

CARER INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is the *Growing Up in Ireland* study?

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

The purpose of the study is to understand 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 childhood.
- 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.

The 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 did you get my name and contact details?

Growing Up in Ireland includes 11,000 3-year-old children and their families.

Your name and contact details were provided by the study child's parent/guardian who has agreed to participate in the study.

As part of the study he/she was asked if the study child was cared for by anyone (such as you) for 8 or more hours per week and whether or not we could send a questionnaire to you about the child.

Why am I being asked to take part?

As a carer of the study child we feel that you too have a contribution to make.

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 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 and Youth Affairs in association with the Department of Social Protection and the Central Statistics Office.

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs 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.

What do I do next?

We would ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided.

The questionnaire asks you for some details on your care of the child as well as some questions about your background. It is very straightforward and involves ticking boxes.

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Will this information be kept confidential?

All the information that you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be seen by the child's parent/guardian. It will be used exclusively for research purposes and no-one, other than you, will have access to the information you provide.

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

The Study is being carried out under the Statistics Act (1993). This is the same legislation used to carry out the Census of Population and ensures complete confidentiality of all information collected.

The information you provide will have your name, address and other identifying information removed. It will then be stored on a computer so that it will be available to researchers. The information can be used only for research purposes. It would be an offence to use it for any other reason.

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.
- If there are any question(s) on the questionnaire you do not wish to answer you do not have to do so.

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:

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