence that, while all children benefit from access to quality early years provision, those from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit to the greatest extent, so it is particularly important that €5m is ring-fenced for community and not-for-profit childcare services.

“While any investment is welcome, it falls far short of what is required to develop a subsidised high quality and affordable early years service. The provision of such a service has been proven time and again to be beneficial for children’s development.”

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### **Public Consultation on Future Investment in Early Years and School-Age Care and Education: Views from the Early Years Sector**

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. James Reilly, T.D. has established an Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) on Future Investment in Early Years and School-Age Care and Education. The IDG, which is being chaired by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), is tasked with exploring ways of ensuring that current (and future) investment delivers more affordable, accessible and high quality early years and school-age care and education. It will submit a series of options for future investment to Government by June 2015.



The IDG has set up this consultation process to inform its work. There are two consultation forms available for completion. The first form is aimed primarily at the early years and school age sectors, but can be completed by any interested party. The second form is aimed exclusively at parents and guardians.

[You can get more information and download the forms here.](#)

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### **Aistear Síolta Practice Guide**



The purpose of the Practice Guide is to support practitioners in using Aistear: the Early

Childhood Curriculum Framework (2009) and Síolta, The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education (2006) together to develop the quality of their curriculum and in doing so, to better support children's learning and development.

The Practice Guide is based on the understanding that settings are compliant with, or are working to become compliant with The Child Care (Pre-School Services) (No. 2) Regulations (Department of Health and Children (DHC), 2006). It includes a range of resources to help practitioners to critically reflect on their curriculum and to identify what works well. Additionally, the resources can help practitioners to identify priorities for development and to plan actions for positive change.

[The Aistear Síolta Practice guide is now available.](#)

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## High Quality Centre-based Childcare Can Prevent Developmental Difficulties

A major national report, published by the Norwegian Institute for Public Health, focuses on the impact of centre-based childcare on outcomes for children. The report focuses on two groups of vulnerable children: those who have a 'neurobiological' risk (premature birth, low birth weight, or did not reach common milestones at 6 months); and those children who had a particularly 'difficult temperament' at 6 months old according to their mothers. The report provides further evidence of the critical importance of quality: higher quality services led to statistically significant benefits for children, while lower quality led to a worsening of children's outcomes.



Some of the main findings include:

- Group size is related to language development and behaviour.
- Inadequate space for learning activities is associated with greater symptoms of language difficulties and behavioural problems such as anger and aggression (externalising behaviour).
- Starting centre-based childcare before 1 year of age was not linked to greater symptoms of language difficulties, emotional difficulties such as sadness and anxiety (internalising behaviour), or symptoms of behavioural problems such as anger and aggression at 1.5 years of age.

- Long days in centre-based childcare, 40 or more hours a week, were associated with greater symptoms of language difficulties and symptoms of behavioural problems such as anger and aggression at both 1.5 years and 5 years of age.
- A high percentage of unskilled staff is linked to greater symptoms of emotional difficulties such as sadness and anxiety among boys.
- Lack of closeness and a confrontational relationship with the centre-based childcare teacher is linked to increased symptoms of language and behavioural problems in all children.
- Poor co-operation and low enthusiasm among staff are related to greater symptoms of language and behavioural difficulties in girls.
- Infrequent planned creative and physical play is related to greater symptoms of language and behavioural difficulties.

Norway has one of the highest rates of full-time day-care among children under 3 years old. Eurostat reports that 35% of children under 3 in Norway are in day-care for 30 hours or more per week, the figure being closer to 11% in Ireland.

[You can find more information here.](#)

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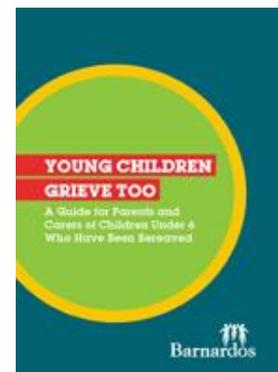
## Barnardos Publications

### Two New Free Booklets Available to Download

#### Young Children Grieve Too

This booklet explores some of the issues for children under the age of 6 when someone dies. It offers advice to parents and carers of children and to those who are supporting families through this difficult time.

