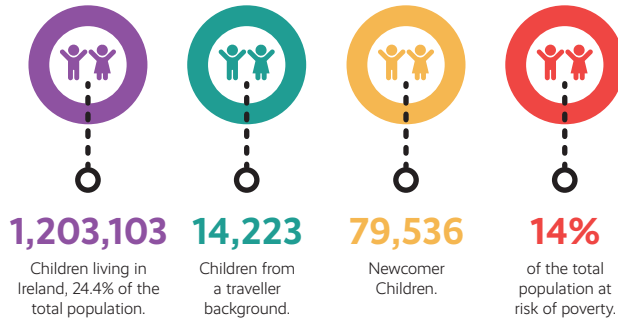


# Some Diversity Statistics...

## Republic of Ireland



(State of Nation's Children Report (SONC), December 2020)

## Northern Ireland



NISRA 2019 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland (11/06/20)

School enrolments 2019-20, Dept of Educaion

Northern Ireland Poverty Bulletin 2018-19 (published May 2020)

Department of Education, Data Infographics 2019/20

## What is the Rural Respecting Difference Programme?

RRDP is a programme that offers children the opportunity to discuss and acknowledge similarities and differences between themselves and others, enhancing children's social and emotional development.

Children will also be supported to develop an understanding of the diversity of their immediate world in a way that is appropriate to their age and development.

This project is supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



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Formerly known as NIPPA

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## How can I be involved as a Parent?

Early Years values the involvement and support of parents and carers. We recognise that adults' love, nurturing and support are key to building foundations for children's social and emotional development.

You can get involved at home with your child through attending two parent workshops explaining the programme, the research behind it, the methods that will be used and the positive outcomes for your child. You will also receive a parent pack so you can continue this work at home with your child.

You can get involved by sharing your skills for activities such as sports, cookery, music and dance and by participating in the evaluation process.

[www.early-years.org](http://www.early-years.org)

# What practical steps can I take to support my pre- preschool aged child with the programme at home?

## Why is *parental involvement* important?

Use play to explore situations for problem-solving, for example, "What do we need to do to make your bedroom tidy today?"

Use natural opportunities to highlight positive aspects of difference e.g. if your child has a much loved teddy that is missing an eye or looking a bit tattered, talk with your child about how much they still love them and how special it is to them.

When your child experiences times of emotion or stress, provide calmness and reassurance by talking it through at their level.

Pre-preschool aged children develop attachments to help them understand and manage their feelings and emotions, but this needs the support of adults.

For young children to develop the capacity to understand difference, they need to understand themselves first. For this to be successful, all adults in the life of the child need to support this development.

This is achieved through developing positive relationships with the child, helping them manage difficult times and situations by providing reassurance, connections and language.

Spend time playing with your child, following their lead.

Talk about how our bodies feel when experiencing different emotions.



Parent Pack



Persona Dolls