

# Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland is a Government study. The Department of Health & Children is funding it through the Office of the Minister for Children in association with the Department of Social & Family Affairs and the Central Statistics Office. The Office of the Minister for Children 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. The most significant study of its kind ever to take place in Ireland, the main aim is to paint a full picture of children in Ireland and how they are developing in the current social, economic and cultural environment. It will measure the factors that affect the well-being of children in Irish families and contribute to the future design of policies and services to ensure all children can have the best possible start in life.

## The main objectives of Growing Up in Ireland are:

- \* To describe the lives of children in Ireland, to establish what is typical and normal as well as atypical and problematic
- \* To chart the development of children over time, to examine the progress and well-being of children at critical periods from birth to adulthood
- \* To identify the key factors that, independently of others, most help or hinder children's development
- \* To establish the effects of early childhood experiences on later life
- \* To map dimensions of variation in children's lives
- \* To identify the persistent adverse effects that lead to social disadvantage and exclusion, educational difficulties, ill health and deprivation
- \* To obtain children's views/opinions on their lives
- \* To provide a bank of data on the whole child

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**Growing Up in Ireland**

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**Office for the Minister for Children**

<http://www.omc.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=120>

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*Founded in 1960 as part of the “Whitaker revolution” in Irish policy-making, its mission is to produce high quality research, with a core focus on Ireland’s economic and social development, in order to inform policy-making and societal understanding. ESRI research has been a vital constituent of the national debate for over 40 years. Its in-depth analysis has underpinned many key national decisions, such as joining EMU, undertaking the National Development Plan and embarking on policies to combat poverty.*

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