



## ISSUE 3, 2024

Hi <<First Name>>

In this issue of Early Years eNews, we bring you updates from across the ELC and SAC sector including information of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill, the launch of Equal Start, the extension of AIM and the evaluation of LINC. We also have all the latest info from Barnardos.

As always, if you have any information queries that we can help you with please don't hesitate to contact us at [resources@barnardos.ie](mailto:resources@barnardos.ie). For regular updates [join us on Facebook](#).

Sinéad,  
Publications Coordinator

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### Updates from Across the Sector

- Last week, the [Government approved publication of the Child Care \(Amendment\) Bill 2024](#), which will allow for childminding-specific regulations, will enable parents using childminders to access National Childcare Scheme subsidies, and will provide the Tusla Early Years

Inspectorate with additional enforcement tools to address serious non-compliance with the Regulations

- At the end of May, Minister O'Gorman launched [Equal Start](#), a funding model and a set of associated universal and targeted measures to support access and participation in ELC and SAC for children and their families who experience disadvantage.
- Minister O'Gorman has also announced [the extension of AIM](#) to support additional hours for ECCE aged children.
- The Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Programme Consortium have launched the [Final Evaluation of Phase One of the Leadership for Inclusion in Early Years \(LINC\) Programme 2016-2020](#)
- The [consultation on a National Plan for Irish-Language Provision in Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare](#) is underway.

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## Updates from Barnardos



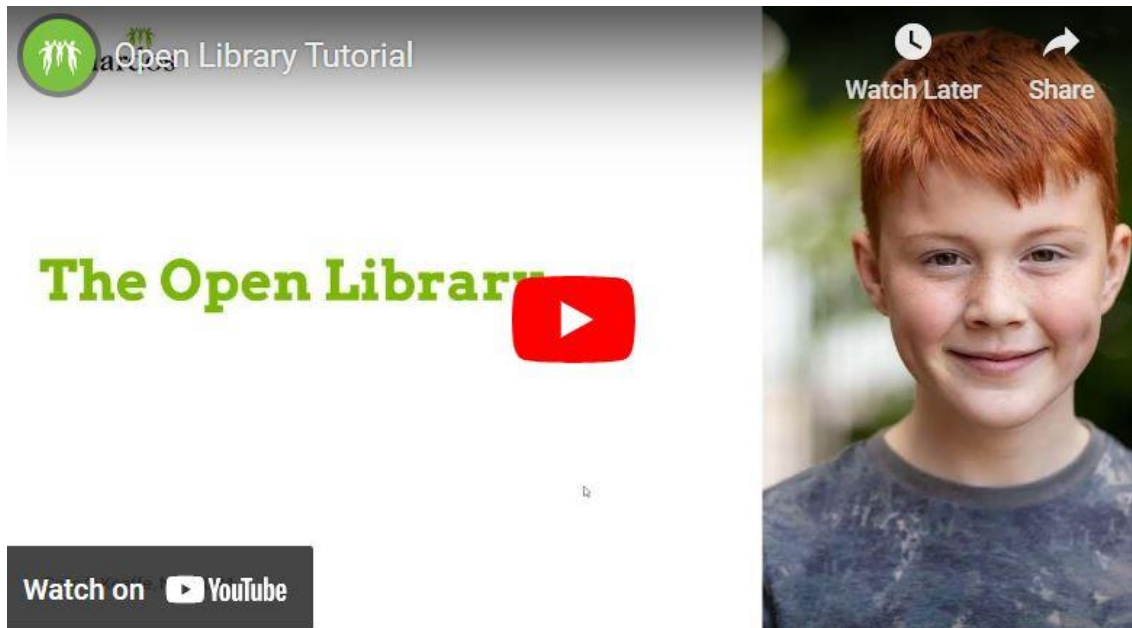
To celebrate the incredible 21 years of our Big Toddle campaign, Barnardos are hosting a Big Toddle Family Funday with arts & crafts, races & relays, magic show & puppet show, face painting and more, in partnership with The Sun, on Sunday 7 July in Airfield Estate, Dundrum. [Find out more.](#)

This month Barnardos launched [Notice Me – Think About Me – Ask About Me](#), an animation and resource created to enhance our understanding of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on the very young (children aged 0-5 years old) including pregnancy



Earlier this month, Barnardos also launched a report [Cost of Living Crisis: Impact on Children 2024](#) which outlines the stark reality on the number of families who are cutting back and going without essentials due to increases in cost of living, the struggles families are facing and the impact it is having on their children.

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We are fully settled in our new library in Christchurch Square, and we have exciting news to share with you. We have decided to make the Library an open library space so even library staff are working remotely, you can visit and, when ready, contact library staff and have items issued to you. We have created a library [tutorial](#) explaining how the system works. This tutorial is one of a number developed to show our members how to get the most from all of the resources made available to them.

[View the full suite of video tutorials here](#)

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### **Barnardos Training**

We have a number of Child Protection and Designated Person training events throughout the summer and will have a new programme of events coming in autumn so [keep an eye on our website](#) for details.

And don't forget, all our elearning modules are available any time of day or night, and even better they are FREE so [register now](#) and get started!

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**Our team is here to support settings in all areas of practice and with aspects of change, management and planning.**

**[Email us now](#) to find out how we can help.**

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An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
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