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Environments
Timpeallachtaí

The environment in which the young child spends time has a huge impact on the quality of her/his experiences and it is of critical importance that research sheds further light on the relationship between the environment and the quality of ECCE services.

Environments is one of the national Standards of *Síolta* and considering its importance to the quality of services, it is somewhat surprising that there is little Irish-based research on the matter. In total, 21 publications are listed under this theme.

The publications under this theme can be divided between research on the indoor and outdoor environment. Guidance on setting design, layout and equipment has been provided by a number of organisations such as the BCCN (2002a), the Department of the Environment and Local Government (2001), the IPPA (2004e) and the NCNA (2002a). Carty (2006) consulted young children on their perception of the environment in which they learned within the infant classes, while Moore (2000) analysed the impact of the environment on cognitive development in both preschools and primary schools. Uí Ghrádaigh (2004d; 2004f) provides advice in the Irish language to Naíonraí and Irish language settings in relation to the environment. The BCCN (2002b), the East Coast Area Health Board *et al.* (2001a) and South Dublin CCC (2006b) have all produced guidelines and advice on the design and resourcing of outdoor spaces within ECCE settings. Duffy (2006a; 2006b) and Kernan (2005; 2006) have focused their research on the outdoor learning environment in both historical and contemporary times.

Border Counties Childcare Network (2002a). *Premises: Design Features in Childcare Services*. Monaghan: Border Counties Childcare Network.

Border Counties Childcare Network (2002b). *Out Door Play: Design and Benefits*. Monaghan: Border Counties Childcare Network.

Carty, L. (2006). *The Views of Young Children and their Teachers on Learning Spaces in Schools*. M. Ed. Thesis. Dublin: St. Patrick's College.

Department of the Environment and Local Government (2001). *Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.

DHR for Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. (1998). *Children's Play. Questionnaire Analysis: 'Where I Play'*. Dublin: Ballymun Regeneration Limited.

Duffy, C. (2006a). Promoting Outdoor Play through Learning Stories. Paper presented at the OMEP

Bíonn tionchar mór ag an timpeallacht ina gcaitheann leanbh óg a c(h)uid ama ar chaighdeán a (h)éispéiris agus tá sé ríthábhachtach taighde a dhéanamh chun míniú níos fearr a thabhairt ar an gcaidreamh idir an timpeallacht agus cáilíocht seirbhísí COLO.

Tá timpeallachtaí ar cheann de Chaighdeáin náisiúnta *Síolta* agus is cúis iontais nach bhfuil mórán taighde Éireannach air, nuair a thuigtear an tábhacht a bhaineann le timpeallacht i gcáilíocht seirbhísí. San iomlán, tá 21 foilseachán liostaithe faoin téama seo.

Féadtar na foilseacháin faoin téama seo a roinnt idir thaighde ar an timpeallacht laistigh agus lasmuigh. Thug roinnt eagraíochtaí cosúil leis an BCCN (2002a), an Roinn Comhshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil (2001), an IPPA (2004e) agus an NCNA (2002a) treoir faoi dheardh, leagan amach agus trealamh suíomh. Rinne Carty (2006) comhairliúchán le leanaí óga chun a fháil amach cén dearcadh a bhí acu faoin timpeallacht inar fhoghlaim siad sna ranganna naíonán, agus rinne Moore (2006) anailís ar thionchar na timpeallachta ar fhorbairt chognaíoch i réamhscoileanna agus bunscoileanna araon. Tugann Uí Ghrádaigh (2004d; 2004f) comhairle as Gaeilge maidir leis an timpeallacht do Naíonraí agus suímh Ghaeilge. Tháirg an BCCN (2002b), Bord Sláinte Réigiún an Chósta Thoir *et al.* (2001a) agus CCC Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas (2006b) treoirlínte agus comhairle faoi dheardh agus acmhainní do spáis allamuigh laistigh de shuímh COLO. Tá fócas taighde Duffy (2006a; 2006b) agus Kernan (2005; 2006) ar an timpeallacht foghlama allamuigh go stairiúil agus go comhaimseartha.

(Ireland) Annual Research Conference, *In Celebration of Difference in the Early Years*, University College Cork, April 2006.

Duffy, C. (2006b). Promoting Outdoor Play Through Learning Stories. Paper presented at the 16th Annual EECERA Conference, *Democracy and Culture in Early Childhood Education*, Iceland, August/September 2006.

East Coast Area Health Board, South Western Area Health Board and Northern Area Health Board (2001a). *Guidelines on Outdoor Play Facilities for Preschool Services*. Dublin: East Coast Area Health Board, South Western Area Health Board and Northern Area Health Board.

Gallagher, M. (2005). A Study of Spontaneous Drawings of Young Children; Implications for the Quality of the Learning Environment (in) Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (Ed.) (2005d). *'Questions of Quality' - Conference Proceedings*. Dublin: Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education, pp. 102-111.

Healy, C. (2004). Preparing the Environment for the Under Threes. Paper presented at *Up 2 Three Conference*, University College Cork, November 2004.

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Kernan, M. (2005). Access to Space and Use Of Time: Exploring the Experience of the Outdoors in Early Childhood Education Settings. Paper presented at the EECERA Conference, *Young Children as Citizens: Identity, Belonging, Participation*, Dublin, August/ September 2005.

Kernan, M. (2006). Outdoors in Early Childhood Education: Reinventing Froebel's Garden Across Space and Time in Dublin. Presentation at the International Froebel Society Second Biennial Conference, *Froebel: From Play to Work – Taking Froebel Forward*, Froebel College of Education, Dublin, June 2006.

Moore, N. (2000). *The Impact of Structural and Process Elements of Preschool and Primary School Environments on Children's Cognitive Development at Four Years of Age*. M. Phil. Thesis. Dublin: Dublin Institute of Technology.

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Nic Niocláis, D. (2006). *Children's Use of Time and Space, After School and at the Weekend*. M. Ed. Thesis. Dublin: St. Patrick's College.

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Uí Ghrádaigh, D. (2004d). Timpeallacht Forbartha agus Foghlama (in) Uí Ghrádaigh, D. (Eag.) (2004). *Cúnamh: Tacábhar Cúram Leanaí 0 – 6*. Baile Átha Cliath: Forbairt Naíonraí Teo, pp. 77-80.

Uí Ghrádaigh, D. (2004f). An Dúlra agus Cúrsaí Eolaíochta (in) Uí Ghrádaigh, D. (Eag.) (2004). *Cúnamh: Tacábhar Cúram Leanaí 0 – 6*. Baile Átha Cliath: Forbairt Naíonraí Teo, pp. 87-90.

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