

**IN THIS ISSUE:** News and Developments | Early Childhood Care and Education | Barnardos Publications, Training and Library

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## Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews

In this issue of Childcare eNews we bring you details of the Hands Up for Children campaign, which is calling for investment in prevention and early intervention, and Phase 2 of the Growing Up in Ireland Study, which has been monitoring the development of almost 20,000 children in Ireland since 2007.

We also bring news of the education-focused inspections in early years settings which will focus on compliance with Aistear and Síolta. We also include details of the 12-month postponement of the introduction of a minimum qualification requirement for early years professionals. Other news involves changes to Garda Vetting for Northern Ireland addresses and the new resource from the National Early Years Children First Committee to support early years services to draft their own child protection and welfare policy.

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

Regards

Sinéad

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## News and Developments

### Hands Up for Children Campaign

Barnardos is a member of the Prevention and Early Intervention Network and is actively supporting the call for political parties to commit to investing in prevention and early intervention services and supports in general election manifestos and the subsequent programme for government. All the evidence shows that



prevention is better than a cure and if quality supports and programmes are offered during every key phase of childhood the results are outstanding. Children were the group most affected by the recession and it is now the time to invest in improving children's lives now and into the future. [Learn more about the campaign here.](#)

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## **Growing Up in Ireland: The National Longitudinal Study of Children, phase 2**

Dr. James Reilly T.D., Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, launched Growing Up in Ireland: The National Longitudinal Study of Children, phase 2, at an event in Pearse Street Library on Thursday, 4th June 2015. Growing



Up in Ireland has been monitoring the development of almost 20,000 children and young people at various ages since 2007. Interviews in this second phase of the project will take place from 2015-2019 with children and young people at 9 years, 17 years and 20 years of age. Summary details will also be collected by post from the main caregivers of 7-year-olds in the study.

Hundreds of topics will be addressed in the main areas of the lives of children and young people in the course of this second phase of the study. These will include details on their:

1. Physical health and development
2. Socio-emotional health and behaviour
3. Educational development and school performance
4. Economic and civic participation

[Click here for more information](#)

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## **Early Years Care and Education**

## Launch of Consultation on Education-focused Inspections in Early Years Settings

On May 26th the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs launched a consultation on Education-focused Inspections in early years settings participating in the government's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The Early Years Education-focused Inspections will be carried out in ECCE pre-schools by Early Years Inspectors in the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate.

The inspections will monitor the quality of the educational experiences provided for children. The education-focused inspections will complement the regulatory inspections carried out by TUSLA and are one of a range of measures being taken to improve the quality of early years education and care. The planned education-focused inspections will be unannounced, one-day inspections. Each inspection will result in a written report on the quality of educational provision in the setting and all education-focused inspection reports will be published. The education-focused inspections will be piloted in autumn 2015 in a number of early years settings participating in the ECCE scheme.

[More information is available here.](#)

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## National Early Years Children First Committee

The National Early Years Children First Committee has developed a resource to support early years services to draft their own Child Protection and Welfare Policy. The resource is designed to be tailored to the management structure, number of employees, age of children in the service and other policies and procedures in operation in the service.

[To download the document click here](#)



## The Introduction of Minimum Qualification Requirement For Early Childhood Professionals Postponed

On June 10th, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs postponed the introduction of a minimum qualification requirement for early years professionals by 12 months. The

Government previously announced an intention to increase the minimum qualification for all pre-school leaders delivering the ECCE programme from Level 5 (on the National Framework for Qualifications) to Level 6 and to introduce for the first time a minimum qualification of Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications for all staff working with children in early years services. The implementation of these minimum qualifications has now been postponed to September 2016.

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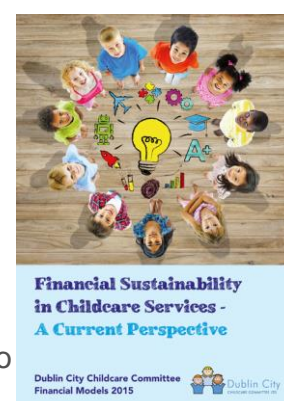
## **Garda Vetting**

There has been a change of policy with immediate effect in respect of Northern Ireland addresses provided by Vetting Subjects on Garda Vetting Application forms. All Northern Ireland addresses on vetting applications must include a Postal Code. Failure to include the Postal Code will result in the application form being returned unprocessed to the Authorised Signatory from the Garda Central Vetting Unit. [Further information in respect of Postal Codes is available here.](#)

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## **Financial Sustainability in Childcare Services: A Current Perspective**