[Download now](#)



## An Tábhacht Leis An Súgradh Amuigh Faoin Aer

The new Irish language booklet is for parents of young children up to the age of six, although most of the information applies to children of all ages. It highlights the benefits of outdoor play and shows how playing outside supports your child's development. [Download now.](#)

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## Recent Publications

### Quality Adult-Child Interactions in Early Years Services

Research on quality provision in the early years and positive outcomes for children has led to an increasing recognition of the central role of relationships and interactions between practitioners and children. This book will guide practitioners in their day-to-day practice and can be used as a tool for continuing professional development.

[Buy now for €25.](#)



### Spaces to be Me: Quality Environments in Early Years Services

Spaces to Be Me supports early years educators with the ideas, knowledge and resources needed to provide quality environments for the children with whom they work. [Buy now for €25.](#)

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## Barnardos Training and Consultancy

## Summer 2015 Public Training Events...online booking now open!

- [Children First Child Protection Training](#) 23 May - Dublin
- [Making the most of Supervision](#) (3 day course), 27/ 28 May & 23 June - Dublin
- [Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying](#) 16 June - Athlone
- [Designated Liaison Person Training](#) 24 June - Dublin

To ensure you are kept up to date with our training events why not subscribe to our training e-newsletter on [www.barnardos.ie/enewsletters](http://www.barnardos.ie/enewsletters).

Keep an eye on [our website](#) for details of other events coming up over the next few months. To discuss your tailored training requirements, please contact Barnardos Training Service at [training@barnardos.ie](mailto:training@barnardos.ie) tel: 01 4530355.

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## Barnardos Library and Information Service

### QQI Level 5 & Level 6 Child Care Collection



Barnardos' Library and Information Service houses a specialised collection of books, DVDs, academic journals, research reports covering a range of child and family issues. The collection includes a wide selection of resources specific to the Irish child care sector and published to support students pursuing QQI Level 5 and Level 6 child care programmes.

Recent additions to the collection include:

***Childhood Social, Legal & Health Studies*** by Emma Zara O'Brien and Margaret Prangnell

Gill & Macmillan | March 2015

***Work Practice & Experience in Childcare*** by Martina Coombes and Joanne Russell

Gill & Macmillan | April 2014

***Creative Arts for Early Childhood*** by Sinéad E. Kelly

Gill & Macmillan | March 2014

***Assisting Children With Special Needs: An Irish Perspective*** by Eilis Flood

Gill & Macmillan | August 2013

Annual membership of Barnardos' Library and Information Service is available to students at a special discount rate of €35.00. Membership includes full access to the collection including eBooks and online databases. For more information, please see our [website](#) or email [resources@barnardos.ie](mailto:resources@barnardos.ie)

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## Upcoming Events

### The Global Stop Cyberbullying Youth Summit

- Thursday 7th May @ 8.15am - 5.15pm
- Millennium Theatre LIT Moylish Park Limerick

Limerick opens the first Global Stop Cyberbullying Youth Summit outside of North America. Sponsored by Google and Facebook, this event allows young people to work with global experts to craft a community action plan over a two day event. The second day, May 9, 2015 at Facebook HQs in Dublin will finalize the action plan. Youth, Industry, Law Enforcement, Parents, Schools, Policymakers and Experts will be coming together from around the world to help design a global action plan to address cyberbullying.

Admission: By Invitation Only – No Cost to attend. Apply for an invitation at [cyberbullyingsummit.com](http://cyberbullyingsummit.com)

Email: [parryaftab@gmail.com](mailto:parryaftab@gmail.com)

Web: [Cyberbullyingsummit.com](http://Cyberbullyingsummit.com)

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