



Sharing from the Start

Guidance Notes

You are advised to read the guidance notes provided, which will assist in the completion of the application form.

Completed applications should be returned by post to:

Audrey Rainey (Programme Manager)
'Sharing from the Start'
Early Years Organisation
6c Wildflower Way
Apollo Road
Belfast
BT12 6TA

OR by email to:
Email: audreyr@early-years.org

These guidance notes provide information on the *Sharing from the Start* project (in Part 1) and the completion of the application form (Part 2).

PART 1 – ABOUT THE PROJECT

What is the ‘Sharing from the Start Project’?

Sharing from the Start is a 4 year Peace IV funded project (2017 – 2021) that aims to:

- i. Improve Educational Outcomes
- ii. Promote good relations

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

Applications are open to PSEP funded pre-schools, nursery schools and units in NI and ECCE funded pre-schools in the ROI border counties to ‘Sharing from the Start’.

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

Applicants from Northern Ireland are invited to form cross-community partnerships and applicants from ROI border counties are invited to form partnerships to undertake Shared Education activities aimed at improving community cohesion, inclusion, diversity and educational outcomes for young children.

The 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

Who is eligible to apply?

- Statutory pre-school nurseries and nursery units in NI
- Voluntary and Private pre-school settings within PSEP in NI
- Community and Private pre-school settings funded through ECCE in the southern border counties (SBCs)

The Southern Border Counties are Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth.

Which have:

- Little or No previous experience of Shared Education

If your setting has planned and delivered 6 or more joint curricular sessions per annum over the last 2 academic years, then your setting will be considered to have more than the required level of experience of Shared Education for this Project and will not be deemed eligible.

Applications are particularly welcome from settings which:

- i. have high proportions of children experiencing **social disadvantage** (see Part 2 B1 of these guidance notes for definition of social disadvantage.)
- ii. have relatively higher percentages of **newcomer children** (see Part 2 B2 of these guidance notes for definition of newcomer children).
- iii. are **cross-border** (i.e. at least one partner is located in NI and another partner is in the SBCs).

What do we have to do?

Participation in *Sharing from the Start* involves:

1. Forming a partnership:

- Applicants from NI are invited to form cross-community partnerships (partnering with a setting with children of a predominantly different religion).
- In the ROI, where this is not possible, applicants are encouraged to partner with settings with children from a diverse range of ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds.

2. Submit an application

One application per partnership should be completed and submitted:
Tuesday 31st October 2017 at 5pm

3. Once your application is deemed Successful:

- You will be supported to plan and deliver 30hours of **joint curricular shared education sessions** for children (e.g. 10 x 3 hour sessions per school year).

The joint sessions should **contribute to the two project aims** (a) improve educational outcomes; and (b) build good relations.

How will we benefit from participating in the project?

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

A Package of supports

There will be a robust package of supports available both financial and non-financial, for each participating pre-school within each partnership

Indicative figures:

£80.50 / €95 per eligible child* who completes 30 hrs Shared Education in Year 1 (this is for the completion of the shared education sessions per child per school year). This will contribute to essential costs of the joint curricular sessions (e.g. transport, specialist tutors).

- **£302 / €356** per setting for resources that support good relations, inclusion and diversity
- **3 days substitute cover**** for leaders / teachers to attend training;
- **1 day substitute cover**** per setting per annum for planning with partner/s

*Funded PSEP children in NI and funded ECCE children

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Who do I contact for an application form or further information?

Application Forms are available on-line from www.sharingfromthestart.org

For further information please contact:

<p>Northern Ireland: Audrey Rainey (Project Manager) Early Years Organisation 6c Wildflower Way Apollo road Belfast BT12 6TA Telephone 028 90662825</p> <p>Email: audreyr@early-years.org</p>	<p>Republic of Ireland: Dympna McAdam (Assistant Training & Development Officer) National Childhood Network M: TEK Building, Knockaconny Monaghan, Co. Monaghan Tel: +44 (0) 28 9066 2825 Tel: +353 47 72469</p> <p>Email: dymnam@ncn.ie</p>
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How do I submit my application?

