



Ó Ghlúin go Glúin

Raising Children with Irish



Údarás na
Gaeltachta



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Tabhair gach deis do do pháiste

Is leabhrán *Ó Ghlúin go Glúin*, a chuir Údarás na Gaeltachta le chéile, le spreagadh agus tacáiocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí ar mhaith leo Gaeilge a bheith mar theanga teaghlaigh agus a bpáistí a thógáil le Gaeilge.

Tugtar comhairle phraitimíil sa leabhrán seo agus déantar iarracht roinnt de na ceisteanna a bheadh agat a fhreagairt faoin tslí le cúnamh a thabhairt do do pháiste Gaeilge a labhairt agus faoi fhorbairt na teanga go ginearálta. Tabhair leat abhaile é, léigh é, bí á phlé le do pháirtí agus le daoine eile sa teaghlaach.

Is gníomhaireacht stáit í an tÚdarás atá freagrach as forbairt eacnamaíochta, shóisialta agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta. Is é buanú agus neartú na Gaeilge mar phríomhtheanga pobail an buncuspóir atá le polasaí Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Give your child every opportunity

Ó Ghlúin go Glúin was compiled by Údarás na Gaeltachta to encourage and support parents to make Irish their family language and raise their children as Irish speakers.

It offers some practical advice and answers some of the questions you may have about helping your child speak Irish and with their general language development. Take it home, read it, discuss it with your partner and other family members.

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht. Údarás na Gaeltachta's overall objective is to maintain and promote the use of Irish as the predominant community language of the Gaeltacht.



Cúlra

Tá muid eolach ar na tuairisci a tharraingíonn aird ar an athrú atá ag teacht ar chúrsaí iompar teanga i measc aos óg na Gaeltachta. Lena chois sin, tá a fhios againn go bhféadfadh an claoadh atá i dtreo an Bhéarla ag móran dár ndaoine óga tionchar tromchúiseach a bheith aige ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Is féidir le gach duine a gcuid a dhéanamh le tionchar a imirt ar an gclaoadh seo i dtreo an Bhéarla ach tá ról ar leith agaibhse mar thuismitheoirí. Is féidir libhse bhur bpáistí a thógáil le Gaeilge agus cinnteoidh sin go mbeidh dúshraith mhaith Gaeilge acu, gníomh a thabharfaidh buntáistí cogneolaíochta dóibh agus a dhéanfaidh an teanga a bhuanú mar theanga pobail na Gaeltachta.



Background

We are aware of reports highlighting the changing patterns of language use among young people in the Gaeltacht. We also know that the shift to the use of English among many of our young may negatively impact on their use of Irish. We can all play our part in reversing this language shift but you, as parents, have a vitally important role to play. You can choose to raise your child as an Irish speaker which will ensure that he/she is fluent in Irish. This will offer him/her some of the cognitive advantages of bilingualism and also help maintain the language as a community language.



Gníomh le déanamh

Is deacair athruithe a dhéanamh gan a ghabháil i mbun gnímh. B'fhéidir gur dúshlán mór a bheadh ann teanga do theaghláigh a athrú nó tú síceáil a thabhairt don Ghaeilge ach tá sé cruthaithe gur féidir a leithéid a dhéanamh má tá tú in ann an phleanáil chuí a dhéanamh agus a bheith tiomanta don athrach seo. Is ábhar dóchais dúinn, go measann na daoine a bhfuil sé seo déanta acu cheana féin gur fiú go mór é.

Taking Action

We cannot effect change without taking action. Asking you to consider changing your family language to include more Irish, or putting Irish first may seem like a big challenge, but it can be done, with planning and commitment. It is encouraging to know that those who have done so already consider it most worthwhile.



Trí rud le smaoineamh orthu sula ndéanann tú cinneadh

1. Buntáistí

Tá fás leanúnach ar líon na dteaghlaigh ar fud na tíre a bhfuil suim acu a bpáistí a thógáil le Gaeilge. Is iomaí cúis a bhíonn ag daoine lena leithéid sin a dhéanamh. Ina measc, bíonn fonn orthu an nasc le hoidhreachta a dtuismitheoirí a chaomhnú chomh maith leis na buntáistí acadúla agus cultúrtha a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge a fhoghlaim.

