



Tús Maith Programme 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

# Tús Maith (Best Start) Programme

The **Tús Maith** programme is an early years care and education programme for children aged 3-5 years.

The overall programme outcome of **Tús Maith** is that the child will be ready for primary school and will develop the specific skills necessary for this transition.



# Why Tús Maith?

Barnardos undertook a needs analysis (in 2005) of (210) children attending its services (from 27 different project locations throughout Ireland).

The data was then compared with a random sample of (657) children living in the Dublin area.

The range of **Needs** demonstrated by the children accessing Barnardos were found to be complex and multi-faceted with the most common among them being:

# Barnardos Needs Analysis 2005

- Child with behavioural difficulties - 46 %
- Child has poor relationship with peers - 45%
- Child has poor relationship with their mother - 34%

The children were also found to have poor social and emotional skills, limited access to books and to be experiencing difficulties in making and maintaining relationships.

In order to prevent such problems, early childhood programmes need to have a particular focus on developing the child's social-emotional competence, as well as addressing the actual problem behaviour (Masten & Coatsworth, 1998; Rutter, 1987).

# Tús Maith (Best Start) Programme

The ability of young children to manage their emotions and behaviours and to make meaningful friendships is an important prerequisite for school readiness.

Socially competent children are also more academically successful and poor social skills are a strong predictor of academic failure.

(Webster-Stratton & Reid, 2004; Connell & Prinz, 2002).

# Why Tús Maith?

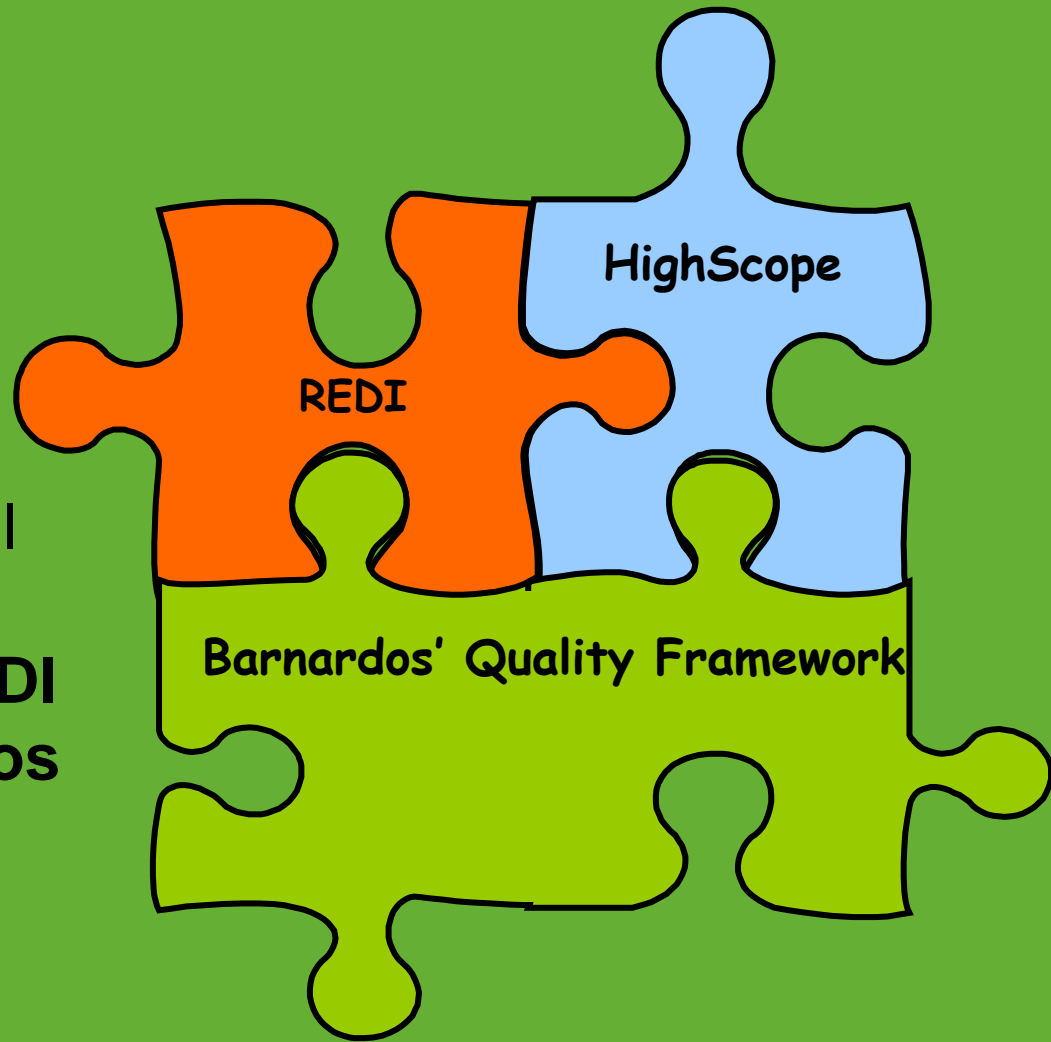
Findings from these analyses, together with a review of international best practice and consultation with stakeholders, helped Barnardos identify the REDI programme as a suitable programme to meet the needs of 3-5yr olds.