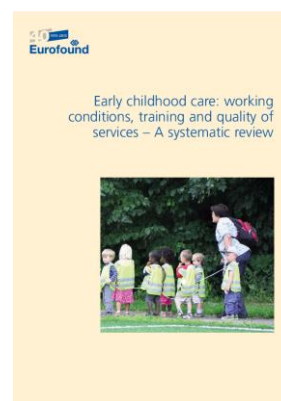
Dublin City Childcare Committee has launched a report on the financial sustainability of early years services. This research demonstrates the financial challenges faced by childcare providers in Dublin City and examines the realistic level of operating costs facing various childcare services, ranging from community-based to privately-owned and part-time to full-time. Financial models were created to demonstrate the current income and expenditure of the average childcare service operating in the Dublin City Childcare Committee catchment area. [For the full report click here](#)



## Early childhood care: working conditions, training and quality of services – A systematic review

Bringing together in a systematic manner the results of studies across the EU, [a new piece of research](#) by Eurofound (an agency of the European Commission) identifies which elements of training and the work environment matter most in order to increase the quality of early childhood education and care services. [You can download the report here.](#)

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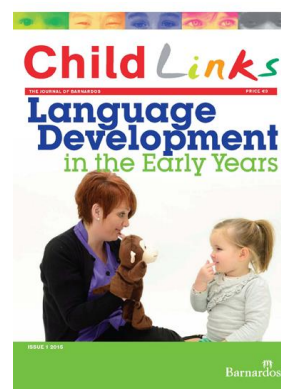


## Barnardos Publications

### ChildLinks (Issue 1, 2015) Language Development in the Early Years

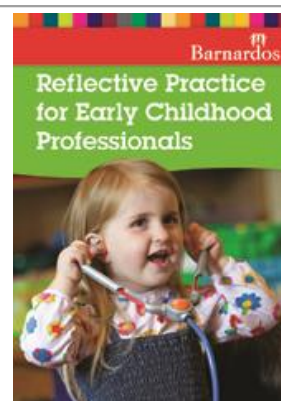
This new issue of ChildLinks looks at language development. Language and communication are central to the development of social, emotional and academic skills and while the majority of children acquire language without difficulty, there are some who struggle. All those interacting with babies and small children play a role in the development of their speech and communication skills.

[Buy this issue now.](#)



### Coming Soon - Reflective Practice for Early Childhood Professionals

Available from 1st July, this new publication is for all practitioners and managers who work in early years services. It will challenge you to think about what the term 'reflective practice' really means and will support you to use reflective practice in your workplace to improve the way you practice as well as your working relationships. This will ultimately lead to better outcomes for you and the young children in your



service.

This book contains the following:

- What Is Reflective Practice?
- The Rights of the Child and the Need to Respect Children's Voices
- What Does It Mean to Be a Reflective Practitioner?
- What Does It Mean to Be a Reflective Practice Team?
- The Benefits of Reflecting On Practice
- The Barriers to Reflective Practice
- Observation
- Prompts and Tools for Practitioners
- Documenting, Planning and Reviewing
- Reflective Leadership and Management
- Advanced Reflection
- Sharing Reflections

This book costs €20 plus p&p. Keep an eye on [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie) for more details or [email us](#) to pre-order now.

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## **Our Children First: A Parent's Guide to the National Child Protection Guidance**

Updated for 2015, this free guide explains to parents what the definitions of child abuse are; how they can help to ensure that their children are safe when in someone else's care; and what to do if they are worried that a child may be being abused.

You can [download the booklet here](#) or order hard copies by [emailing us](#).



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## **Barnardos Training and Consultancy**

Barnardos provides both tailored training and public training events. All of our training is based on a combination of current thinking and evidence based practice. Our training is delivered by knowledgeable and highly experienced trainers.



## **Public Events Autumn/Winter 2015 Calendar**

### **Children First, Child Protection Training**

3rd October, Wisdom Centre, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8, 10 – 4.30pm, €125

10th October, Montenotte Hotel, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork, 10 – 4.30pm, €125

The overall aim of this training is to equip those who work with children with the skills and knowledge that are necessary to deal with child protection issues in line with the Children First Guidance, 2011. Suitable for anyone working or volunteering with children. Each participant will receive a copy of Protecting Children, A child Protection Guide for Early Years and School Age Child Services, 2nd Edition

### **Reflective Practice for Early Years Practitioners**

14th Oct, Wisdom Centre, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8, 10am – 4pm, €120

Reflective practice is the capacity to reflect on action so as to engage in a process of continuous learning. In this introductory workshop, current thinking and activities are presented to assist participants to begin or continue to reflect on their own practice as they engage with children, parents and colleagues. Participants will have the opportunity to look at several examples of reflective tools and exercises where they can practice identifying some of the characteristics of different types of reflection. Suitable for all early years practitioners. Each participant will receive a copy of Reflective Practice for Early Childhood Professionals

### **Policy Writing for Early Years Professionals**

5th November, Wisdom Centre, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8, 10am – 1pm, €40

This introductory workshop will guide early years practitioners and managers through the process of developing, writing and implanting practice policies that are fit for purpose and locally adapted. Participants will learn about the necessary steps in the process and will have the opportunity to practice policy development skills. Suitable for anyone with responsibility for writing and developing policies in early years settings.

