



from the start

Peace



Northern Ireland - Ireland

European Regional Development Fund

Contact

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Sharing From The Start

Promoting Educational Outcomes • Equality of Opportunity

Partnership with Parents • Community Cohesion

Equality of Identity • Respect for diversity

Strong Relationships

What is the Sharing from the Start programme?

'Sharing from the Start' is a new project supported by the European Union Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Sharing from the Start project has been developed and is managed by a cross border partnership involving:

- Early Years – the organisation for young children (Lead Partner)
- Fermanagh Trust
- National Childhood Network

What is Shared Education?

Shared Education is the provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between pre- schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.

Why take part?

The project aims to bring about positive attitudinal and behavioural change among children, parents, teachers and the wider community. This will be achieved through the implementation of **purposeful, direct and sustained curriculum-based contact between** children of predominantly different religious backgrounds and different ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds.

The main activities of the project, which will run from September 2017 – June 2021 include:

- Developing neighbouring shared education pre-school partnerships;
- Training of pre-school staff on a shared basis;
- Supporting pre-school partnerships to develop and implement an inclusion, equality and diversity policy to sustain shared education in their settings beyond the end of the project.
- Involving parents in workshops and activities;
- The project will give priority to children from marginalised and divided communities, ethnic minority communities and vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds.

What are the benefits of engaging with Sharing from the start?

In addition to enhancing educational outcomes for children and building good relations, Sharing from the Start provides the following benefits for your setting:

- Training, mentoring and professional development for staff;
- Help in progressing the quality standards set by the Inspectorate in both NI and ROI.
- Access to additional curriculum resources and professional expertise;
- Peer support and opportunities for learning, networking and sharing good practice;
- Workshops for parents and management committee members / school governors to help;
- Develop greater community cohesion;
- Opportunities for cross-border collaboration where applicable.

What is required from preschool settings?

- Establish a cross-community partnership with a setting of a predominately different religion, different ethnicity, different socio-economic background or different needs.
- A commitment to full participation in Sharing from the Start over the lifetime of the project.
- Commitment to attend professional development training and workshops.
- To attend and participate in partnership planning meetings.
- To plan and develop sessions linked to achieving agreed educational outcomes.
- To plan and document joint Shared Education sessions – 30 hours per academic year.
- To participate in annual reviews and evaluation processes.