The REDI programme was designed and developed by Dr. Celine Domitrovich & Dr. Karen Bierman' from the Prevention Research Centre in Penn State University USA.

In order to optimise the developmental outcomes for children, Tús Maith brings together the two proven programmes of HighScope and REDI and integrates them using the Barnardos Quality Framework

# Tús Maith Programme =

Tús Maith integrates the well established **HighScope** Curriculum with the new **REDI** components using **Barnardos Quality Framework** at its core.



# What is the **REDI** Programme?

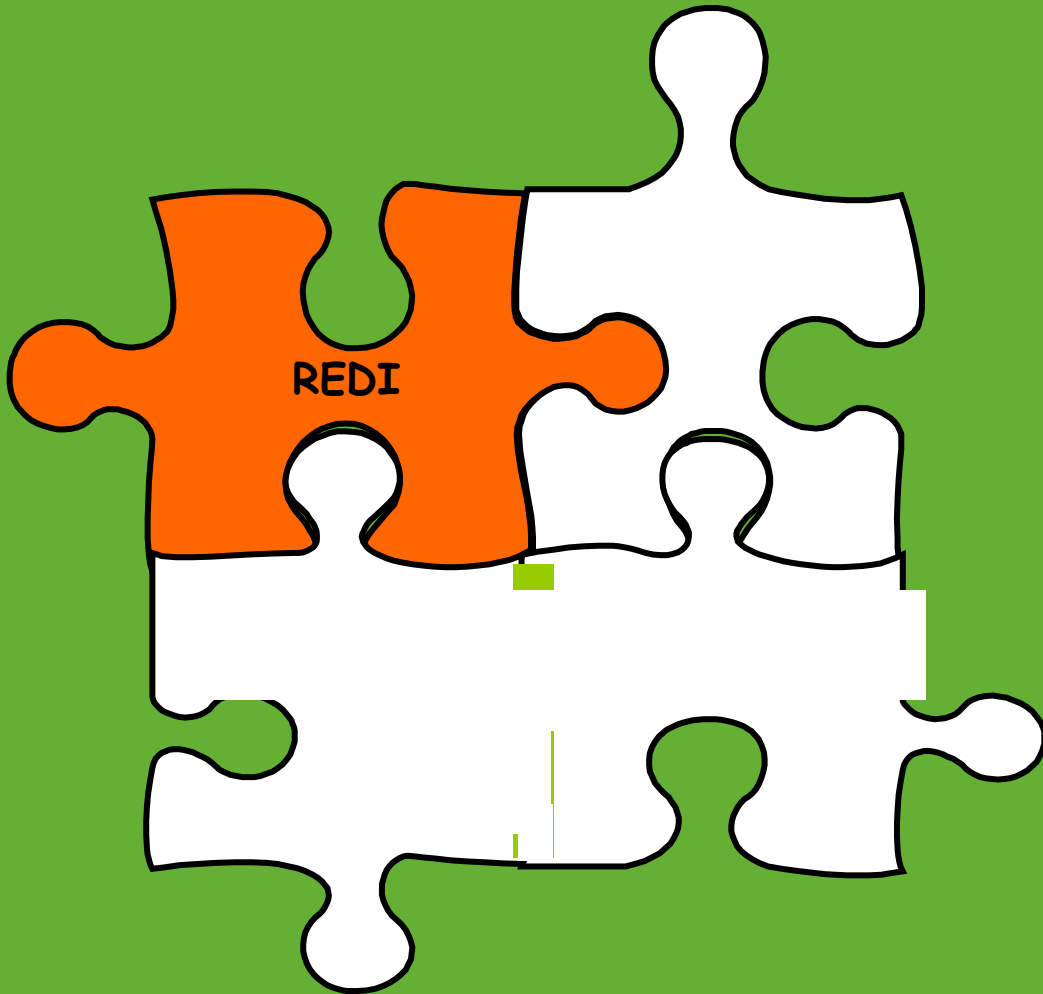
**REDI** stands for REsearch based Developmentally Informed programme. **REDI** was designed to fit with Creative and HighScope Curricula.

The **REDI** programme targets children's skills development in the following two areas:

- **Social & Emotional Development**
- **Language & Early Literacy Development**



# REDI Components

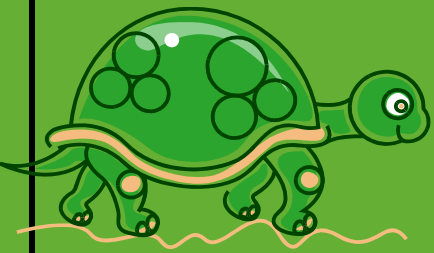


## Language & Literacy

- Dialogic Reading (interactive reading)
- Alphabet Centre
- Sound Games
- Coaching Strategies

## Social & Emotional

- PATHS Lessons - (Preschool Alternative Thinking Strategies)
- Extension activities
- Coaching strategies



# REDI

## Language & Literacy Curriculum

**Alphabet  
Centre  
Activities**

**Sound  
Games**

**Language  
Coaching  
Strategies**

**Dialogic  
Reading &  
Extension  
Activities**

**Decoding**

Letter  
identification

Phonological  
awareness

**Comprehension**

Vocabulary,  
Grammar

Vocabulary,  
Grammar

## Social-Emotional Coaching Strategies focus on:

- Positive Classroom Management
- Praise & Warm Involvement
- Emotion Coaching
- Induction Strategies
- Social Problem-Solving Dialogue

## Language Coaching Strategies:

Help children learn language by having adults utilise the most helpful types of interactions as frequently as possible.