### **Designated Liaison Person Training**

11th November, Wisdom Centre, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8, 9.30am – 5pm, €110

19th November, Montenotte Hotel, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork, 9.30am – 5pm, €110

This training aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to carry out the role of Designated Liaison Person effectively and with competence. This training is suitable for newly appointed and established DLPs. All participants must have completed Children First, Child Protection training previously.

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### **Bookings and further information**

From 22<sup>nd</sup> July you can book a space on any of our public events [on our website](#) or by ringing 01 4530355. In order to keep up to date throughout the year with our schedule of public events, [please subscribe to receive our training alerts](#) .

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### **Tailored Training Service**

We provide tailored training on request to organisations who work/volunteer with children in any capacity. We design programmes to fit organisational needs and contexts. Training is delivered locally at times that suit each organisation. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Child Protection (Children First and Designated Liaison Person training)
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Parenting
- Quality Adult-Child Interactions
- Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying
- Supervision for Supervisors and Supervisees

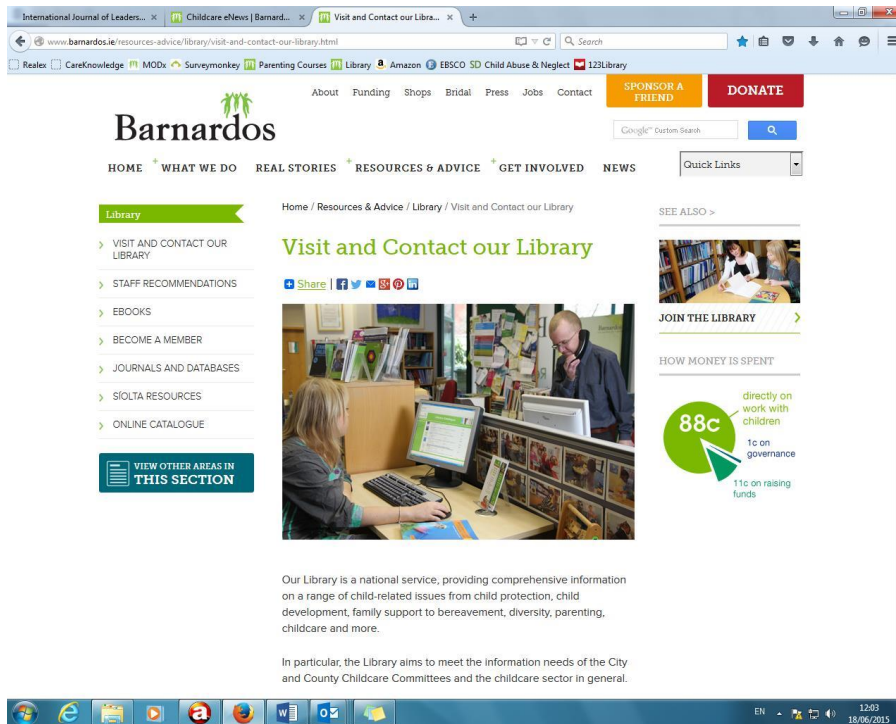
We will be very happy to discuss your specific training requirements with you. Please contact us on 01 4530355 or [email us](#).

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## **Barnardos Library and Information Service**

### **Website Update and Online Resources**

The [library section of the Barnardos' website](#) has recently be updated to include links to and details of the library's growing online collection.



Additions to the online collection include:

### eBooks

- Cyberbullying and E-safety
- Direct Work with Vulnerable Children
- Divorce and the Special Needs Child
- Domestic Violence and Child Protection
- Effective Working with Neglected Children and their Families
- Family Support as Reflective Practice

### Online Journals

- Child and Family Social Work
- Journal of Social Work
- Children & Society
- Journal of Children's Services

Please [contact the library](#) for details on how to access these resources or become a member.

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# Upcoming Events

## European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA)

**Date:** 7th – 10th September 2015

**Venue:** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

**Theme:** Innovation, Experimentation and Adventure in Early Childhood

EECERA is an independent, self-governing, international association which promotes and disseminates multi-disciplinary research on early childhood and its applications to policy and practice. EECERA's Annual Conference is the largest early childhood research conference in Europe providing an exceptional forum and network for scholars, policy makers, researchers and practitioners. [There is more information on the EECERA website.](#)

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