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Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

There have been a number of significant developments in the Early Years sector in the past few months and in this issue we bring you information about two of these: the new Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the new Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). AIM offers seven levels of progressive support for early years services including new Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Years Care and Education.

This issue of Early Years eNews also has information about Barnardos' submission to Government on Budget 2017 and we ask you to help us in our call to prioritise children.

We also include news and updates about Barnardos' Learning and Development Service's publications, training and library.

Regards

Sinéad

News and Developments

Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

The former Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr James Reilly, has published the [Child Care Regulations \(the Child Care Act 1991 \(Early Years Services\) Regulations 2016\)](#). These Regulations will come into effect on a phased basis from 30 June 2016. The [new Regulations](#) provide for pre-school services, that is, those services catering for children under the age of six who are not attending primary school.



There are a number of changes from the 2006 Regulations, most notably in the requirements around registration, policies and procedures, management and staff, records and qualifications among others. These new demands will make services safer for children and will be reassuring for parents.

One notable omission from the [new Regulations](#), however, is the fact that there is no mention of a Child Protection policy on the list of mandatory policies, which means Tusla is not inspecting early years services for child protection policies. Heino Schonfeld, Barnardos Early Years Development Manager, said, 'This is a very serious issue for us...because these children are particularly vulnerable.'

[You can find more information on the new Regulations available here.](#)

Access and Inclusion Model

Children with disabilities will have better access to pre-school under a new programme of supports unveiled on 15 June by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone

TD. Announcing [the new Access and Inclusion](#)

[Model, or AIM](#),

Minister Zappone said "This is an important step to break-down barriers preventing children with disabilities from taking part in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme."



[AIM](#) is a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, moving from the universal to the targeted, depending on the needs of the child and the pre-school. A range of different initiatives are being launched as part of the model as follows:

- A new Inclusion Charter for the Early Years sector, alongside updated and strengthened Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education. A programme of training on the guidelines will now be rolled out nationally over the coming months.
- A new higher education programme for early years practitioners (LINC) which will commence this September. This programme is part of a broader package of education and training supports to upskill the early years workforce in relation to inclusion and disability.
- A new national specialist service based in the Better Start National Early Years Quality Development Service.
- A new national scheme providing specialised equipment, appliances and minor alterations which are necessary to support a child's participation in the ECCE programme.

- A new national scheme providing additional capitation to pre-school providers where this is critical to fund extra support in the classroom and enable a child's participation in pre-school.
- [A new dedicated website on AIM.](#)

Barnardos' Submission on Budget 2017

Budget 2017 is an opportunity to make real and lasting change in children's lives. In advance of this year's Budget (not published until mid-October, but being drafted now), Barnardos Advocacy team has prepared [a submission](#) to the Government asking them to prioritise children, to invest in children's services not tax cuts, and to focus on prevention and early intervention instead of waiting for crisis to strike.

We urge you to [add your name to the letter to the Budget Committee](#) and help us to call on the new Partnership Government to prioritise children.

[Watch our video for the key messages from our submission.](#)

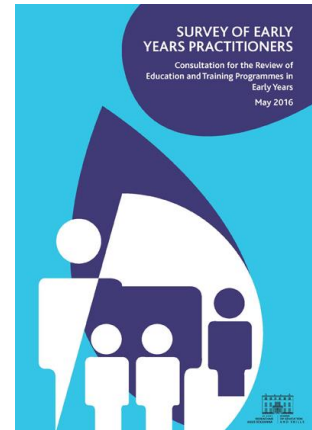


Survey of Early Years Practitioners

The Department of Education and Skills has published ['Survey of Early Years Practitioners: Consultation for the Review of Education and Training Programmes in Early Years'](#).

The key findings to emerge from the survey of early years practitioners are given below:

- The majority of early years practitioners are striving to improve their practice for the children in their settings.
- Respondents reported overall a positive message in relation to the education and training that they had received and how it prepared them for the demands of the workplace.
- Cost and work/study balance is a challenge in meeting the demands of the learning community.
- Greater support and attention is required for students during their placements in early years settings.
- The level of preparedness in implementing/delivering Síolta and Aistear is a concern and was a very significant gap identified by practitioners in both further and higher education programmes.
- Practitioners clearly feel a lack of preparedness in respect of growing social diversity.
- The importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) was highlighted.
- While many felt enthusiastic about their profession, the majority of respondents did not feel valued as early years practitioners and that their work was not given sufficient respect by society. It was also commonly held that there was a lack of funding and resources for the sector.



