



Email
info@startstrong.ie

Web
www.startstrong.ie

Social networks
facebook.com/StartStrongIreland
twitter.com/StartStrongIrl

Blog
0-6.ie



the next six years: the first six years

The National Children's Strategy and children's early years.
Tuesday 13th December, Gresham Hotel.

Programme



Programme:

9.30 – 10.00	Registration & Coffee	
10.00 – 11.15 Plenary Session 1	Children's early years: a policy context	Chairperson: Dr. Tony Crooks, Start Strong
	Conference Opening	Ciairín de Buis, Director, Start Strong
	Reflections – where have we come from, to go where?	Professor Nóirín Hayes
	The longterm impact of children's early years: research evidence and policy choices	Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee Break	
11.45 – 12.15 Plenary Session 2	National Children's Strategy	Chairperson: Dr. Tony Crooks, Start Strong
	Why a National Children's Strategy? Looking back over the last 10 years, and forward to the next 6 years.	Senator Jillian Van Turnhout
	From policy to implementation.	Mary Doyle, Director General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
12.15 – 1.00	Panel Session & Debate	Ciairín de Buis, Professor Nóirín Hayes, Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford, Senator Jillian Van Turnhout, Mary Doyle
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	
2.00 – 3.45 Parallel Sessions		
3.45 – 4.30	Where to from here? Feedback from parallel sessions and panel debate.	Chairperson: Norah Gibbons, Start Strong/Barnardos

Parallel Sessions:

Policy challenges for deepening quality.

Chair Irene Gunning, Start Strong/Early Childhood Ireland.

Expert Contributor Dr. Geraldine French, DIT. *Quality in an Irish context.*

Expert Contributor Dr. Mathias Urban, University of East London.

Quality and professionalism: towards a competent system in ECEC.

Rapporteur Michelle Harte, BCCN.

Childminding – Recognition and regulation.

Chair Patricia Murray, Childminding Ireland.

Expert Contributor Rose Murphy, Waterford County Childcare Committee & Noirín Healy-Magwa, Waterford City Childcare Committee.

Learning from the local for the national.

Expert Contributor Maggie Simpson, Scottish Childminding Association.

Recognition and regulation – the Scottish Experience.

Rapporteur Karen McDonnell, Start Strong / Cork County Childcare Committee.

Early care and education for all young children – Access for children with disabilities.

Chair Colette Murray, Equality and Diversity Early Childhood National Network

Expert Contributor Alice Griffin, Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency.

Inclusion in the mainstream: The challenge for childcare providers.

Expert Contributor Dr. Mary Moloney & Eucharia McCarthy, Mary Immaculate College.

Getting it right in the first six years: Inclusive policy and practice for children with special educational needs in early childhood settings.

Rapporteur TBC

Government policies joining up local services.

Chair Pat Bennett, Family Support Agency.

Expert Contributor Suzanne Connolly, Barnardos. *Joining up services locally – building children's hubs.*

Expert Contributor Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Early Years. *Integrating services for children and families, some lessons from Sure Start in Northern Ireland.*

Rapporteur Gráinne Smith, CDI Tallaght.

Parents & Families.

Chair Orla Tuohy, Start Strong / Lifestart.

Speaker Dr. Josephine Bleach, Early Learning Initiative. *Supporting parents to support their children.*

Speaker Dr. Aisling Gillen, HSE. *Supporting parents to protect children.*

Rapporteur Eleanor McClorey, youngballymun.

Joining up the dots? Linking policy, children and families.

Chair Eifion Williams, Dublin City Children's Services Committee.

Speaker Helen Johnston, NES. *Integrating policies – the lifecycle approach.*

Speaker Dr. Noelle Spring, Katharine Howard Foundation.

Integration of policy via universal provision for 3-6 year-olds.

Rapporteur Dr. Siobhán Bradley