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Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

In this issue of Early Years eNews we bring you details of the launch of our new publication for early years educators - Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills. There was a great turn out at the launch with Jenna Russell from Barnardos Brighter Future Centre sharing information, stories, guidance and tips on working with young children and behaviour.

We also bring you information about the recently published report by Unicef which highlights the worrying inequality and deprivation experienced by many children in Ireland today. There is also information of the new national education programme on best practice for the inclusion of children with a disability in preschool and reform of the higher capitation payment.

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

Regards

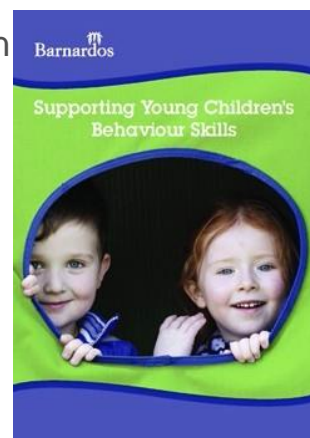
Sinéad

News and Developments

New Publication - Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills

On 27th April, Barnardos officially launched our new publication for early years educators, [Supporting Young Children's Behaviour Skills](#). Jenna Russell from Barnardos Brighter Future Centre gave an informative talk at the launch on the topic of young children and behaviour.

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.



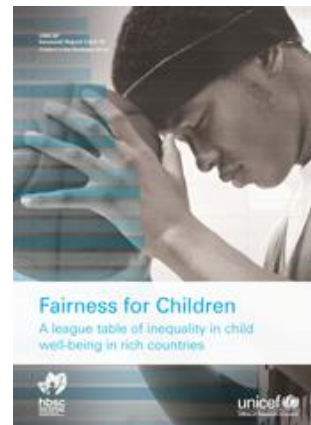
[Available to buy online now for €25.](#)



Fergus Finlay and Jenna Russell at the launch.

UNICEF Fairness for Children Report

A new report released by Unicef, [Fairness for Children: A league table of inequality in child well-being in rich countries](#), shows that children are not a political priority in Ireland. The report, which compares how children fare across OECD countries, highlights that Irish children face worrying levels of deprivation and inequality. Some of the main findings of the report include:



- The Fairness for Children report card showed Ireland was seventh out of 41 EU/OECD countries, despite findings children are now the most neglected group in Irish society.
- Regarding inequality in income, measuring how far the poorest children are being allowed to fall behind the 'average' child in each country, Ireland comes 10th of the 41 countries
- Ireland is ranked 20th when it comes to inequality in health

- Ireland has the fourth worst income inequality in the EU.

[The report](#) makes a string of recommendations, including a new focus on improving the educational achievements of disadvantaged learners and making equity at the heart of child well-being agendas, and Unicef called on the next Government to end the 'practice of placing children last'. June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy, Barnardos, said, 'Now is a crucially important time if we are to change children's futures for the better. Barnardos urges those negotiating the makeup of the next government and all those who were elected to the 32nd Dáil to make tackling child poverty their priority.'

Parenting24seven



[Parenting24seven](#) is an online resource by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency offering evidence-based key messages on what works best for children and families at different stages of childhood and in different situations.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons Bill) Bill 2012 to 2016

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons Bill) Bill 2012 to 2016 has been enacted into Irish Legislation after much delay and it is expected that a commencement order will come into effect from 29th April 2016. The purpose of this Act is to provide a legislative basis for the vetting of persons who seek positions of employment with children or vulnerable persons. Failure to comply with this duty is an offence under the Act and there are defined penalties for this. This includes allowing participation in training or intern schemes that require participation in relevant work activities.

The Act also establishes the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) of the Garda Síochána which replaces Garda Central Vetting Unit.

Early Years News

Appointment of Dr Maresa Duignan as Assistant Chief Inspector

Dr Maresa Duignan has been appointed as an Assistant Chief Inspector in the Department of Education's Inspectorate, leading the Inspectorate's Early Years Inspection and Policy Unit. Previously Dr Duignan played a key role in the Early Years Policy Unit that is operated jointly between the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

New National Higher Education Programme for Inclusion Co-ordinators in Early Years Settings

A major new higher education programme aimed at providing education and training in best practice for the inclusion of children with a disability in pre-school will be delivered by a consortium led by Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, in partnership with the Froebel Department in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Early Childhood Ireland.

