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Welcome to the latest issue of Early Years eNews

Hello <<First Name>>

In this issue of Early Years eNews we bring you details of the latest publication from Barnardos and NCN, the recent Pobal report on the early years sector as well as updates on arts bursaries in early years services and new findings from the Growing Up in Ireland study. As always, we also bring you information about Barnardos training events and the latest from our library team.



As we come to the end of what has been a difficult year for many in the early learning and care sector, it is important to acknowledge the truly inspirational work that has been carried out by educators taking

care of our youngest citizens and look ahead to even greater quality practice in 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year.

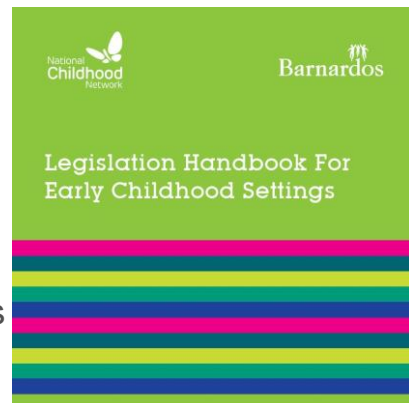
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News and Developments

BARNARDOS NEWS

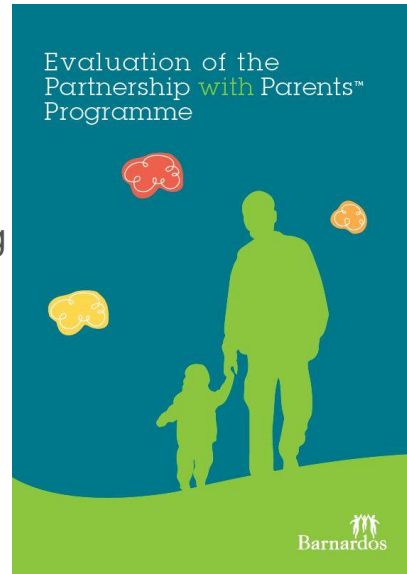
New Publication - Legislation Handbook for Early Childhood Settings

This new handbook from Barnardos and National Childhood Network is a guide to the many areas of legislation that impact upon early childhood education and care providers in Ireland, including regulation and child protection, HR, health and safety, buildings and environment, finance and management and governance. [Buy online now for €12](#) or email us resources@barnardos.ie to place a larger order



Evaluation of Barnardos Partnership with Parents™ (PwP) Programme

We were delighted to launch the evaluation of Barnardos [Partnership with Parents™ \(PwP\)](#) programme in November. PwP is an intensive, home-based, one-to-one parenting support programme for parents with multiple and complex needs. Following the design and piloting of the programme, PwP was implemented across Barnardos services, leading to a formal mixed method cohort evaluation. [The Final Report](#) and [Executive Summary](#) show that PwP is a very promising intervention with evidence of positive outcomes for the parents and children, and that the unique design and implementation of PwP works well within the complex, real world, everyday lives of parents.



Barnardos Early Years Learning and Development Facebook Group



If you haven't yet joined [our Facebook group](#), now is the time! The group is a space where we post information about our work, communicate with professionals working in the sector and share ideas

and information. We also have some exclusive discount offers on publications and training. [Join Now.](#)

NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2018/2019

Yesterday, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone T.D launched the [Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report](#). The report, which presents an overview of the early learning and care and school-age childcare sector in Ireland for 2018/2019, provides information source that is used to monitor trends and inform the direction of early learning and care and school-age childcare policy in Ireland. Some of the key findings include:



- Nine in every ten children enrolled in early learning and care and school-age childcare settings (185,971 children in total) were in receipt of State subsidies.
- 2,388 settings were supported under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), in respect of 5,513 children, a 22% increase in the number of settings receiving support under AIM and an increase of 34% in the number of children supported.
- The average weekly fee for full day provision is €184.36. This represents an increase of €6.44 or 3.6% since last year.
- The proportion of staff who hold a degree increased by 5% since 2016/17 – with one in four staff now holding a qualification at Level 7 or higher on the National Framework for Qualifications

- The average hourly wage of staff working in the sector is €12.55. This represents a 3% increase on the previous year's average hourly wage of €12.17.

Arts Bursaries for Early Years Services

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, has announced [a number of arts bursaries](#) that will be delivered through four arts and cultural organisations working with early childhood and school age services. The projects are:

- **ReCreate** will provide free access to their arts and crafts supplies service for 175 school age childcare services across the country.
- **The Ark Cultural Centre** for children will provide three artist in residencies in early learning and care services.
- **Graffiti Theatre** will connect artists with nine settings for children under three years old.
- **Children's Books Ireland** will engage with 50 early learning and care services, providing them with books and resources to encourage reading and play.

