

Connecting, Innovating and  
Supporting the Childhood  
Services' Sector

Celebrating 25 years of supporting  
the quality agenda in Early Years  
and School Age Childcare Services

## Speaker Profiles

Minister Roderic O Gorman



TD Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration  
and Youth Affairs

Dr Niall Muldoon



Ombudsman for Children

Appointed as Ombudsman by President Michael D Higgins on 17 February 2015. Dr Muldoon's background is as a clinical psychologist and has worked in the area of child protection for almost 20 years.

Before becoming Ombudsman for Children in 2015, he worked at the OCO as Director of Investigations, and before that was the national clinical director of The CARI Foundation, a charity that provides therapy and support for children affected by sexual abuse.

As Ombudsman for Children, Dr Muldoon says, "I want to see an Ireland where all children and young people are actively heard and respected so that they experience safe, fulfilling and happy everyday lives".

Professor Nóirín Hayes

Trinity College, Dublin



Professor Nóirín Hayes is an academic in early childhood education and care. She works within a bio-ecological framework located within children's rights and convenes the Researching Early Childhood Education Collaborative [RECEC] at Trinity College.

Dr Marie Gibbons

Tusla



Dr Marie Gibbons is the Early Years Specialist in Tusla Children's Services Regulation. Marie has worked as a front-line child welfare practitioner, an early years inspector and a research and information officer for Tusla. Marie has also developed and taught BA and MA adult education modules on safeguarding young children, collaborative working in the early years, and reflective practice. Her research interests include young children's participation in decision making processes.

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Deirdre Molloy

Tusla



Deirdre is an Early Years Inspector with TUSLA and has a background in public health nursing. She has a special interest in children's rights and in the health, welfare and development of preschool children. Deirdre holds an MA in Early Childhood Studies from NUI Galway and has researched young children's participation in early years inspections.

Dr Maresa Duignan

Department of Education



Assistant Chief Inspector - Early Years Education and Policy at Department of Education and Skills. Maresa played a leading role in the development of the Síolta Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and in developing the Department of Education inspection process for early learning and care services.

Dr Jacqueline Fallon

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment



Dr Jacqueline Fallon is a Director, Curriculum and Assessment with the NCCA, leading teams and projects in the Early Childhood and Primary areas, including the updating of Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. She has worked as a primary teacher specialising in the early years of primary, as a lecturer in initial teacher education, and with the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education where she was an author of *Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education*. Her doctoral research focused on teachers' beliefs about play pedagogy.