Three things to think about before making a decision

1. Advantages

More and more people countrywide are interested in raising their children as Irish speakers. There are many reasons for doing this. They include a desire to maintain ties to their parents' heritage and introducing their children to the academic and cultural advantages associated with acquiring real fluency in Irish.

2. Cinneadh Comhfhiúchánach

Má tá an Ghaeilge le maireachtáil mar phríomhtheanga urlabhra na Gaeltachta, caithfidh tuismitheoirí cinneadh comhfhiúchánach a dhéanamh Gaeilge a labhairt mar ghnáththeanga an lae lena bpáistí. I gcinneadh dá leithéid sin, tá sé riachtanach go mbeadh gach ball den teaghlaigh rannpháirteach ann agus bheadh sé ciallmar teacht ar chomhréiteach a mbeadh chuile dhuine sásta leis, go háirithe i gcásanna nuair nach bhfuil páirtí amháin in ann an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Tá móran teaghlaigh i gcásanna mar sin ar éirigh leo an Ghaeilge a thabhairt dá bpáistí.

3. Éireoidh Libh

Éireoidh libh má tá tuiscint shoiléir agaibh go mbeidh sibh in ann bhur gclann a thógáil le Gaeilge agus go bhfuil sibh tiomanta agus go ndéanfaidh sibh an phleanáil chuí lena leithéid a chur i gcríoch.

2. Conscious Decision

If Irish is to remain the predominant family and community language in the Gaeltacht, parents must make a conscious decision to speak Irish as their normal daily language in raising their families through the medium of Irish. Such a decision requires the involvement of all the family and it is wise to reach an agreement that is acceptable to all, particularly in instances where one partner may not speak Irish. Many families in this situation have successfully raised their children as Irish speakers.

3. You will succeed

The key to success is to know that it is possible for you to succeed in raising your children with Irish. With the proper commitment and planning, you can achieve your goal.



Cúig Chéim Úsáideacha

Five Useful Steps



1. Aontaigh ar phlean

Tá plean de dhíth oraibh le go n-éireoidh libh. Caithfidh tú fén agus do pháirtí a bheith ar aon intinn faoi na hathruithe seo. Ar ndóigh, má labhraíonn an bheirt thuismitheoir Gaeilge, is cinnte gurb í sin an tstí is fearr agus is fusa ag do pháiste an teanga a fhoghlaim.

1. Agree a plan

The best way to make it work is to have a plan. Ideally, you and your partner need to agree on these language changes. Having both parents speak Irish is the ideal and the easiest way for your child to acquire the language.

2. Tuismitheoir amháin, teanga amháin

Ní gá a bheith imníoch faoina gcuid Béarla – sealbhóidh siad Béarla líofa agus iad i dteagmháil le daoine lasmuigh den chlann. Mar sin féin, má tá duine amháin agaibh nach bhfuil in ann Gaeilge a labhairt, b'fhearr go n-aontódh sibh nach labhródh an cainteoir Gaeilge ach Gaeilge amháin leis an bpáiste.

Ar dtús báire, d'fhéadfadh sé seo a bheith deacair go dtéann sibh i dtaithí air, ach tá sé tábhachtach go gcloisfeadh an páiste an teanga i rith an ama ó thuismitheoir amháin, ar a laghad. B'fhiú labhairt le tuismitheoirí eile faoi seo.



2. One parent, one language

There is no need to worry about their English, they will easily acquire English through contact with people outside the family. However, if one of you does not speak the language, then you don't have to give up! Instead, the Irish speaking partner can speak only Irish to the child, using the 'One parent, one language' strategy.

This might seem a little odd at first, until you get used to it, but it can really work, provided the child hears the language consistently from at least one parent.

