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Health and Welfare  
Sláinte agus Leas

# 10 Health and Welfare

Health and Welfare emerged as an aspect of critical importance in the development of *Síolta*, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education. Child protection and welfare has come to the fore of the policy agenda in recent years and there are a number of pieces of government legislation and regulation to ensure this is achieved in practice (DHC, 1999a; 2002e).

The theme of Health and Welfare within the Second Edition of the Audit of Research consists of 87 publications. Following a process of thematic analysis, these publications were categorised under two sub-themes, namely:

- Child Health and Well-being [36]
- Child Protection and Welfare [51]

## Child Health and Well-being

The sub-theme of Child Health and Well-being focuses on strategies to ensure that the physical and emotional health and well-being of all children are supported and nurtured within ECCE settings. Child well-being has become a major focus of recent government policy through the establishment of a set of national well-being indicators by the National Children's Office (Brooks and Hanafin, 2005; Hanafin and Brooks, 2005a; 2005b; National Children's Office, 2005a). The DHC (1999b; 2001a; 2001c; 2002a) has conducted and commissioned a large quantity of research in relation to promoting child well-being through family support services. Carroll (2002), Costello (1999), Hayes (2004c) and Nic Gabhainn and Sixsmith (2005) have documented significant aspects of child well-being in the Irish context. The critical aspect of providing strategies and mechanisms to cope with bereavement in early childhood has also been the focus of a number of researchers (Barnardos, 2002c; Daly, 2006; 2006b). Childhood nutrition and the increased emphasis on preventing obesity in young children has been addressed by the CECDE (2004f), Greene (2006) and the South Western Area Health Board *et al.* (2000). Specific social groups have been the subject of research in this area also, including Travellers (Cassidy, 2006a; DHC, 2002b).

Barnardos (2002c). *Someone to Talk to: A Handbook on Childhood Bereavement*. Dublin: Barnardos' National Children's Resource Centre.

Barnardos and the Border Counties Childcare Network (2006). *Health and Safety in Childcare: A Guide for Centre-based Services*. Dublin: Barnardos' National Children's Resource Centre.

# Sláinte agus Leas

Tháinig Sláinte agus Leas chun cinn mar gné ríthábhachtach d'fhorbairt *Síolta*, an Chreatlach Náisiúnta Cháilíochta d'Oideachas na Luath-Óige. Tá cosaint agus leas leanaí chun tosaigh sa chlár oibre beartais le blianta beaga anuas agus tá roinnt píosaí reachtaíochta agus rialúcháin rialtais ann chun a chinntiú go gcuirtear ar fáil sa chleachtas é (DHC, 1999a; 2002e).

Tá 87 foilseachán faoin téama Sláinte agus Leas sa Dara hEagrán den Iniúchadh Taighde. I ndiaidh anailíse téamaí, cuireadh na foilseacháin sin faoi dhá fho-théama, mar seo a leanas:

- Sláinte agus Dea-Bhraistint Leanaí [36]
- Cosaint agus Leas Leanaí [51]

## Sláinte agus Dea-Bhraistint Leanaí

Díríonn an fo-théama Sláinte agus Dea-Bhraistint Leanaí ar straitéisí chun a chinntiú go dtacaítear le agus go gcothaítear sláinte agus dea-bhraistint mhothúcháinach leanaí i suímh COLO. Tá dea-bhraistint leanaí mar phríomhfhócas beartais rialtais a rinneadh le déanaí mar bhunaigh an Oifig Náisiúnta Leanaí sraith táscairí dea-bhraistinte náisiúnta (Brooks agus Hanafin, 2005; Hanafin agus Brooks, 2005a; 2005b; an Oifig Náisiúnta Leanaí, 2005a). Rinne agus choimisiúnaigh an DHC (1999b; 2001a; 2001c; 2002a) go leor taighde faoi dhea-bhraistint leanaí a chur chun cinn trí mheán seirbhísí tacaíochta teaghlaigh. Thairfead Carroll (2002), Costello (1999), Hayes (2004c) agus Nic Gabhainn agus Sixsmith (2005) gnéithe suntasacha den dea-bhraistint leanaí i gcomhthéacs na hÉireann. Bhí fócas roinnt taighdeoirí (Barnardos, 2002c; Daly, 2006; 2006b) ar an tábhacht mhór a bhaineann le straitéisí agus meicníochtaí a sholáthar chun déileáil le méala le linn na luath-óige. Thug an CECDE (2004f), Greene (2006) agus Bord Sláinte Cheantar an Iardheiscirt *et al.* (2000) aghaidh ar chothú leanaí agus an bhéim mhéadaithe ar chosc a chur ar mhurtall i leanaí óga. Rinneadh taighde sa réimse seo ar ghrúpaí sóisialta sonracha freisin, an Lucht Siúil san áireamh (Cassidy, 2006a; DHC, 2002b).

