

Children who grow up in circumstances of socio-economic deprivation and a continuous cycle of trauma would struggle to reach their developmental milestones without direct intervention and support. They would be unlikely to stay in education and develop the basic skills necessary for adult life, such as the ability to solve problems and make and sustain friendships.

- Barnardos operates 7 Early Intervention Service centres in communities of severe disadvantage in Dublin, Cork and Tipperary.
- Through this service, we support vulnerable children to build their self-esteem, break negative behaviour patterns, achieve their developmental, social and educational milestones, and become school-ready.



## Programmes

**Early Years** for children aged 2-3 years using the High Scope Curriculum, an international programme tailored to the complex and multiple needs of vulnerable children. It uses active participatory learning to support children to meet their developmental milestones, develop language and social skills, and resolve conflicts.

**Tús Maith** for children aged 3-5 years, builds on the High Scope curriculum and focuses on advanced social, emotional, language, phonological, numeracy and literacy skills, ensuring that children develop the cognitive skills necessary for transition to primary school.

**Parents Group** - peer support group to increase parental understanding of their children's needs, and child development and behaviour, in order to support parenting capacity.

**Individual Parent and Child Work** - tailored therapeutic work with parents and children in response to assessed needs, aimed at addressing specific issues and supporting positive parenting.

**Advocacy and Information Support** - staff advocate for access to housing and health services on behalf of families who are often unable to directly engage and navigate services themselves.

Our Early Intervention service worked with 455 children and their parents/families in 2022

## Outcomes for children

- Improved cognitive development, problem-solving skills, educational, speech and motor skills
- Improved school readiness and pro-social behaviour
- Improved eating and sleeping patterns and reduced rates of infection and ill-health
- Reduced risk of social and emotional difficulties
- Increased likelihood of school matriculation, school progression and completion later on
- Decreased likelihood of participation in risky behaviour and criminal activity in later life

Clinical research tells us that traumatic experiences in childhood can change brain development and affect mental and physical health later on in adolescence and adulthood, impacting on educational and employment prospects, resulting in the cycle of trauma and disadvantage being repeated, with long-term consequences for children, families, and society. In Barnardos, we know that by intervening early in a child's life, we reap the rewards for the child, the family and society as a whole.



### Location of Early Years Centres:

**Cork: Knocknaheeny**

**Dublin: Dun Laoghaire, Finglas, Loughlinstown, Millbrook, Mulhuddart**

**Tipperary: Thurles**