3. Tosaigh go luath

Is fiú go mór an oiread eolais agus is féidir a fháil ó thuismitheoirí eile, ó leabhair, ó mhúinteoirí agus ó shaineolaithe sna gnóthaí seo agus cuideoidh sé sin leat do phlean a chur i gcrích, go speisialta nuair a chaithfidh tú dul i ngleic le cuid de na dúshláin agus na bacanna a thagann sa bhealach ar dhaoine atá ag tógáil a gclann le Gaeilge.

Má chuirtear tú leis an bpróiseas seo go luath i saol an pháiste, is amhlaidh is fearr é. Léiríonn taighde go bhfoghlaimíonn páistí i bhfad níos mó sna chéad seacht mbliana dá saol ná mar a fhoghlaimíonn siad an chuid eile dá saol. Dá luithe a thosaíonn páiste ag foghlaim na Gaeilge, is ea is fusa agus is fearr máistreachta a fháil uirthi.

3. Start early

Talking to other parents about what worked for them and finding out as much as you can from books, teachers and experts in the field will also help you deliver your plan, particularly when you face some of the challenges and hurdles most people do when raising children as Irish speakers.

Starting early is important. Research has shown that children learn more by the age of seven than at any other time of their life, so the earlier a child begins learning Irish, the easier it will be to master.





4. Cuir in iúl do dhaoine

Cuir in iúl do do chairde agus do do theaghach go bhfuil cinneadh déanta agat do pháiste a thógáil le Gaeilge agus faigh a gcuid tacaíochta. D'fhéadfá iarraidh orthu cuidiú leat trí Ghaeilge a labhairt le do pháiste. Is fiú go mór oiread deiseanna agus is féidir d'fholgair na Gaeilge a chur os comhair do pháiste, go speisialta taobh amuigh den bhaile. Lena chois sin, tá daoine den bharúil gurb fhiú gréasán fhoirméalta nó neamhfhoirméalta de thuismitheoirí agus de gharthuismitheoirí a chruthú i gcuideachta le gréasain d'imeachtai sóisialta nó spóirt.

4. Let people know

Let all your friends and family know you have decided to raise your child with Irish. Seek their support and ask that they speak Irish to your child. Make plans to introduce your child to as many opportunities as possible to learn Irish, particularly outside the home. Others have found it useful to set up formal or informal networks of parents, grandparents or other social or sporting activities.

5. Réimsí sóisialta

I gcomhthéacs an lae inniu, tá sé tábhachtach an teanga a fhorbairt agus a threisiú i réimsí sóisialta an pháiste, bíodh sin sa bhaile, sa phobal nó ar na meáin shóisialta/dhigiteacha.

5. Social activities

In the current context, it is important to develop and support the use of Irish in your child's social activities, be that within the family, community or in social/digital media.

