



**IN THIS ISSUE:** News and Developments | Barnardos Publications, Training and Library | Upcoming Events

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## Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

The Affordable Childcare Scheme has been in the news in the past couple of weeks, with concerns that that [just 60% of early years settings in Ireland have registered for the Scheme](#).

The [announcement by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar](#) that the creation of more affordable childcare is a priority for Government must be welcomed. We must remember though that quality should also be top of the agenda, children have a right to quality care and education that supports their wellbeing, learning and development.

In this issue of Early years eNews we bring you news of a review by the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs into the cost of delivering quality childcare, the findings of which will impact on future Government investment. We also have details of a new report that looks at the working conditions of professionals in the early childhood care and education sector, as well as other news and developments.

You can also find out about Barnardos upcoming training and new publications as well as events coming up around the country over the

next few months.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Sinéad

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## Meet Our Team

### Meet our Senior Researcher, Nuala Connolly

I joined Barnardos in September 2016 as Senior Researcher with the Learning and Development team, having previously worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway. I have an academic background and my research interests are in child and family studies, child protection and welfare, and youth studies. The nature of my role in



Barnardos varies and includes undertaking internal research including service evaluation, and coordinating external access to services for research purposes. As an organisation, we are committed to undertaking and supporting applied research studies, informed by the circumstances, needs and concerns of the families using our services.

In my spare time I practice my roller derby skills (mostly falling) or take my fifteen year old jack russell for ever-shorter walks. Feel free to contact me at [nuala.connolly@barnardos.ie](mailto:nuala.connolly@barnardos.ie)

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## News and Developments

**Report on the Working Conditions of the Early Childhood Sector 2017**

[A report](#) has been published that examines the impact of the Early Years Education Policy on the working conditions of professionals in the early childhood care and education sector. The report looks at



policy-related issues, working conditions, areas of concern as viewed by early years professionals, and investment in other EU countries.

Some of the recommendations made include:

- Introduce working terms and conditions on a par with the rest of the education system.
- Commission the development of a nationally agreed pay scale for the early years workforce linked to the Occupational Role Profiles that recognises qualifications, experience and length of service.
- Introduce a system of Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL).
- Reduce worker/child ratios from 1:11 to 1:9 – this would assist in early identification of problems and pay off in long run for the state.

[Read the full report here.](#)

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### **School Age Childcare Capital Scheme**

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, has [announced funding](#) of €1.2m of the School Age Childcare Capital Scheme to improve existing school age childcare services.

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### **Independent Review of the Access Inclusion Model (AIM)**

[An independent review](#) of the Access Inclusion Model (AIM) is to take place. The goal of AIM is to empower pre-school providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can fully participate in the



Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education. The Minister has also confirmed that [resource packs will be developed](#) which will offer centres special instruction manuals, sensory toys as well as the support of a team of experts.

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### **Independent Review of the Cost of Delivering Quality Childcare**

An [independent review will take place into the Cost of Delivering Quality Childcare](#) to deliver findings that will decide future Government investment. The Review seeks to:

- Analyse the current costs of providing childcare in Ireland and factors that impact on those costs
- Develop a model of the unit cost/costs of providing childcare that allows analysis of policy changes and variation in cost-drivers, including the potential impact of increased professionalisation
- Provide an objective, high level market analysis of the childcare sector in Ireland, including analysis of fee levels charged to parents
- Provide a range of outputs

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### **Building the Future Unicef Report**

Unicef has published a report, [Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries](#). The Sustainable Development Goals have set ambitious targets that apply to rich countries as well as poor. The most telling sign of a nation's progress towards meeting those goals will be how well it meets the needs of its children.



## Young Children Largest Homeless Age Group

The Government's [most recent homelessness figures](#) shows the numbers of children and families who are homeless are continuing to rise. There are now a record 2,895 children registered as homeless and 1,365 families. These are the highest numbers ever recorded. In total there were 7,941 adults and children registered as homeless in June. This continues to remain a crisis of unprecedented proportions. [Figures released from Census 2016](#) show that children aged four and younger are the largest single age group experiencing homelessness, with 765 children aged four or under homeless on census night in 2016. Earlier this year [Barnardos published a briefing paper](#) on the faces behind the figures of child homelessness.



