

Where can I find out more information?

If you would like more information on Growing Up in Ireland you can contact us ..

By Phone:

Contact us on 01 863 2000 - ask for the Growing Up in Ireland team.

Contact our Communications Officer, Jillian Heffernan, on 01 896 3378

By Email:

Email us at growingup@esri.ie

By Post:

Growing Up in Ireland,
ESRI,
Whitaker Square,
Sir John Rogerson's Quay,
Dublin 2.

Growing Up in Ireland

National Longitudinal
Study of Children



TEACHER INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is the Growing Up in Ireland Study?

Growing Up in Ireland is a new national study of children in Ireland. 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 in Ireland 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?

This study will focus on all aspects of a child's life including his/her social, emotional, and physical development, and health status etc. and not exclusively on a child's education.

From an educational perspective we will be looking at what role the education system plays in a child's development with a view to formulating policies to encourage positive educational outcomes for as many children as possible.

The data collected will be used to advise the Government on future policies and services that will be of most benefit for children and families in Ireland and which will ensure that all children can have the best possible start in life.

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, the Department of Education & Science and the Central Statistics Office.

A group of researchers led by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) and The Children's Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin is carrying out the study.

How was my school selected?

The study will include 8,000 9-year-old children, their families, teachers and Principals.

The most effective way for us to recruit a representative sample of 8,000 9-year-olds is through the National School system.

We will be randomly selecting National Schools from across Ireland from which to select the children. At the moment we are carrying out a pilot for the main study.

What does participation involve?

Step One: You will be asked to fill out two short questionnaires: (i) about your role as a teacher and (ii) about the study child/children in your class. The first is a short questionnaire covering general questions including age; qualifications and length of time teaching. The second questionnaire will relate to the study child and will cover questions including the child's subjects; computer usage; attendance record; and academic performance.

Step Two: The school Principal will fill out a questionnaire about the school.

Step Three: A Study Researcher from the ESRI will administer the Drumcondra reading and maths tests to the study children in your class, under exam conditions. You or another adult will be asked to be present during the tests. You will not, however, be asked to correct the test scripts.

The Study Researcher is not allowed to be alone with the participating child / children unless another adult is present in the room. This ensures the protection of both the child and the researcher.

Will this information be kept confidential?

All the information provided by you will be treated as strictly confidential. The study is being carried out under the Statistics Act 1993 which governs the work of the Central Statistics Office e.g. the Census.

The information you provide will be used only for the statistical purposes of this study (except in circumstances where the information suggests that a child may be at risk of harm).

The information provided by you cannot be accessed by the child's parents and will not be available under the Freedom of Information Act.

Who are the Study Researchers?

The Study Researcher who will call to your school is from the ESRI.

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

The Study Researchers have been appointed as Officers of Statistics by the Central Statistics Office and have signed confidentiality agreements in the same way as the enumerators who worked on the recent 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 may choose to withdraw from the study at any time, even after you have completed the questionnaire.
- 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?

A Study Researcher from the ESRI will call to your school at an agreed time to conduct the Drumcondra tests. You will also be provided at that time with the questionnaires which we would like you to complete. These will be collected from you. They will not be seen by anyone in the school, by the child or by the child's parents.

Your Participation Counts

Although taking part in **Growing Up in Ireland** is voluntary, your participation is very important to the success of the study.

It is only by carrying out studies such as this that we can paint a complete picture of the world of the child growing up in Ireland and accordingly find out how we can improve the future for all children and families.

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

Support for Growing Up in Ireland

This study is being supported and endorsed by:

The Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO)
The National Parents Council (Primary Branch)
Treoir
One Family