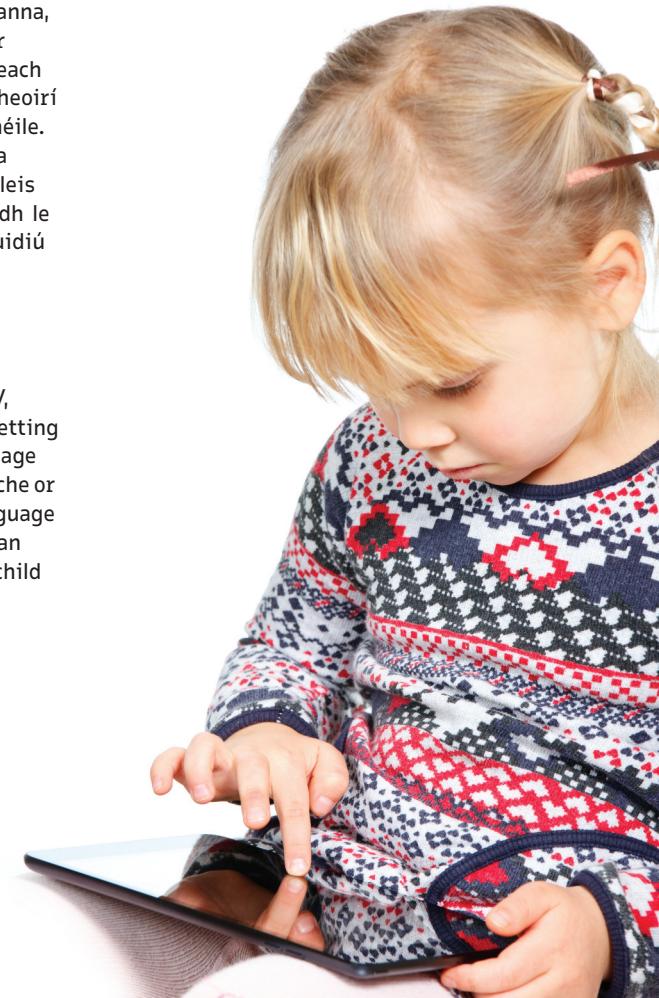


Tacaíocht bhreise

Baineann a lán tuismitheoirí úsáid as DVD'anna, teilifís Ghaeilge, cartúin agus aipeanna mar thaca breise. D'fhéadfadh sé a bheith úsáideach chomh maith grúpa tacáiochta do thuismitheoirí a bhunú nó leathanach Facebook a chur le chéile. Téigh i dteagmháil le do naíolann nó naónra Gaeltachta áitiúil, leis an scoil náisiúnta nó leis an Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga mar go bhféadfadh le ról tábhachtach a bheith acusan freisin le cuidiú le do pháiste Gaeilge a fhoghlaim.

Additional resources

Many parents use DVDs, Irish Language TV, cartoons and apps as additional support. Setting up a parents' support group or a Facebook page may also be useful. Your local Gaeltacht crèche or naónra, national school and your Irish Language Services Centre (Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga) can also play an important role in helping your child to learn Irish.



Ceisteanna Coitianta Frequently Asked Questions

Labhraímse Gaeilge ach ní labhraíonn mo pháirtí. Cén tstí ar féidir liom cuidiú le mo pháiste Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?

Bíonn móran tuismitheoirí imníoch faoin gceist seo ach tá an scéal seo amhlaidh ar fud na cruinne.

Tá ról tábhachtach ag an bheirt agaibh maidir le tacáiocht a thabhairt do bhur bpáiste i bhfoghlaim na Gaeilge. Beidh sé ina chuidiú mór ag do pháiste más Gaeilge amháin a labhraíonn an tuismitheoir a bhfuil an teanga sin aige/aici sa bhaile agus i measc an phobail. Dá mhinice a chloiseann do pháiste an Ghaeilge á labhairt, is amhlaidh is fearr é. Is féidir leis an tuismitheoir nach labhraíonn Gaeilge cuidiú chomh maith trí thacaíocht dhearfach a thabhairt do do ról i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa bhaile chomh maith le spéis a léiriú i ndul chun cinn an pháiste.

I speak Irish but my partner doesn't. How can I support my child to learn Irish?

This can be a worry for many parents but it is important to remember that people worldwide have similar experiences.

You both have a really important role in supporting your child to learn Irish. It will really help your child's progress if the Irish speaking parent speaks only Irish to your child at home and within the community. The partner who does not speak the language can also support you by positively reinforcing your commitment to the promotion of Irish in the home and showing an interest in your child's progress.

Cad iad na buntáistí a bheidh ag mo pháiste de thairbhe Gaeilge a fhoghlaim nuair atá Béarla acu?

Tabharfaidh an Ghaeilge deiseanna agus roghanna breise oideachais agus fostáiochta do do pháiste. Bíonn cuid mhór comhlacthaí poiblí agus eagraíochtaí deonacha ag lorg baill foirne atá ábalta feidhmiú go maith sa dá theanga. Lena chois sin, tá deiseanna sna hearnálacha oideachais, aistriúcháin agus sna meáin.

