



Where can I find out more information?

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**Growing Up
in Ireland**
National Longitudinal
Study of Children



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Hello there!

You and your parents have been chosen to take part in a new and very special project called **Growing Up in Ireland**. This leaflet will tell you all about the project. When you have read it, you and your parents can decide if you would like to take part.

So what is Growing Up in Ireland all about?

The Government has asked us to start a new and exciting project to find out all about what it is like to be a child growing up in Ireland today.

We think the best way to find this out is to ask nine-year-old children just like you. So we have picked 8,000 nine-year-old boys and girls like you from around the country.

We have decided to call this project **Growing Up in Ireland**.

Why does the Government need to find out about children?

This project is really important as it will help the Government to make better decisions about things that affect children and to make life better for all the children and families in the country.

Why was I picked?

All the nine-year-old boys and girls picked to take part in **Growing Up in Ireland** were chosen at random, which is like picking a name from a hat.

This was the best way to make sure we included children from all different kinds of families and from all different parts of the country.



What happens if I take part?

Taking part is pretty easy and will not take too much time.

- a person from our team, called a Study Researcher, will visit your school.
- they will ask you to do a short test in reading and maths. There is no need to worry about the test. It is not hard and you do not have to learn anything for it. No-one, not even your mum or dad or your teacher, will be told how you do in this test.
- the Study Researcher will ask your teacher to answer some questions about you and how you are getting on in school.
- the Study Researcher will arrange with your parents to call to your home at a time which suits you and your family. He or she will fill in a form with you. This form will ask you lots of questions about yourself. Things like: 'what you think of your school and your teacher'; 'what you think of the place where you live'; 'what kind of food you eat'; 'do you help out around the house' and so on.
- your parents, or whoever looks after you at home, will also get a form to fill out. Their form will ask them questions about you and also about themselves.

Other things you should know.

If you do not want to be a part of the study any more, even after you have filled out your form, that is your decision and it will be okay with us.

If there are any questions on your form that you do not like and do not want to answer, you do not have to. Instead you can just leave a blank space.

Four years time:

We would like to come back and talk to you and your family again when you are 13-years-old to make sure we know absolutely everything about growing up in Ireland.

This will help us to understand how much things have changed in your life over that time.

What do I do now?

When you have read this leaflet talk to your Mum or Dad about taking part. We have also given your parents a leaflet to tell them all about the study so you can decide together.

Enclosed with this information you will find two copies of a form marked 'Child's Consent Form'. We would like you to read and sign both forms. Return one to your school in the envelope with the form from your Mum or Dad and keep the other form yourself.

Thank You!

We would like to thank you for being part of this project. You are helping to make a better future for all children in Ireland.