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## Barnardos Training and Consultancy

Barnardos training team have launched a number of training events for Autumn 2017:



- [Making the Most of Supervision](#) x 2 courses (18,19 Sept/17 Oct dates)
- [Designated Liaison Person Training](#) Dublin (3 Oct)
- [Children First, Child Protection Training](#) Dublin (14 Oct)
- [Children First, Child Protection Training](#) Cork (21 Oct)
- [Giving Evidence in Court Proceedings](#) Dublin (24 Oct)
- Designated Liaison Person Training for Early Years Professionals Dublin (2 Nov)
- Reflective Practice for Early Years Professionals Dublin (11 Nov)
- Children First, Child Protection Training Limerick (17 Nov)
- Children First, Child Protection Training Dublin (21 Nov)

- Designated Liaison Person Training Cork (30 Nov)

Further information on all courses, including venues, costs and learning outcomes, is available on [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie). Booking is open for September and October events on Barnardos [online shop](#).

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*“We chose Barnardos for our 2017 Children First Child Protection Training because we knew from our previous experience in dealing with Barnardos training that a comprehensive and professional workshop would be delivered which would be tailored to the specific needs of our childcare students. It also had the most relevant up to date content and was delivered in an engaging manner while using case studies, discussions and lots of interactive learning with our students. The students were very happy with their training and particularly liked the way it appealed to all the different learning styles.”*

Sharon Crean, Level 5 Childcare Co-ordinator, CTI College of Further Education, Clonmel

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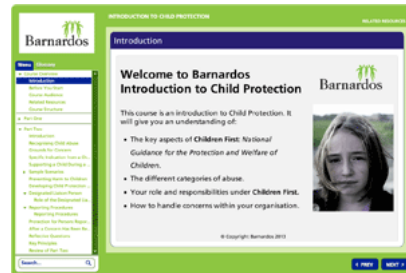
## Free Online Courses from Barnardos

The introductory elearning courses below are free to use and are suitable for anyone working with children.

[Learning Environments in the Early Years](#) is designed to support early years educators to provide quality environments for the children they work with.



[Introduction to Child Protection](#) gives an understanding of key aspects of Children First, National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.



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## Barnardos Library and Information Service

**Do you need access to the latest research & resources for your work or study?** For the month of Sept we are offering a **20% discount** on all annual Barnardos Library & Information Service memberships!

- [Individual Membership](#) - €48 (normal price €60)
- [Student Membership](#) - €28 (normal price €35)
- [Corporate Membership](#) (teams of 3+) - €40 each (normal price €50 each)
- [Educational Institutions Membership](#) (up to 5 faculty) - €160 (normal price €200)

### Benefits of Membership include:

- Borrowing rights to [Library collection](#)
- Full off-site access to [eBooks](#), Databases and [Research Journals & Magazines](#)
- Subscription to Childlinks, Barnardos' journal (3 issues per year)
- Monthly Members' eUpdate – including updates on the latest research and reports
- Personal research and information query service
- Free events and priority invitations to publication launches & talks

- 10% discount on all Barnardos' publications

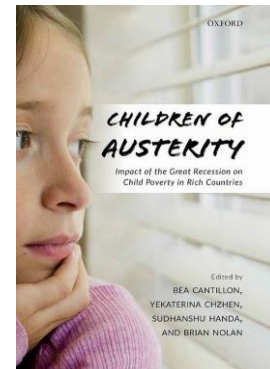
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## New Resources in Barnardos Library

### **Children of austerity: Impact of the great recession on child poverty in rich countries**

Authors: Cantillon, B., Chzhen, Y., Handa, S. & Nolan, B.

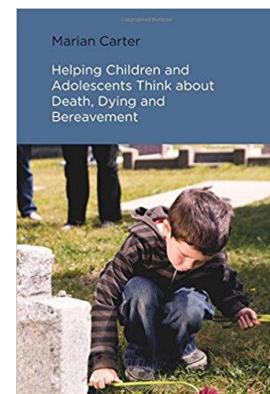
Oxford: Oxford University Press (2017)



### **Helping children and adolescents think about death, dying, and bereavement**

Author: Carter, M.

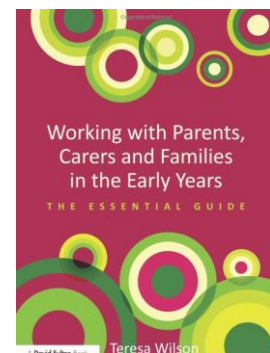
London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2016)



### **Working with parents, carers and families in the early years : the essential guide**

Author: Wilson, T.

London: Routledge (2016)



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## Barnardos Publications

For the month of September we are offering a 10% discount on all publications bought on our [online shop](#). Just enter the discount code below at the checkout.

