

Daily Digest

The Daily Digest is a compilation of articles gathered from the online editions of major Irish and international newspapers. The articles cover social, economic and policy matters as they relate to children and families. [Sign up here.](#)

In This Issue

- News and Developments
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Barnardos Publications
- Barnardos Training and Consultancy
- Barnardos Library
- Upcoming Events

Welcome to the latest issue of Childcare eNews

Barnardos Training and Resource Service

In this first issue of Childcare eNews for 2013, we bring you details of Barnardos new online course which we will be launching in the next couple of weeks, Introduction to Child Protection. There is also information on a new website from NALA, www.helpmykidlearn.ie, which helps parents to support their children's literacy and numeracy development as well as news of the Government's new Action Plan on Bullying and findings on a UCD study on Family Relationships and Family Well-being. We also invite you to take part in Barnardos' survey on childcare and after school care in Ireland.

There is details of a number of new publications from Barnardos, including our new guidebook for early years educators, Early Speech and Language Matters, as well as information on upcoming events, including Barnardos' training events, and the latest updates from our library.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Barnardos Training and Resource Service

News and Developments

Barnardos New Online Introduction to Child Protection Course



Barnardos has created a new elearning course, Introduction to Child Protection, that will be available soon on our website. This course is free to use and will be of use to anyone working with children. The aim of the course is to give an understanding of key aspects of Children First, the different categories of abuse, your role and responsibilities under Children First and how to handle concerns within your organisation. There is information of the role of the designated liaison person, how to support a child during a disclosure, the importance of Child Protection policy and procedures. There are quizzes and sample scenarios throughout to confirm your learning as well as links to useful resources.

Keep an eye on our website www.barnardos.ie for more information.

HelpMyKidLearn.ie



Help My Kid Learn is a new website for parents, guardians and childminders of children aged 0 – 12 years. The purpose of the website is to provide fun activities that parents can do with their children, to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. www.helpmykidlearn.ie mixes the old with the new, from card games and hopscotch that

help practice maths, to children's e-books that can be read out to your child and "Apps" that you can download to help your child learn. Information is broken down into 5 age groups: 0-2 years, 3-4 years, 5-7 years, 8-9 years and 10-12 years. Activities are organised into 5 areas of learning: Talk, Play, Read, Write and Count.

Childcare and Afterschool Care Survey

We in Barnardos are **exploring ways to improve childcare and afterschool care in Ireland**. At the moment, services vary a lot. They can be very expensive and can range in quality with some depending on unqualified or under-qualified staff or volunteers. We would really like to hear from you on this topic – your present experiences and how future services should be shaped. Even if your children are not currently using childcare or afterschool care, we'd still like to hear your opinions on how it should work.

We would really appreciate if you could take just five minutes to [complete our short survey on this topic](#). The survey is part of our joint work with OPEN, National Women's Council of Ireland and Start Strong. The survey is open now and will run until **Sunday 24th February 2013**.

The results from this survey, which will be totally anonymous, will form part of our seminar being held on 4th March and will be used in ongoing work for improving childcare and afterschool care for all children in Ireland.

Ministers Quinn and Fitzgerald launch Action Plan on Bullying

On 29th January a new [Action Plan on Bullying](#) was launched by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn T.D. and the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. The Plan sets out twelve actions to help prevent and tackle bullying in primary and second level

schools. These proposed actions build on the work that is already underway in many schools to prevent and tackle bullying.

Barnardos has supports around bullying [for children aged 6-12](#), for [parents of children 6-12](#) and [parents of teenagers](#), as well as [online support for teenagers](#).

Family Relationships and Family Well Being: A Study of the Families of Nine-Year-Olds in Ireland

Parents' education (especially that of the mother), and not whether or not the parents stay together, is a more important factor in children's well-being, a study on Family Relationships and Family Well Being has found. Researchers at UCD found there was virtually no difference in well-being between children of different family types, including step-families and single-parent families.

This study, launched by Minister for Children, Frances Fitzgerald TD, called [Family Relationships and Family Well Being: A Study of the Families of Nine-Year-Olds in Ireland](#), was carried out by UCD's School of Applied Social Science, where researchers looked at the circumstances of more than 8, 500 nine-year-olds.

Next Step in Tackling School Book Costs Welcomed



On 28th January, the Department of Education and Skills

launched "[Guidelines for Developing Textbook Rental Schemes in Schools](#)". Barnardos has been a long time advocate of introducing book rental schemes in all schools as they have proven to reduce the school book bill to parents. Barnardos' CEO Fergus Finlay said 'All children deserve to get the best education they can, but the high costs associated with school taints many children's experience and perception of education and reinforces

Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2011

CSO figures published today for 2011 show the ravaging effects of recession on children and families in Ireland. The publication EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2011 shows that children and families were the worst hit by the recession, reflected in the increase in the consistent poverty rate for children from 8.8% in 2010 to 9.3% in 2011.