Brooks, A. and Hanafin, S. (2005). *Measuring Child Well-Being – An Inventory of Key Indicators, Domains and Indicator Selection Criteria to Support the Development of a National Set of Child Well-Being Indicators*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Burke, U. (1999). *Quality of Life in Chronic Childhood Illness*. Ph.D Thesis. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin.

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Department of Health and Children (2002a). *Best Health for Children - Investing in Parenthood to Achieve Best Health for Children, The Supporting Parents Strategy*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children.

Department of Health and Children (2002b). *Traveller Health: A National Strategy 2002-2005*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Donohoe, P. (2006). The Bullying Pack. Paper presented at the OMEP (Ireland) Annual Research Conference, *In Celebration of Difference in the Early Years*, University College Cork, April 2006.

Douglas, F. (2003). "The Breath of Life": The Young Child and Self Esteem (in) Hayes, N. and Kernan, M. (Eds.) (2003a). *Transformations: Theory and Practice in Early Education: Proceedings of the OMEP (Ireland) Conference 2003*. Cork: OMEP (Ireland), pp. 16-36.

Gleeson, M. (2005). *An Exploratory Study Investigating Health Promotion Activities in Early Years Childcare*. MA. Thesis. Limerick: University of Limerick.

Greene, A. (2006). *The Implementation of a Nutrition Education Programme with Children in a Senior Infant Class*. M. Ed. Thesis. Dublin: St. Patrick's College.

Hanafin, S. and Brooks, A. (2005a). *Report on the Development of a National Set of Child Well-Being Indicators in Ireland*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

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## Child Protection and Welfare

The large number of publications on Child Protection and Welfare provides evidence that the topic is becoming increasingly important in Ireland. Government departments have published a number of guidelines and recommendations to ensure that child welfare

## Cosaint agus Leas Leanaí

Tugann an líon mór foilseachán faoi Chosaint agus Leas Leanaí le fios go bhfuil an t-ábhar sin ag éirí níos tábhachtaí in Éirinn. Tá roinnt treoirilínte agus moltaí foilsithe ag ranna rialtais chun a chinntiú go mbíonn leas agus cosaint leanaí chun tosaigh sa chleachtas sna suímh uile

and protection are to the fore of practice with all settings (An Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí, 1999; Department of Health, 1996b; DHC, 1997c; 1999a; 2002e). These policies and guidelines have been complemented by a range of publications by organisations and agencies that have translated their implications for practice in ECCE settings (Fox, 2004; 2005; NCNA, 2000c; North Eastern Health Board, 2001b; North Western Health Board, 2000; Western Health Board, 2001). Buckley (1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2002), Buckley *et al.* (1997; 1999), Ferguson and Kenny (1995), Ferguson and McNamara (1996), Leeson (2003) and Skehill *et al.* (1999) have documented the policy context for child protection in Ireland in recent years.

(An Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí, 1999; An Roinn Sláinte, 1996b; DHC, 1997c; 1999a; 2002e). Tá na beartais agus na treoirínte sin tacaithe ag raon foilseachán ó eagraíochtaí agus gníomhaireachtaí a mhíniú le impléachtaí na mbeartais agus na dtreoirínte don chleachtas i suímh COLO (Fox, 2004; 2005; NCNA, 2000c; Bord Sláinte an Oirthuaiscirt, 2001b; Bord Sláinte an Iardheiscirt, 2000; Bord Sláinte an Iarthair, 2001). Rinne Buckley (1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2002), Buckley *et al.* (1997; 1999), Ferguson agus Kenny (1995), Ferguson agus McNamara (1996), Leeson (2003) agus Skehill *et al.* (1999) cur síos ar an gcomhthéacs beartais do chosaint leanaí in Éirinn le blianta beaga anuas.

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