Má tá líofacht ag páiste in dhá theanga, feictear buntáistí chognaíocha ag páistí a labhraíonn an dá theanga sin. Feictear go mbíonn siad níos solúbtha agus níos cruthaithí ina gcuid smaointeoireachta.

Má tá do pháiste ábalta Gaeilge a labhairt, beidh sé/sí in inmhe a bheith rannpháirteach go hiomlán i saol phobal na Gaeltachta. Cothaíonn sé aitheantas cómhuintearais pobail agus cruthaíonn sé nasc idir do pháiste agus an cultúr agus an oidhreacht shaibhir atá i do phobal Gaeltachta féin.

What are the advantages for my child in learning Irish when they already speak English?

Having Irish can increase your child's opportunities and choices, especially in education and employment. Many public bodies and voluntary organisations look for staff who can perform well in both languages. There are also opportunities within the education, translation and media sectors.

Children who are fluent in two languages often display cognitive benefits and communicative skills such as being more adaptable and creative in their thinking.

Having Irish will help your child participate fully in community life in the Gaeltacht. It nurtures a shared sense of community identity and links your child to the rich culture and heritage of your own Gaeltacht community.

An gcuirfidh foghlaim na Gaeilge isteach ar Béarla mo pháiste?

D'fhéadfadh foghlaim na Gaeilge chuidiú le Béarla do pháiste. Nuair atá páistí ag foghlaim níos mó ná aon teanga san am amháin, éiríonn siad níos eoláí ar an tstí a n-oibríonn teangacha go ginearálta. Tá sé léirithe ag taighde a rinneadh sa Bhreatain Bheag, sa Spáinn agus i gCeanada go n-éiríonn níos fearr le páistí a fhaigheann oideachas dáttheangach i réimse ábhar, Béarla san áireamh. Lena chois sin, léiríonn taighde go bhfuil eolas ar dhá theanga, nó níos mó, ina chuidiú ag páiste agus iad ag foghlaim agus ag úsáid teangacha go ginearálta.

Will learning Irish affect my child's English?

Learning Irish may actually help your child learn English. By learning more than one language at the same time, children become more aware of how languages work in general. In fact, research from Wales, Spain and Canada suggests that children who receive a bilingual education do better across a range of subjects, including English. Research also shows that being able to speak and use two languages, or more, improves a child's ability to use and learn language in general.

**Tá mo pháiste lag i ngramadach na Gaeilge, conas
nó cé chomh minic ar chóir dom é/f a cheartú?**

Déanann gach uile pháiste, cé acu atá siad ag foghlaim na Gaeilge nó aon teanga eile, 'botúin' nuair atá siad óg. Is próiseas nádúrtha é seo. Molann taighde reatha gurb é an tslí is fearr le cuidiú le do pháiste gan a c(h)uid botún a chur in iúl dó/di agus gan an iomarca lochta a chur air/uirthi ós rud é go ndéanfadh a leithéid sin dochar dá m(h)uinín. Is fearr i bhfad ligint dó/di foghlaim trí dhea-shampa. D'fhéadfá a c(h)uid foghlama a neartú trí fhocal nó trí abairtí a athrá i gceart agus na leaganacha cearta a fhí isteach go nádúrtha i do chomhrá. D'fhéadfadh barraíocht ceartúchán bac a chur ar an bpáiste an teanga a labhairt leat. Bíonn toradh níos fearr ar mholaídh agus ar spreagadh cui.

My child's Irish grammar is weak, how often or how should I correct him/her?

All children, whether they are learning Irish or any other language, make 'mistakes' when they are young. This is a natural process. Current research recommends that the best way to help your child is not by pointing out their mistakes or being overly critical as this may affect their confidence. It is better to allow them to learn from hearing correct and rich input from you and others. Reinforce their learning by simply repeating the correct word or phrase, incorporating the correct versions into your conversation naturally. Overcorrection and direct correction can inhibit a child's progress and they may defend themselves by rejecting the language and refusing to speak Irish. Appropriate praise and encouragement usually works best, and it's important to offer rich input through the use of books and interacting with a range of fluent speakers if possible.



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