Barnardos has particularly highlighted the stark increase in deprivation rates for one parent families to 56% in 2011. Barnardos' Head of Advocacy, Catherine Joyce, said: 'Some one parent families have seen a €60.26 decrease in their weekly income since 2009. Today's figures clearly indicate the affect that this is having on those families. The lack of adequate supports for one parent families, including recent decisions to reduce financial supports, clearly needs to be addressed to ensure that children do not suffer further.'

[Read the CSO Press Release on Survey on Income and Living Conditions \(SILC\) 2011](#)

Early Years Care and Education



Early Learning Scheme Boosts Reading and Maths Skills

The National College of Ireland's Early Learning Initiative - a scheme aimed at helping youngsters in disadvantaged parts of Dublin's Docklands area - has resulted in a rise in educational achievement in English and maths, a study has found. Research published in February into the work of the Early Learning Initiative at the National College of Ireland found that students are now scoring above the norms in other similarly disadvantaged communities. The initiative, started in 2008, involves a parent-child home visitor programme to help parents to teach their children skills to get them ready for learning.

Assessments showed that as of November 2011, 30 per cent of children in the first year of the programme could describe, with ease, a storybook picture using words or sentences. A year later, more than three-quarters of the same children were able to perform this task.

The research into the programme by the Children's Research Centre at Trinity College found it was helping to create a "high-achieving, supportive and cohesive Docklands community".

Barnardos Publications

Early Speech and Language Matters **Enriching the communication environment and language development in early childhood**

by Geraldine French

Early Speech and Language Matters is a guidebook for early years educators that

provides up-to-date theory and research in relation to the development of speech, communication and language in early childhood. It examines how this development is the foundation for all later learning. It gives practical guidance to early childhood educators on how they can support early speech, communication and language development, and outlines the links with national documents such as Síolta, Aistear and The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

Early Speech and Language Matters demonstrates the importance of the home learning environment and the importance of sharing reciprocal information on children's learning with families. It also gives guidance on what early years educators can do if there are concerns about a child's speech, language and communication development, how to address those concerns, and how to support children while waiting for speech and language therapy.

This book will be available from the beginning of March for €25 (plus p&p), see www.barnardos.ie.



Our Children First: A Parent's Guide to the National Child Protection Guidance (revised ed. 2012)

Revised to take account of the updated Children First guidance 2011, this 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.



[This booklet is now available to download from our website.](#)

Child Development Guide

A key task for busy practitioners is to understand how best to work with children to support their development. This Child Development Guide covers current research (including an Irish context) on emotional, social, educational, physical and behavioural development from birth through adolescence.



Written in an easily accessible way, this colourful guide provides comprehensive details of the key aspects of children's development, the factors that influence development (such as parent-child interactions, poverty and toxic stress), how the areas of development connect and impact on each other, alongside the barriers to healthy development. The practical and useful guide includes developmental charts which break down development

milestones by age group and provides tips on supporting children and young people's development in practice. [This guide is now available to buy on our website.](#)

Parenting Positively

Parenting Positively is a series by the Family Support Agency and Barnardos that provides information and guidance to parents of children between the ages of 6 and 12 and also parents of teenagers. The aim is to help to create a positive, loving and supportive relationship between you and your child. Topics covered include General Parenting Skills, Bullying, Separation, Parental Drug and Alcohol Misuse, Domestic Abuse and Death.

You can get free copies of these publications by emailing us at resources@barnardos.ie or look at our [website](#) for more information.

Barnardos Training and Consultancy



We offer practitioners, parents, carers and all people working with children a range of high quality and innovative training programmes, which are crucial to strengthen skills in the early years sector and to benefit children.

Continuing Professional Development 2013

- Child Protection Masterclass - 17th April, Dublin (see below for more info)
- Seminar: Early Speech and Language Matters - 24 April, Dublin
- Paediatric First Aid - 18 May, Dublin

The **Child Protection Masterclass** will address child protection policies, whether they are up to date and fit for purpose as well as the more complex challenges that can present to professionals in this area. It is aimed at experienced children's services staff, including Designated Liaison Persons, from early years services, family support projects, Springboards and others, all who have previously undertaken Child Protection training and will welcome this chance to explore this area in depth.

[Subscribe now](#) to receive Training Updates by email throughout the year.

We also provide:

- Tailored training events for professionals
- Parenting programmes and talks
- Consultancy service

<http://www.barnardos.ie/what-we-do/training/training-and-consultancy.html><http://www.barnardos.ie/what-we-do/training/training-and-consultancy.html>

To discuss training events or your tailored training requirements, please contact Barnardos Training & Resource Service at training@barnardos.ie or telephone 01 4530355 ext 413.

See [our website](#) for more information.

Barnardos Library



The BTRS library provides comprehensive information on a range of child related issues such as child protection, child development, family support, bereavement, adoption, diversity, parenting, childcare and much more.