First 5 Trials

The First 5 Trials programme will be exploring and testing initiatives under [First 5, the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028](#) to determine their suitability. One of these is a pilot of an extension to the School Milk Scheme in Early Learning and Care Settings. A three-week pilot will be rolled out to twelve settings across Kilkenny and Carlow from 24th February to 13th March 2020. Educational resources specifically developed for the pilot will be



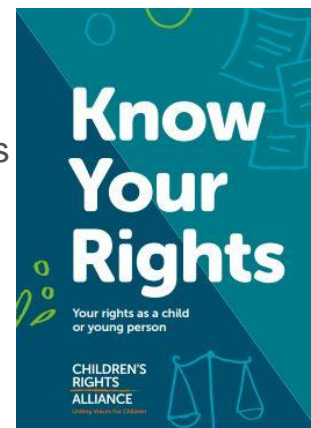
provided to each setting, as well as free milk on a daily basis for each participating child. Another pilot involving a meals programme will run in a sample of community, not-for-profit Early Learning and Care settings. Following the conclusion of the pilot and the evaluation, consideration will be given to extending this meals programme to a larger number of settings and on a more a permanent basis.

Pobal Compliance Guide

Pobal has recently published a Compliance Guide for Service Providers. The guide provides information on how to prepare for a compliance visit, what happens during a visit, and information on what is checked and how to address compliance issues. This guide is now available in the compliance resources section on PIP.

Know Your Rights

In November, The Children's Rights Alliance launched [Know Your Rights, a guide for children and young people aged 12-18](#). The publication was developed in consultation with young people and provides a comprehensive overview of rights in a number of areas.



Early Childhood Education and Care Participation by Socio-economic Background

This [new report](#) by the [Joint Research Centre \(European Commission\)](#) investigates alternatives to the current targets related to early childhood education and care, in particular by looking at socio-economic differences in the level of ECEC attendance in EU member states.

Growing Up in Ireland Study

The 11th annual conference of the Growing Up in Ireland study saw the launch of [the first findings from the GUI \(Child\) Cohort '98 at age 20](#). Findings showed a generally positive picture of the lives of 20-year-olds – high rate of participation in post-school education or training, generally in good health and most used constructive strategies to deal with stress. There were some concerning findings, however, including relatively high rate of depressive symptoms, a higher rate of overweight and obesity than when they were younger and marked inequalities in educational outcomes by family background.



Parent's Leave and Benefit Act 2019

The Parent's Leave and Benefit Act 2019 introduces two weeks paid parent's leave for each parent for all children born or adopted on or after 1 November 2019. The leave must be taken within the first year of the child's life / date of placement. It is the Government's intention to increase this by either seven or nine weeks by 2021.

Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024

In early November, Minister Zappone launched the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) [Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024](#) (DCYA). The aim of Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019–2024 is to provide a road map for the further development of the

CYPSC initiative over the next five years.



Crawl and Learn Poster

Roscommon County Childcare Committee, in collaboration with Tusla and as part of a level eight early years student placement project with Sligo Institute of Technology, have developed [an information poster on the benefits of crawling](#) that can be downloaded from their website.



Barnardos Publications

FREE PUBLICATIONS

Barnardos has a wide range of free resources to support early childhood settings working in partnership with parents and families.

If you work with a family going through bereavement or separation or a parent dealing with challenging behaviour our resources can support you. [Browse online now](#) to download or contact us resources@barnardos.ie to order hard copies.



Barnardos Training and Consultancy

We have a lot of training events planned for 2020 including Child Protection, Designated Liaison Person, Making the Most of Supervision, Promoting Positive Behaviour and Reflective Practice so keep an eye on [our website](#) for dates in your area.



Children First and Designated Liaison Person Training – Dublin and Cork venues

February to April 2020

Fee: €125.00

[Online booking now open](#)

We can also provide in-house tailored training for your team, just email training@barnardos.ie for more information.

Free Online Course - Learning Environments in Early Years

[Learning Environments in Early Years](#) is a FREE online course designed to help early years educators to provide quality environments for the children you work with. [Sign Up Now.](#)

Barnardos Library and Information Service

Are you an Early Years Provider or a childminder?

If the answer is yes, then there is good news!
Barnardos Library have created a **time limited** special discounted membership for **only €10 per annum** for all early years providers and childminders. Benefits of the package include:

- 2,500 Print books (reserve them and we'll post them out to you – **free** of charge)
- eDocuments (click the view link and download).



To register and pay please click [here](#)

New Early Years Books in Our Library

[Messy play in the early years](#)

Gascoyle, S. Routledge, 2019

[Understanding the emotional needs of children in the early years](#)

Johnson, T. Routledge, 2018

[Exploring key issues in early childhood and technology: Evolving perspectives and innovative approaches](#)

Donohue, C. Routledge, 2020

[Learning stories in practice](#)

Carr, M. Sage Publications, 2019

Scan the QR code to display all the new resources acquired by our library that were published in 2019



Full Text Articles Available from the Library Databases

Below is a sample of the 1,000s of articles available from our databases:

- Artinian, T. (2018). Engaging Teachers and Toddlers in Science. *Voices of Practitioners: Teacher Research in Early Childhood Education* Vol 13, 62–68
- Lee, B. (2017). Facilitating Reading Habits and Creating Peer Culture in Shared Book Reading: An Exploratory Case Study in a Toddler Classroom. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 45(4), 521–527
- Reed, K., & Young, J. (2019). Play Games, Learn Math! Teaching Young Children. 12(4), 9–13.



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



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