The national programme is a special purpose award for early years practitioners which qualify graduates to perform the new role of Inclusion Co-ordinator in their Early Years Care and Education setting. This is one of a wide range of initiatives being put in place under a new model of supports to enable children with a disability to attend and participate to the fullest extent in the free pre-school programme

(otherwise known as the 'Early Years Care and Education programme'). [More information is available here.](#)

Report on Childcare Costs and Practices in Ireland

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) commissioned [research](#) to examine how working families in Ireland reconcile paid employment and childcare. The overall findings of the study clearly point to the high burden on working parents faced with some of the most expensive childcare costs in the EU. [Read the full report here.](#)



Reform of the Higher Capitation Payment

At the end of February, The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr James Reilly announced the reform of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Higher Capitation model to support capacity building and quality development across pre-schools. The changes will take effect from September 2016. [More information is available here.](#)

Barnardos Publications

Outdoor Play Matters - Free Booklet for Parents

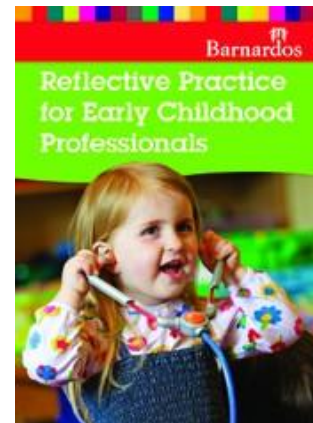
Following recent reports in the British media that 74% of parents said their children spent less time playing outside than the daily hour of outdoor exercise recommended for prisoners by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, it is clear that children must be encouraged to play outdoors more often. [Outdoor Play Matters](#), one of Barnardos free publications for parents, highlights the benefits of outdoor play and how it supports children's development.



All of Barnardos booklets for parents are available to [download from our website](#). If you would like to order hard copies to give to parents in your service please [contact us](#).

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](#).





Child Link

Barnardos' Journal ChildLinks

Barnardos is looking for submissions of articles on any topic relating to children and child development, with a particular focus on early childhood education and care and Ireland, for its 2016 editions of the journal [ChildLinks](#). This invitation is open to researchers, scholars, early years educators and specialists. ChildLinks publishes articles on current and evolving standards, practices and methods in work with children. Previous topics have included child protection, digital childhood, bullying, infant mental health, play, additional needs, curriculum planning and language development. [For more information please contact us.](#)

Barnardos Library and Information Service

Autism Resources from Barnardos Library & Information Service

As April was Autism Awareness Month, [Barnardos Library and Information Service](#) put together the following list of books and articles on autism and special needs that may be of interest to childcare practitioners and parents alike.

[The Autism Discussion Page on the core challenges of autism: A Toolbox for Helping Children with Autism Feel Safe, Accepted, and Competent](#)

By: Nason, Bill

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2014

[The Effect of Peer Support on Transitions of a Child with Autism](#)

Voices of Practitioners: Teacher Research in Early Childhood Education. Winter2015, Vol. 10

This study examines the role of special education teachers in mentoring and providing guidance to special students, developed students social interactions and aspects of individualized educational plan.

[Aldo goes to primary school: experiencing primary school through the lens of the autistic spectrum](#) (eBook)

By: McNally, Hugh, Morris, Dominic & McAllister, Keith.

Publisher: McNally Morris Architects, 2013

[Parenting a Teen or Young Adult with Asperger Syndrome](#) (eBook)

By: Boyd, Brenda.

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2013

[Assisting Children with Special Needs: an Irish Perspective](#)

By: Flood, Eilis.

Publisher: Gill & Macmillan, 2013

[Special Needs and Early Years: a Practitioner's Guide](#)

By: Wall, Kate.

Publisher: Sage Publications, 3rd ed., 2011

[Educating children on the autism spectrum: preconditions for inclusion and notions of 'best autism practice' in the early years](#)

British Journal of Special Education. Dec2010, Vol. 37 Issue 4.

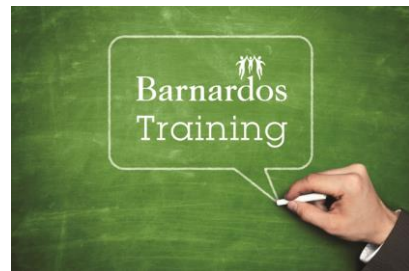
This article draws together findings from expert evidence and

empirical studies to identify the preconditions for developing inclusive learning environments for young children on the autism spectrum.

These resources and many more are available to access online or to borrow from [Barnardos' Library & Information Service](#). Please [email](#) or phone us at 01 4549699 for more information.

Barnardos Training and Consultancy

Barnardos external training team have had a very busy start to 2016 with a 75% increase in the number of tailored trainings over the first four months of the year. The interest in Children First, Child Protection Training and Designated Liaison Person Training is very positive given the introduction of the Children First Act in November 2015 putting child protection on a statutory footing for the first time ever.



Public events are selling out at a fast pace too so do keep an eye for future pre-summer events such as Children First, Child Protection Training, Designated Liaison Person Training, Making the Most of Supervision and Paediatric First Aid which will be promoted on [our website](#) over the coming weeks.

If you would like more information please contact training@barnardos.ie

Upcoming Events

Enriching the Home Environment - Early Years Conference 2016

Date: 23rd June 2016

Venue: National College of Ireland

National College of Ireland is delighted to announce an Early Years Conference recognising the value and importance of the Home Learning Environment, for children's development and learning. Conference themes will cover:

- Language, Literacy and Numeracy
- Home Visiting
- Partnerships with Parents
- The Role of Fathers
- Play – Indoor and Outdoor
- Wellbeing – Social and Emotional Development and Resilience
- Early Childhood (birth to three years)
- Identity and Belonging - Inclusiveness and Diversity
- Policy

[You can find further details here.](#)

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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