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## Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

**As part of the AONTAS Adult Learning Festival 2017, Barnardos Learning & Development Service will host an Open Day on Wednesday 8 March. This event is an opportunity for adult learners or those thinking of returning to education to attend some interesting talks, avail of free resources and discuss your training and learning needs with our Learning & Development team. Feel free to drop in at any time during the day.**

Among other news and development, this issue of Early Years eNews brings you information on extended funding supports for community childcare and the Access & Inclusion Model; information on the Action Plan for Education 2017 as well as the latest CSO figures on child poverty.

This issue also has details of Barnardos upcoming training and new publications. You can also find out how to join in World Book Day on 2nd March.

Regards

Sinéad

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## Barnardos Learning & Development Open Day for Adult Learners

As part of the AONTAS Adult Learning Festival 2017, Barnardos Learning & Development Service will host an [Open Day](#) on Wednesday 8th March. This event will provide an opportunity for adult learners or those thinking of returning to education, particularly in the area of early years care and education or social care, to attend some interesting talks and presentations. There will be a wide selection of free and discounted resources available on the day as well as an opportunity to discuss your training and learning needs with our Learning & Development team.



**Barnardos**  
Barnardos Learning & Development Service



**Open Day for Adult Learners**

Wed, 8 March 2017  
10:30 – 17:00

Barnardos National Office  
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

**Free Talks | From 10:45 – 12:30**

- **Social Media in Early Years Services**  
Heino Schonfeld, Early Years Development Manager  
*A look at the importance of good practice when using social media in early years services.*
- **Become a Google Expert & More**  
Maria Rogers, Library & Information Service Coordinator  
*A practical guide to finding, accessing and evaluating information online.*
- **Launch of New Barnardos Publication**  
*'Realising Potential: Equality, Diversity and Inclusive Practice in Early Years'*

**This event is open to all. Drop in any time during the day.**  
Students, Educators & Early Years Practitioners

Free Resources | Advice on Training & Learning Needs | Info & Support

For full details & to register go to:

[www.barnardos-learning-openday.eventbrite.ie](http://www.barnardos-learning-openday.eventbrite.ie)

Email: [resources@barnardos.ie](mailto:resources@barnardos.ie) | Phone: 01 454 9699

The following events will take place during the morning and you are invited to attend for either the whole morning or just the event you are particularly interested in. [You can register your attendance here.](#) Please feel free also to call in at any time throughout the day.

**10:30 – 10:50: Registration & refreshments**

**10:50 – 11:30: Talk 1: Social Media in Early Years Services** - This talk will give an understanding of the importance of good practice when using social media in early years services. Attendees will learn to link children's rights and good practice. Benefits, as well as inherent risks, of social media will be demonstrated.

**11:30 – 11:45: Launch of Barnardos new publication: *Realising Potential: Equality, Diversity and Inclusive Practice in Early Years***

**11:50 – 12:30: Talk 2: Become a Google expert & more: How to find, access and evaluate online information** - Do you spend hours online looking for the 'right piece' of information? Or are you happy to use the first thing that you find? This presentation will give an overview of some easy-to-use tips and tricks for finding exactly what you are looking for online and how to use that information in your studies.

**12:30 – 17:00: Open Event in [Barnardos Library & Information Service](#)**

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## News and Developments

### Community Childcare Supports Extended

On 15th February, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, announced [extra support](#) for children, parents and community childcare services with immediate effect. The Minister has announced that:



- Community services are to be allowed register children for the CSS (Community Childcare Subvention Programme) on a year-round basis for the first time ever.
- €1m is being made available to community childcare services who have been facilitating the placement of Community Employment (CE) scheme workers, to ensure these services are supported to meet the minimum qualification requirements under the early years regulations.

[Read more about this announcement here.](#)

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### **Access Inclusion Model**

Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, has also announced the expansion of the Access Inclusion Model which ensures children with disabilities can fully participate in the free pre-school years. €1.5m is to be invested in a scheme and 18 new posts created to offer help and support to children, parents and childcare providers.



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### **Podcasts for the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector**

Roscommon County Childcare Committee, in collaboration with Longford County Childcare Committee and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, have launched [a series of 15 podcasts](#) to assist and support the early years sector nationally in their pedagogical practice with the children they care and educate. The [podcasts](#) focus on Leadership, Pedagogical Leadership in ECCE

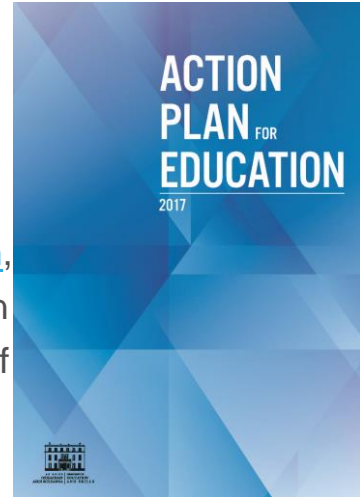
Governance and Practice, Intentional leadership, Creating Rich Vibrant Environments and Endorsing the Six Life Skills for Children.