[Check out the new resources we have in stock.](#)

[Or why not have a look at our online catalogue.](#)

Upcoming Events

Symposium on the new Child and Family Support Agency

The National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square West,
Dublin 2, 27 February 2013

In 2013, the Government will introduce legislation to

establish a new Child and Family Support Agency. Shaping child and family services for the next 20 years, this will be one of the biggest reforms undertaken by the current government. The purpose of this symposium is to learn about plans for the new Agency and understand how children's rights, including a prevention and early intervention approach, will be translated into the structures, governance, design and service delivery for the new agency.

Email: louise@childrensrights.ie or **Tel: 01 662 9400**

Sacndinavian Childcare: Making it Happen

EU Parliament House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, Monday
4th March 2013

Barnardos, OPEN, National Women's Council of Ireland and Start Strong are exploring ways to improve childcare and afterschool care services in Ireland. At the moment, services differ greatly in terms of quality and availability and they can be very expensive for parents. We are trying to look for a more sustainable solution to childcare and afterschool care that is in the best interests of children, their parents and service providers.

- Seminar chaired by Olivia O'Leary
- Keynote Address by Professor Tine Rostgaard, Department of Political Science, Aalborg University in Denmark
- 'Adapting to the Irish Context' Response by Dr Micheál Collins, Nevin Economic Research Institute
- Inputs from Toby Wolfe, Acting Director, Start Strong; Frances Byrne, Director, OPEN; Fergus Finlay, CEO, Barnardos and Orla O'Connor, Director, National Women's Council of Ireland
The Interface Between Primary Care and Children's Services.

Places are limited so please reserve your place by contacting Susan Lewis on 01-8148860 or

email info@oneparent.ie. RSVP by **Tuesday 26th February 2013**.

The Interface Between Primary Care and Children's Services: An Early Intervention Approach to the Needs of Children and Families

Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24, 22nd March 2013

This conference from CDI (Childhood Development Initiative) is aimed at anyone working with children and families, particularly those delivering primary care services or supporting referrals to them. The conference aims:

- To explore the learning from CDI's independent evaluations which informs the delivery of effective primary care delivery.
- To consider current national policy and thinking and the maximisation of effective primary care and supports.
- To share mechanisms which can promote an effective interface between health, education and other stakeholders.

For info and booking email paula@twcdi.ie

The Adopted and Foster Child in School

Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel Northern Cross, Malahide Road
Dublin 17, Saturday 20th April 2013

A Barnardos Post Adoption Service Training day: This training day will give participants a framework for understanding of the effects of disrupted early attachment on learning, behaviour and school performance. We will look specifically at the effects of early loss, trauma and neglect, and how these might be shown by some children's behaviour in school and difficulty with learning and

remembering. The training day will address the needs of primary and secondary aged pupils.

[You can register for the event here.](#)

Trauma in the Early Years: National Conference 2013

Citywest Hotel, Dublin, 20th April, 2013

Irish Association for Infant Mental Health - This unique collaboration with international experts, will present from clinical and legal perspectives, the impact of trauma on the lives of babies and toddlers and their caregivers. Compelling scientific evidence will be presented and therapeutic interventions discussed. This conference will be of interest to all disciplines, multidisciplinary teams, child protection services, the legal profession and all who work with vulnerability and risk in the early years.

Further details and registration
email jmhireland@gmail.com

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 6th Biennial International Conference - Engagement and Participation in Family Support

National University of Ireland, Galway, Thursday and
Friday, 13th & 14th June 2013

Family Support requires the involvement of us all – children, parents, volunteers, professionals and politicians – as citizens. The aim of this conference is to view trends, challenges and options relating to citizens' engagement and participation in the field of Family Support. The conference will consider the relevance of citizenship to Family Support, exploring the potential and limitations of community and volunteer led provision, the challenges facing professional worker-citizens in embattled systems, the possibility of

participatory structures within service delivery systems, the role of advocacy and protest in Family Support and the overall meaning and value of participation by children and young people for Family Support.

For further information, please contact [http://iwona.odonoghue@nuigalway.ie](mailto:iwona.odonoghue@nuigalway.ie) / +353 91495734

ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Conference

Dublin 15th - 18th September 2013

The theme of this conference is "Protecting Children in a Changing World" and includes the following sub-themes:

- Prevention of child abuse and neglect through early and sustained involvement
- Interventions and programmes for children and families experiencing adversity
- Addressing children's rights and participation
- Reforms in child protection and welfare policy
- Children in out of home care
- Building the evidence base
- Contemporary issues

Further details are available

at <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013>

4th Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

Friday 25th October, 2013, University College Cork, Ireland

See <http://swconf.ucc.ie> for further details and for videos of last years conference.

[follow Barnardos on Twitter](#) | [like Barnardos on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Our mailing address is:

Christchurch Square
Dublin 8
Ireland

Phone: 353-1-453 0355

www.barnardos.ie

Registered Company Number: 141526

Registered Charity Number: 6015

*Copyright © 2013 Barnardos
Ireland, All rights reserved.*