

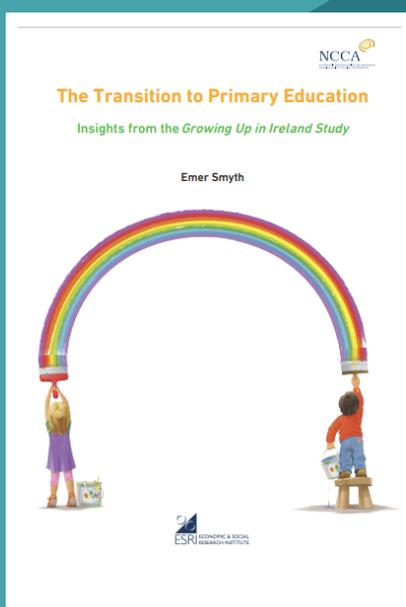
## Age 9 months: **Maternal health behaviours and child growth in infancy**

- Experiencing a lot of stress in pregnancy increased the likelihood of smoking and/or drinking
- Patterns of drinking during pregnancy had a complex relationship with maternal age
- Breast-feeding rates in Ireland were low (56%) compared to the UK and other European countries



## Age 3: **Effects of economic recession and family stress on 3-year-olds**

- Fathers in the lowest income group were much more likely to be made redundant during the recession
- Being behind with utility bills was associated with more depressive symptoms for mothers and fathers
- More depressive symptoms and marital dissatisfaction had a negative effect on the emotional quality of parenting interactions



## Age 5: **The transition to primary school**

- Teachers in disadvantaged (DEIS) schools place more emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills
- Most children transitioned to primary school with ease; doing learning activities in the home at an early age helped
- Girls did better than boys on early vocabulary and social skills



## Age 9: **Key findings for 9-year-olds**

- Mothers were the most likely to look after a sick child on a school-day in families with two working parents
- Children liked reading and maths subjects much more than Irish
- Only a quarter of 9-year-olds did the recommended one hour a day of physical activity