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## Action Plan for Education 2017

On 6th February, Government announced the [Action Plan for Education 2017](#).

There are a number of actions relevant to early childhood care and education in the [Action Plan](#), including a goal to increase quality of learning in early years: 'Early childhood is a crucial stage of life in terms of a child's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. Growth of mental and physical abilities progress at an astounding rate and a very high proportion of learning takes place in the early years. It is a time when children particularly need positive early learning experiences to lay the foundation for later school success. We recognise that the provision of high quality professional development opportunities for early years practitioners is needed to improve the quality of the learning experience for our youngest learners.'



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## Child Poverty

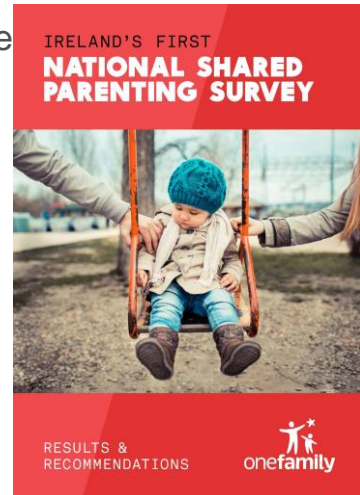
[Figures released by the CSO at the beginning of February](#) show that one child in every nine is living in consistent poverty in Ireland. This is equivalent to 132,102 children or the entire population of Mayo. Other findings include:

- In 2015, 11.5% of children (aged 0-17) lived in consistent poverty.
- Consistent poverty means that these children are living in households with incomes below 60% of the national median income and experiencing deprivation based on the agreed 11 deprivation indicators. This can mean going 24 hours without a substantial meal or being cold because parents are unable to afford to heat the home. It means not having two strong pairs of shoes, or a warm jacket to keep out the cold.
- Nearly three in five (58%) of lone parent households with one or more children experienced deprivation. Worryingly this is more than double the level of deprivation experienced by families with two adults with children (25.2%).
- In 2015 the annual average disposable income had increased from €18,864 in 2014 to €20,000. The concern is that lower income families are still struggling while it is the middle and high income earners are enjoying the recovery.
- Those who are unemployed in 2015 face significantly higher risks of experiencing deprivation (45.5%) and consistent poverty (26.2%), and being at risk of poverty (43.5%), compared with the rest of the population.
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## **Shared Parenting Survey**

At the end of January, One Family published the results of its [Shared Parenting Survey and accompanying policy recommendations](#). Some of the key findings of the survey include:

- The majority of respondents whose child does not live with them most of time, spend time with their child on a weekly basis.
- While almost 27% of respondents arranged this time amicably between them, for almost 51% it was agreed with difficulty, through mediation or court ordered.
- 62% of respondents whose child lives with them most or all of the time stated that their child's other parent contributes financially to their child's costs; 38% stated that the other parent does not contribute financially.
- Over 50% of respondents stated that they do not make decisions jointly on issues that impact on their child(ren).
- Over 34% of respondents have attended mediation.



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## **Children's Rights Alliance Submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on the Single Affordable Childcare Scheme**

The Children's Rights Alliance has developed [a submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs](#) (DCYA) to inform the development of the Government's Single Affordable Childcare Scheme (SACS). While welcoming many of the proposed elements of the Scheme, the submission recommends the following changes to the Single Affordable Childcare Scheme:

- The design of the SACS be changed from an hourly subsidy based on childcare attendance reported weekly, to a child-centred capitation grant, in line with the Free Preschool Year and primary school.
- The Scheme demand that childcare centres use national early years quality practice standards (Síolta) and the national early years curriculum (Aistear) in return for receipt of public funds.
- Ireland's early years and school-age childcare systems need much more investment than they receive now.
- SACS requires that the DCYA take the lead in developing an Implementation Plan, in conjunction with relevant government departments and agencies.
- The SACS is one funding element of the Early Years Strategy, due in early 2017. The Early Years Strategy, due since 2013, should include adequately-funded policies and strategies that lead to the best outcomes possible for children and their families. It should include a range of options for children's education and care, including Parental Leave and flexible working arrangements.
- Children in Direct Provision and children of undocumented parents should have access to the childcare subsidy.
- The DCYA should consult with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Data Protection Commissioner or the Ombudsman for Children on the privacy implications of sharing data arrangements proposed in the Schemes.





