

The Study Researcher is not allowed to be alone with your child unless you or another adult is present in the room. This is for the protection of both your child and the researcher.

The Study Researchers are Officers of Statistics appointed by the Central Statistics Office and are similar to those who carry out research on behalf of the Central Statistics Office, including the Census.

Each Study Researcher carries a photo ID card. If you have any concerns about him/her or would like to confirm his/her identity you can contact Ms Pauline Needham at the ESRI on 01- 8632000.

#### What are my rights if I take part?

- If you decide to take part you and your family may choose to withdraw from the study at any time, even after the study researcher has called to your home. At that stage, if requested, we would delete all information previously collected about you.
- If there are any question(s) on the questionnaire you do not wish to answer you do not have to do so.

#### What do I do next?

Enclosed with this information leaflet you will find two copies of a form marked 'Parent's/Guardian's Consent Form'.

We would like you to read and sign both forms, returning one to your child's school in the envelope provided and keeping the other for your own records.

Once the consent form has been returned, the school Principal will pass on your contact details to the Study Team and you will become part of **Growing Up in Ireland**.

#### Your participation counts.

Taking part in **Growing Up in Ireland** is voluntary. Your participation will play a major role in the success of the study.

It is only by carrying out studies such as these that we can understand the role of all caring adults in the life of a child and find out how we can improve the future for all children and families in Ireland.

We hope that you can support us in our work and we would like to thank you, in anticipation, for your help.

#### Where can I find out more information?

##### Phone:

Freephone 1800 200 434  
or contact our Communications Officer,  
Jillian Heffernan, on 01 896 3378

##### Web:

[www.growingup.ie](http://www.growingup.ie)

##### Email:

Email us at [growingup@esri.ie](mailto:growingup@esri.ie)

##### Post:

Growing Up in Ireland,  
Economic & Social Research Institute,  
Whitaker Square,  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay,  
Dublin 2.

[www.growingup.ie](http://www.growingup.ie)

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**Growing Up  
in Ireland**  
National Longitudinal  
Study of Children



**Growing Up  
in Ireland**  
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Congratulations. Your child has been chosen to take part in a new and historic national study of children in Ireland called **Growing Up in Ireland**. Your child is only one of 8,000 nine-year-old children selected for this study.

### What is the Growing Up in Ireland study?

**Growing Up in Ireland** is a new, national, Government funded study of children. This historic study is the first and most important of its kind ever to take place in this country.

The purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development. It will:

- tell us how children develop over time.
- help us to find out what factors affect a child's development.
- look at what makes for a healthy and happy childhood and what might lead to a less happy one.
- help us to discover what children think of their own lives and learn what it means to be a child in Ireland today.

### What will it tell us?

The study will help us to find out all about children's social, emotional and physical development.

This information will help the Government to make decisions on what future policies and services will be most beneficial for children and their families in Ireland.

### How was my child selected?

The study will include 8,000 nine-year-old children and their families.

We have selected the 8,000 children from Primary Schools across Ireland on a purely random basis. We are now contacting these children and their families to invite them to take part. The random selection will make sure that we can talk to all different types of children and families from all parts of the country.

This is a unique opportunity for your child and family to take part in this very important study.

The Study Team has met with the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) and the National Parents Council (Primary), both of which fully support the Study.

### Why should my family take part?

By taking part, your family will play a crucial role in helping us to find out what it's like to be a child in Ireland in the 21st century.

This information will help us to give the Government advice on how to help make childhood a better experience for all children and to make improvements for children for many years to come.

The experience of parents who have taken part in similar studies around the world is that they enjoyed participating and talking about their child and their lives as they grow up.

### Who is running the study?

**Growing Up in Ireland** is a Government study. The Department of Health & Children is funding it through the Office of the Minister for Children in association with the Department of Social & Family Affairs and the Central Statistics Office.

The Office of the Minister for Children is overseeing and managing the study, which is being carried out by a group of researchers led by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. They are the Study Team.

### What happens if I take part?

Taking part in **Growing Up in Ireland** is very simple.

**Step One:** You sign the consent form enclosed with this information leaflet and return it to the school with your name, address and telephone number. It will then be given to the Study Team. If appropriate, the consent form may be co-signed by a parent/guardian of the child who is not resident in your household. There is also a consent form for your child.

**Step Two:** At your child's school, your child will take a short test in reading and maths. The results of the assessment tests will be kept strictly confidential. Individual results will not be seen by you, the school, the teacher or anyone outside the Study Team and the Central Statistics Office. The test results are only for the purposes of the study and will not in any way affect your child's marks in school.

**Step Three:** Your child's teacher will be asked to complete a short questionnaire about the school and about how your child is getting on.

**Step Four:** A Study Researcher will contact you by telephone to arrange a visit to your home at a time which is convenient for you and your family. This can be on a week day, in the evening time if that suits, or during the weekend.

**Step Five:** When the researcher calls to your home, you, your partner (if relevant) and your child will each be asked to fill out a separate questionnaire. The questionnaire involves ticking boxes. The visit to your home will last about 90 minutes.

*We will use an ID number on your questionnaire and this will help to ensure that your information is kept anonymous.*

### Confidentiality:

All the information given to the **Growing Up in Ireland** researcher is treated in the strictest confidence. It will be used exclusively for research purposes.

The information given by your child, the class teacher and so on, will not be seen by anyone – not even you will have access to it.

Under no circumstances could anyone in Government or any government agency or department be able to identify information given by you or your child.

### What kind of questions will my family be asked?

**You and your partner (if relevant) will be asked questions about:**

- your child's health and education
- his/her overall social and emotional development
- your own health
- your family life and experiences as a parent

**Your child will be asked questions about:**

- his/her school and home life
- activities and sports he/she enjoys
- foods he/she likes to eat
- his/her views on the local community

All the questions are very straightforward. The Study Researcher will be able to help out if you have any concerns or questions.

### Following up in four years time:

The unique part of **Growing Up in Ireland** is that it is a long-term study. This means that we would like to return to your home in four years time when your child is 13 years of age.

When the time comes we will arrange another visit to your home and ask some more questions about how your child has grown and changed over the four years.

In the meantime, to keep you up-to-date, we will send you a newsletter on the study and how it is progressing.

### Who are the Study Researchers?

The Study Researcher who will call to your home is from the Economic & Social Research Institute.

Each researcher has been specially trained for the study and has been subject to security vetting by An Garda Síochána.