- Education and training providers need to review whether to include in programme content more practical information regarding record keeping, policy, legislation etc.
- Education and training programmes need to be reviewed to ensure that they continue to prepare those entering the profession to meet the demands of modern practice.
- There is overwhelming support in the practitioners' responses for a professional regulatory body for the sector.

Supporting Parental Engagement from Traveller and Roma Communities

Longford County Childcare Committee have developed a new booklet aimed at early year's practitioners working with children from Traveller and Roma communities.

[Contact Longford CCC for copies of the booklet.](#)



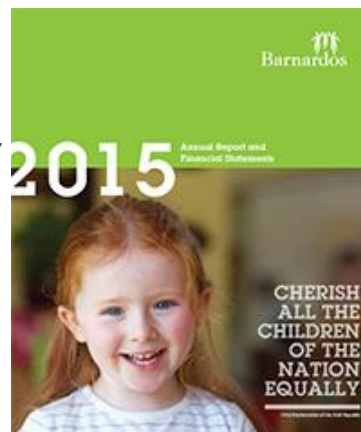
The Family Leave Bill

Fathers will be entitled to paid paternity leave from September under a bill introduced in the Dáil in June. Under the Family Leave bill, fathers will be entitled to two weeks' paid leave, within six months of the birth of a child. The rate will be €230 per week for all new fathers including the self-employed and employers may top up this rate.

Barnardos Annual Report

Barnardos had published our [Annual Report for 2015](#). In 2015, Barnardos worked with more than 13,100 children and families, than ever before in our history, providing:

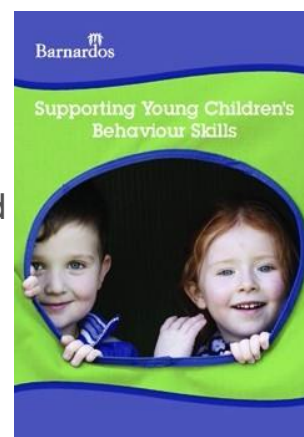
- 20 Family support projects providing one-to-one parent child work, working with the whole family to offer practical support
- Seven early years projects for children in the two – five years age range (targeted early years intervention)
- The Partnership with Parents programme – one to one work with parents in the home tailored to meet the needs of the children and family
- Four Teen-Parent Support Programmes
- Community based prevention services include toy libraries and playground facilities that can be accessed by all members of the local community
- Specialist services include Guardian ad Litem, Post Adoption*, Bereavement Counselling for Children, Roots of Empathy (a classroom based programme) and Wizards of Words (a paired reading programme)



Barnardos Publications

Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills

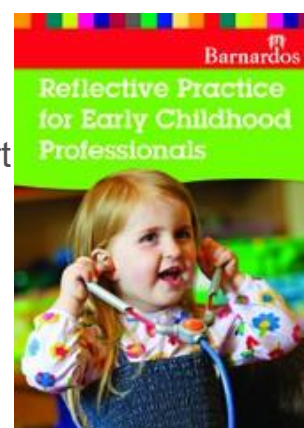
The early years is a critical period for all learning, in particular social and emotional learning. Early years educators play a central role coaching and supporting children to develop the skills required to understand and manage their emotions and be accepted by and play well with their peers. [Supporting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



[Available to buy online now for €25.](#)

Reflective Practice for Early Childhood Professionals

[This book](#) is for all educators who work in early years services. It will challenge you to think about what the term 'reflective practice' really means. It will also support you to use reflective practice in your workplace to improve the way you practice as well as your working relationships, which will ultimately lead to better outcomes for you and the young children in your service. [Buy online now.](#)



Coming in September - The Key Person Approach

In September, Barnardos will be launching a free booklet for early years educators on the key person approach. The booklet will provide information on what the key person approach is, the benefits for children, parents and educators and what needs to be considered to ensure it works effectively.