Barnardos training team are delighted to confirm we have a number of training dates between Feb-June 2017, in Dublin and Cork, on a range of topics such as:

- Children First, Child Protection Training
- Designated Liaison Person Training
- Making the Most of Supervision Training

All the dates are available on [www.barnardos.ie/training](http://www.barnardos.ie/training) and booking is open now through our [online shop](#)

We are busy planning our one-day training event on Quality Adult-Child Interactions for Early Years, which we are hoping to schedule for June 2017. We will also organise another training on Giving Evidence in Court Proceedings before summer 2017. If you are interested in any of these upcoming events, please email [training@barnardos.ie](mailto:training@barnardos.ie)

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## Barnardos Library and Information Service

### What's your favourite book? - World Book Day: 2 March

So many books have shaped us, informed us and inspired us... why not share your favourite with everyone! Thursday 2nd



March is [World Book Day](#) and to

mark the occasion [Barnardos Library & Information Service](#) invite you to share with us your **'Favourite Book'** or **'Most Inspirational Book'** in your life or career.

### What's Involved? It's simple enough...

- Select a book and write a couple of lines about what the book means to you. It can be any book – a novel, an early years resource, a children's book. It's your choice!
- Email your selection to [resources@barnardos.ie](mailto:resources@barnardos.ie).
- If you are on Twitter, please tweet your selection to [@Barnardos\\_IRL](https://twitter.com/Barnardos_IRL) on 2nd March along with [#worldbookday](https://twitter.com/hashtag/worldbookday) & [#favouritebook](https://twitter.com/hashtag/favouritebook)
- Your piece, name and book cover will also be added to our blog post.

If you would like any further information, please email Maria at [maria.rogers@barnardos.ie](mailto:maria.rogers@barnardos.ie).

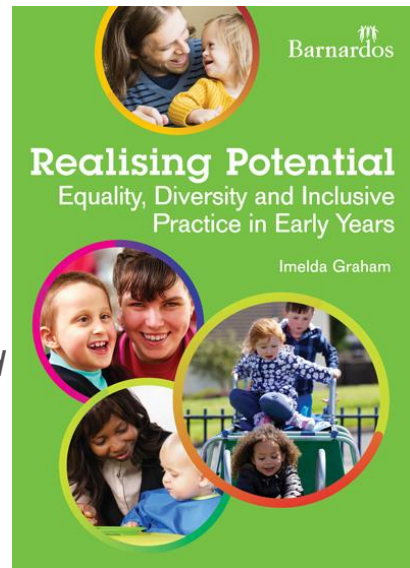
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## Barnardos Publications

## **New Publication from Barnardos Coming Soon**

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

Barnardos' new publication, being launched on 8th March, seeks to challenge, to inform and to support early years educators in addressing equality, diversity and inclusion issues. Through this book, which supports the *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education*, current policy and the national frameworks, educators will find support and tools to develop high quality inclusive practices that will endure in the lives of the children with whom they work.



[This book will be available to buy from our online shop from 8th March.](#)

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**Quality Early Years Care and Education: What to Look for in an Early Years Service**

This [free booklet](#) will help parents make decisions about the best early years care and education setting for their child. It has detailed information about why quality really matters in the early years and looks at how young children learn and what they need in order to be able to learn best. It includes a set of questions parents can ask a service to help them out about the quality of the service.



You can [download this booklet now for free](#) or order hard copies by contacting us at [resources@barnardos.ie](mailto:resources@barnardos.ie)

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## Upcoming Events Nationwide

### Self-Harm Awareness Conference

**When:** Wednesday 1 March 2017 (Self Injury Awareness Day)

**Where:** AVIVA Stadium, Ballsbridge, Dublin 2

St Patrick's Mental Health Services in partnership with Pieta House will hold its second [Self Harm Awareness Conference](#). The event will offer a mix of practical workshops and presentations relevant to teaching staff, community workers, parents and students.

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### All Babies Count: Why Babyhood Matters

**When:** Saturday 25 March 2017

**Where:** Psychoanalytic Section of ICP, 73, Quinn's Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin

[This event](#) looking at Infant Mental Health is a day of discussion

focused around a five-part series of short documentaries “Breakdown or Breakthrough? Pregnancy, birth and the first eighteen months of life”, led by Dr Amanda Jones and Angela Joyce (director Amy Rose). The documentaries explore the effects of perinatal breakdowns on babies, parents and the professionals who work with them (including midwives, social workers, health visitors, mental health professionals).

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### **Valuing the Early Childhood Professional Early Childhood Ireland Annual Conference**

**When:** 31 March and 1 April 2017

**Where:** University College Dublin

Research has clearly established that the key indicator of quality in early childhood education and care is the educator. Early Childhood Ireland are acutely aware of the responsibilities of the role and the need to feel supported, respected and valued. Consequently, [this conference](#) is about drawing attention to the enormous contribution early years educators make to children, families and communities.

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### **Rediscovering Empathy; Values, Relationships and Practice in a Changing World UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, 8th Biennial International Conference**

**When:** 8–9 June 2017

**Where:** Institute for Lifecourse and Society, National University of Ireland, Galway

[The biennial UCFRC conference](#) draws on national and international

expertise to explore the concepts of empathy and relationship based working as they relate to policy and practice with children, youth and families.

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