



Provision of Education in Ireland

Pre-school, primary, second level, special needs,
3rd level, adult & 2nd chance

Preschool education

- Free pre-school education scheme for children from 3 years of age.
- Interactive, stimulating learning environment

Types

Day Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate childminding service with integrated education & socialisation development. • Provide eating, sleeping, changing, washing & playing facilities • Community based or primary run • Cater for children up to 5 years old • Run by qualified persons, with a certain ratio of careers to children to ensure adequate care & attention
Playschools & Play groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pre-school programme that involves learning-based play and learning by doing to prepare children for the move to primary school • Operate for 3-4 hours daily • Community based or privately run. • Cater for children 3-5 years old • Run by qualified persons, with a certain ratio of careers to children to ensure adequate care & attention
Montessori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates a childminding service that enables children to learn at their own pace through play. They can choose activities they participate in from many possibilities. • Self-motivation, independence & creativity encouraged. • Cater for children up to 5 years • Generally privately run by trained Montessori teachers, with a certain ratio of careers to children to ensure adequate care & attention
Naionrai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pre school programme through the Irish language that involves learning through play. • They can choose activities they participate in from many possibilities. • Operates for 3 to 4 ours daily • Used as preparation for children to attend a primary Gaelscoil. • Caters for children aged 3-5 years. • Run by qualified people who are Irish speakers, with a certain ratio of careers to children to ensure adequate care & attention

Benefits of Pre-school Education

- Develops a child's social skills i.e. talking, sharing, listening, mixing with adults and children.
- Child develops confidence i.e. gain independence from parents and forms relationships outside the home.
- Enhances child's intellectual development through the provision of stimulating learning environment
- Child enhances their physical development i.e. hand eye coordination through games.

Initiatives to support equality of opportunity to pre-primary school.

Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Early Childhood Care and Education for children of pre-school age to enable them to be ready for formal learning & social environment at primary school • Eligible for scheme when they reach 3 & until they transfer to primary school. • Must not be older than 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years by the end of the pre-school year. • Children services taking part in the ECCE scheme must provide a pre-school educational programme that follows Siolta, the national framework for early years care & education
Early Start Pre-School Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year pre-primary school intervention scheme in selected primary schools in disadvantaged areas. • Objective is to enhance the overall development of children between 3 and 4 who are at risk not reaching their potential within the education system. • Curriculum focuses on language, cognition & social and personal development to provide a good foundation for future educational achievement. • Run by qualified primary school teachers & childcare workers. • After completing the early start pre-school programme, children proceed to Junior Infants.