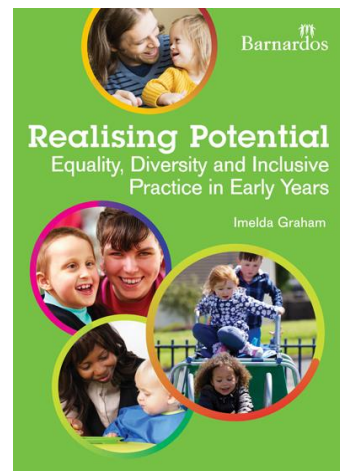
## INDIANSUMMER

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### THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE NOW BACK IN STOCK

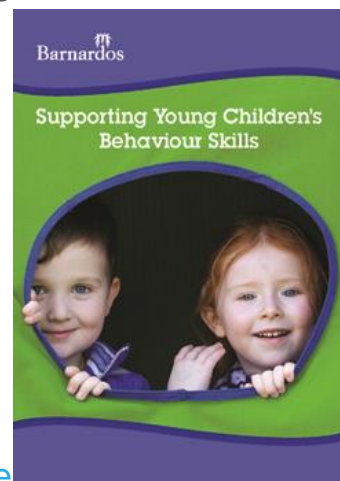
#### Realising Potential: Equality, Diversity and Inclusive Practice in Early Years

[Realising Potential](#) seeks to challenge, to inform and to support early years educators in addressing equality, diversity and inclusion issues. [This book is available to buy from our online shop for €25.](#)



#### Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills

The early years is a critical period for social and emotional learning. Early years educators play a central role in supporting children to develop the skills required to understand and manage their emotions and be accepted by and play well with their peers. [Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills](#) gives guidance on how to support the development of children's behaviour skills. [This book is available to buy from our online shop for €25.](#)



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### Upcoming Events Nationwide

## Barnardos National Collection Day

Barnardos National Collection Day will take place on Friday 15 September. [Contact us today](#) to see what's happening in your area and how you can get involved.



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### Barnardos Internet Safety & Cyberbullying Workshop for Parents and Guardians

**When:** 16 September, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

**Where:** Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

This workshop will offer parents/guardians an opportunity to consider how they can increase their child's online safety and respond to any instances of negative online behaviour. Parents/guardians will be provided with take home information on social media and parental controls. [Book online](#) or contact Lorna Lee on 01 4530355

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### Celebrating Children's Stories, A Masterclass in Documentation

**When:** 9 September

**Where:** DCU Institute of Education, Dublin 9

Wendy Lee, Director of the Educational Leadership Project (Ltd), a professional learning provider for the early childhood sector in New Zealand, will deliver a Masterclass in documentation. This event is being organised by Early Childhood Ireland, in partnership with DCU, Institute of Education. [More information is available here.](#)

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### Digital role-play: The changing conditions of children's play in preschool settings

**When:** 26 September

**Where:** TBC

Professor Marilyn Flear, Monash University, will present on Digital role-play: The changing conditions of children's play in preschool settings at the School of Education in Trinity College, Dublin. Expressions of interest in attending can be sent to [noirin.hayes@tcd.ie](mailto:noirin.hayes@tcd.ie)

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### “What's Good Enough?”

**When:** 3 October

**Where:** Georges Hall, Dublin Castle

EPIC and Care Leavers Ireland are hosting a conference aimed at young people moving towards Aftercare, in Aftercare and professionals who work with them. The focus of this conference is “What's Good Enough?”, to promote the positive transition from care to aftercare, highlight the importance of positive mental health and mental health interventions, and to focus on how we can improve educational outcomes for care leavers and discuss pathways to accommodation for young people in aftercare. [Booking & further information is available here.](#)

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### Future directions for child protection and welfare: where to and why?

**When:** 27 October

**Where:** University College Cork

Child protection and welfare in Ireland is heading into a series of significant changes in the next 12-36 months. Are all of these changes bringing child protection and welfare in the right direction? The committee of this 6th National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference is now inviting practitioners, academics, managers, service users, local

community groups and social commentators to [submit papers or workshop presentations](#) on the theme for this conference.

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### **Growing Up in Ireland Research**

**When:** 7 November

**Where:** Croke Park Conference Centre

This annual Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference includes a keynote address by Professor Yvonne Kelly, Professor of Lifecourse Epidemiology at UCL and Associate Director of the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health (ICLS). The conference will also see the launch of latest findings by Minister Dr Katherine Zappone, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. [Further Information is available here.](#)

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