

"Our Children-Our Future" Conference

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A Good Beginning – The Parent Child Home Programme in Dublin Beth Fagan, National College of Ireland

The Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP), which has just begun its fifth year of Home Visiting, is one of the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) at the National College of Ireland's suite of programmes to address educational disadvantage in the Docklands.

Originating in the United States, PCHP fosters positive educational verbal interactions, between the parent and the child, which is a critical component of healthy and successful development. With over forty years of research demonstrating the effectiveness of PCHP, its principle aim is to ensure that children who go through the two years of the programme have all the skills needed to be successful when they reach school.

As Home Visiting in Ireland generally does not enjoy a good reputation, the approach taken by the Early Learning Initiative was to up skill local people as it was felt that would make the programme more acceptable to the local community. By taking this innovative approach PCHP has given the Home Visitors the skills needed to deliver the programme, improve educational outcomes for the participants and changed how the Home Visitors interact with their own children. The initial training of the Home Visitors and their on-going training and supervision will be discussed in the paper.