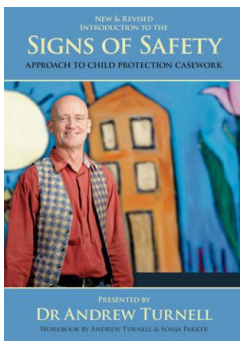
Barnardos Library and Information Service

New Resources - Signs of Safety Videos & Workbooks

Signs of Safety resources now available to borrow by members of Barnardos Library & Information Service.

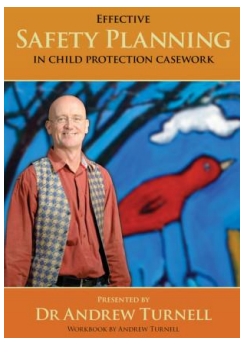
'The Signs of Safety is an innovative strengths-based, safety-organised approach to child protection casework, created in Western Australia by Andrew Turnell and Steve Edwards working with over 150 front-line statutory practitioners. The Signs of Safety model is an approach created by practitioners, based on what they know works with difficult cases. The approach has attracted international attention and is being used in jurisdictions in North America, Europe and Australasia.'

[\(Viv Hogg, Signs of Safety Consultant, UK\)](#)



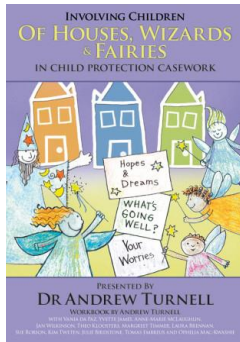
[Introduction to Signs of Safety](#)

— Video & workbook



[Effective Safety Planning in Child Protection Casework](#)

— Video & workbook



[Of Houses, Wizards and Fairies \(involving children in Child Protection Casework\)](#)

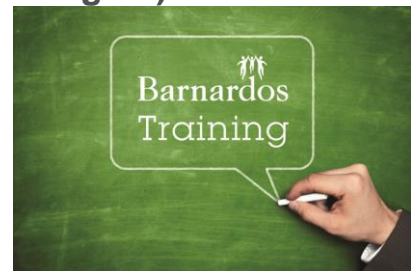
– Video & workbook

[Become a member of Barnardos library online today.](#)

Barnardos Training and Consultancy

Making the Most of Supervision Training (for managers)

Are you a manager, team leader, project leader, supervisor?



Barnardos' Making the Most of Supervision Training (for managers) is scheduled for 13th & 14th September and 11th October in Dublin 8. This training will provide supervisors with the skills, knowledge and an effective approach to generate a positive supervisory relationship focusing on quality practice and outcomes for service users. In the past, participants have come from a range of settings – early years, youth work, medical social work, education, homeless services etc. Feedback from previous participants included...

- *“Fantastic training and should be recommended for all supervisors.”*
- *“Application on Morrison’s attachment model was highly useful.”*
- *“Feel empowered.”*

[Book your place on training now.](#)

Other Training

Check out new dates for Barnardos [public event training courses](#) launching

over the coming weeks such as Children First, Child Protection Training and Designated Liaison Person Training. Contact training@barnardos.ie if your organisation is interested in tailored training on any of these topics.

Upcoming Events

Summer Stars in Public Libraries

The [Summer Stars reading programme](#) is running in public libraries throughout the country this summer. Summer Stars is a free programme, open to all children.



Each child who registers for [the programme](#) at their local library joins in the fun of reading lots of exciting books during the summer. Children will receive their own **Summer Stars Reading Card** to record their progress and the **Summer Stars Reward Stamp** will be added to their card at the library for each book read. Fun rewards will be provided along the way. At the end of the programme, all children who have participated will be invited to attend an awards event.

European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) Conference

Date: 31st August - 3rd September

Venue: The Helix, Dublin

The European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) Annual Conference is the largest and most significant early years' research conference in Europe, regularly attracting more than 600

researcher delegates from all over the world. [Find information on details, bookings and paper submissions.](#)

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