Interactions that support:

- Attention
- Engagement
- Motivation
- Appropriate challenge
- Appropriate processing demands

# REDI- Preschool PATHS Lessons:

The PATHS programme consist of 44 weekly lessons divided across nine different units.

PATHS lessons form a programme for educators designed to facilitate the development of:

- Self-Control
- Positive Self-Esteem
- Emotional Awareness &
- Basic Problem-Solving Skills

PATHS lessons take place at morning 'Circle Time' and are thematically linked to the books used for Dialogic Reading times.

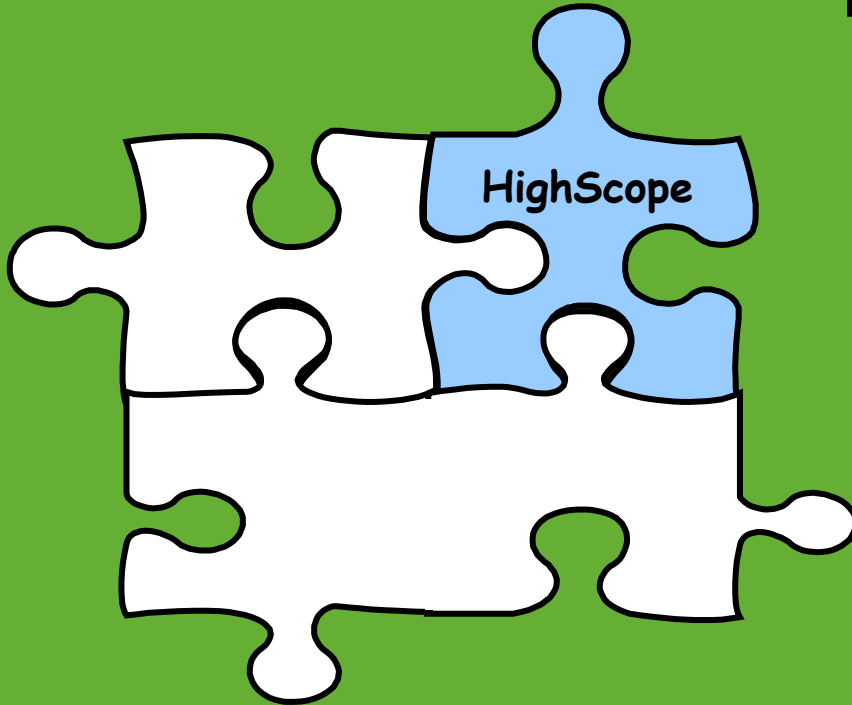


# Preschool PATHS Lessons

Stories, puppets, and role plays introduce key concepts during circle time. Lessons focus on friendship skills, emotional understanding, self-control, and social problem-solving...  
for more info visit: [www.rediprogram.ie](http://www.rediprogram.ie)



# HighScope Curriculum



## **HighScope:**

is a well established early years curriculum, which is evidenced to achieve real and lasting outcomes for children, including: positive self-esteem, achievement of their developmental and learning potential, improved school readiness, improved and continued engagement with school, and economic independence as adults.

(Weikart et al, 1978; Schweinhart, 2003 & 2005).

For more info visit: [WWW.highScope.org](http://WWW.highScope.org)

# Barnardos Quality Framework



Barnardos Quality Framework includes:

Barnardos Assessment Framework; needs-led outcomes-focused services; evaluation; service design process; risk management, auditing and monitoring of quality; core skills training; technical assistance; files and record keeping; practice framework and practice standards.

For more info visit [WWW.barnardos.ie](http://WWW.barnardos.ie)

## Getting started with Tús Maith- what staff needed to do:

Learn new **REDI** Social & Emotional and Language & Literacy curriculum components

Be motivated, enthusiastic and prepared to **have a go** at delivering lessons.

Take turns as a team member with planning lessons and getting comfortable with new theory, lesson format, programme materials and using puppets **Twiggle, Daphne, Duke and Henrietta** (to help engage the children and benefit from the programme lessons).



# The Programme Puppets



# Barnardos Centres delivering Tús Maith

There are currently eight centres delivering the Tús Maith Programme:

Thurles-	Tipperary,	Tallaght-	Dublin
Finglas-	Dublin	Ballyfermot-	Dublin
Mulhuddart-	Dublin	Loughlinstown-	Dublin
K'naheeney-	Cork,	Dunlaoighre-	Dublin

Over 125 Children attend Tús Maith on a daily basis.

Five centres piloted the programme (2009-2010) and participated in a process evaluation. Initial results are promising. The evaluation report will be available later in the year.