Completed applications should be returned either by post to:

Audrey Rainey (programme manager)
'Sharing from the Start'
Early Years Organisation
6c Wildflower Way
Apollo Road
Belfast
BT12 6TA

OR by email: audreyr@early-years.org

Applications should be received by 5 pm on Tuesday 31st October 2017

PART 2 – THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Completing the Application

Each partnership should complete **ONE** application form.

Section 1 – Partner Details

Partner Details

Applicants should provide the name of Partner 1 and complete all of the following information reflective of their setting.

Pre-school name.

Applicants from Northern Ireland should provide their DENI reference number.

Applicants from ROI/Southern Border Counties should provide their DCYA reference number.

Contact name: this should be someone who is available during office hours and is aware of the project and other partner details.

The address provided should be the address of where your pre-school is located and where all correspondence will be directed to.

Telephone Number: this needs to be contactable during office hours, please include mobile number if preferred.

Email address: this should be accessible by the named contact identified above.

Eligibility Criteria

Q1. Type of pre-school setting

Q1. Partner 1 should select what type of funded pre-school setting they identify as:

- Statutory Nursery NI
- Nursery Unit NI
- Voluntary/Private NI
- Community/Private ROI

Q2. Shared Education Experience

Partner 1 should identify if they have been previously involved in shared education.

Shared Education definition: If your setting has planned and delivered 6 or more joint curricular sessions per annum over the last 2 academic years, then your setting will be considered to have more than the required level of experience of Shared Education for this Project and will not be deemed eligible.

If yes, partner 1 should provide further detail on the name of your partner/s during this period of shared education, state the number of times you met with the partner/s, describe how regular the shared curricular sessions took place and the overall duration of the project.

Partner 2 should then complete each of the questions as outlined in the application following the same steps as noted above. The same process applies for Partner 3 and 4 (if applicable to your application).

Q3. Community Background

Applicants from NI are invited to form cross-community partnerships (partnering with a setting with children of a predominantly different religion). Each partner should identify the community background of the funded children in each partner setting.

In the ROI/SBCs, where this may not be possible, applicants are asked to state the total number of funded children in their settings.

Section 2 – Assessment Criteria

In the event that more applications meet the Eligibility Criteria than there are places on the Project, they will be ranked using the following Criteria.

Q1: Social disadvantage

All partners should identify the number and percentage of socially disadvantaged funded children in each of their settings.

In NI, this is the % of funded children whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, when applying for admission to the setting. (Reference document: DENI SRPRE17)

In SBCs, if this information is not available please move to the next question.

Q2 Newcomer children (Foreign National or EAL)

For settings in NI you need to identify the number and percentage of funded Newcomer children who will be participating in the programme.

For settings in ROI you need to identify the number and percentage of Foreign National or EAL children participating in the programme.

Definition of newcomer children:

This is children who have enrolled in a school but do not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and do not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish. This has previously been referred to as English as an Additional Language (EAL). It does not refer to indigenous pupils who choose to attend an Irish medium school. That circumstance is dealt with under the Irish Medium policy in NI. (Reference Document: DENI SRPRE/17)

Q3: Partnering with nearest eligible setting

Applicants are asked to state the distance (in miles/KM) between their partner settings. Where there are more than 2 settings the distance between the two furthest partners is required.

Each partner should identify if they are engaging in this project with their nearest eligible setting.

- Applicants from NI are invited to form cross-community partnerships (partnering with a setting with children of a predominantly different religion).
- In the ROI, where this is not possible, applicants are encouraged to partner with settings with children from a diverse range of ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds.

Where this is not the case, an explanation should be provided detailing why the nearest eligible setting has not been partnered with.

Q4: Cross-border partnerships

Each partner is required to identify what jurisdiction they are located in. You are asked to select from NI or SBCs.

Any other comments

Please share any further comments you feel may support your application. If possible, can you provide details of closure days your setting/partnership has planned over the incoming year.

Declaration

All partners are asked to complete the declaration.

If you are submitting this application by email, please tick below that all partners named confirm that the information supplied within this application is accurate.