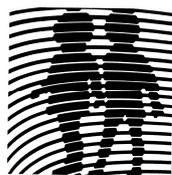


# An Chéad Chéim

BunGhaeilge do dhaoine ag obair le páistí

Basic Irish for people working with children



**Forbairt Náionraí Teoranta  
2008**

# An Chéad Chéim

Forbairt Naíonraí Teoranta (FNT) supports the promotion of education and care services in Irish for children throughout the island of Ireland. FNT provides support to establish and develop childminding, crèches, naíonraí, after school services, summer camps and parent/guardian and toddler groups through the medium of Irish.

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## Réamhrá / Introduction

One of the great miracles of human development is the ability to master language. A child's first word or the first phrase is seldom forgotten as a milestone in its life and the life of its parents.

At this early stage, it is of enormous benefit to introduce children to one or more languages in addition to the language of the home. This is a key means of nurturing a child's linguistic, intellectual and social development.

Many parents have chosen to make Irish the language of the home. Many more and many of those involved in child care have decided to introduce Irish as a second or subsequent language. They realise that it is not a question of learning Irish instead of learning any one of a number of other important languages but rather learning Irish as a means to acquiring third or fourth languages more easily as well as helping the child to think laterally and to appreciate the richness of culture in themselves and others.

Irish is one of the oldest spoken languages in Europe. It is intimately bound to the history of Ireland and no appreciation of Irish literature or music is complete without it. Placenames throughout the country, often lifeless or empty of meaning, spring to life in Irish. Despite many efforts over the centuries to stamp out the use of Irish, it has remained an important part of Irish life and a key part of the distinctive world-view which we offer to the world.

The literary, musical and linguistic riches of Irish are a resource of enormous value to each and every person on the island of Ireland.

Children learn through exploration and play – whether that be with materials like sand, water, modelling clay, and paint or toys like blocks, beads, straws and lego. Academic research and day to day experience has confirmed that language is also acquired through play and the best way for a child to learn a new language is to acquire it naturally and at its own pace by listening, understanding, isolating words and structures and eventually producing words, phrases and sentences.

The benefit of total immersion in Irish during some or all of these activities can be quickly seen. If the home environment is Irish-speaking or a Naíonra or other Irish language service is available, total immersion can be achieved through the parent or (in the case of a naíonra, the stiúrthóir or leader) talking in Irish as well as reciting rhymes or songs appropriate to each activity. There is constant repetition of the phrases the child needs while he/she plays with different toys or asks for assistance. Irish is spoken from the first day and the child accepts Irish as a natural part of its environment.

Everyone, however, can contribute to the development of a child's appreciation of Irish, by using words, phrases and songs throughout the day – regardless of what language is the dominant language of the playgroup or family.

## Aidhm an chúrsa / Aim of this course

This course is aimed at those who have little or no knowledge of Irish but who wish to introduce children between the ages of 3 and 6 years to some knowledge of Irish. In the event that you wish to develop your use of Irish further, FNT has a wide range of materials available to help you.

You will get the maximum benefit from your efforts if you bear in mind the following:

1. Introduce whatever Irish you have learned in a structured way rather than as a random exercise. Start with one activity or part of the day that can be done through the medium of Irish. As far as you can, try to use only Irish for that activity or part of the day and try to reinforce and support the language content of that activity as it occurs naturally throughout the session. You will find both you and the child will begin to associate that activity or time of the day with Irish and will use the language naturally and without effort. Some of the activities to focus on could include:
  - The morning greeting
  - Washing hands
  - Lunch time
  - Birthdays
  - Tidying the room
  - Going home
2. Another starting point is the use of activity songs and rhymes in Irish throughout the session of play. These can stand alone or be linked to a constantly recurring activity or activities.

3. Don't expect the children to start using Irish overnight. However, with patience and repetition it will not be long before you see results. Children will enjoy the new words and sounds and gradually make their own of the sentence structures and vocabulary they hear in daily use and of course the songs and rhymes which appeal to them.
4. Use Irish music at playtime or buy one of the excellent CDs with nursery rhymes and songs in Irish on them to play in the background during the day (for example, *Gugalaí Gug* or *Rabhlaí Rabhlaí*). FNT can help you to source these if you have difficulty finding them in your area.
5. If at all possible, it is also useful for you to know how to read a story or two in Irish. Children enjoy repetition and will enjoy the same story over and over again. A wide range of books with accompanying CD's are available in Irish. You can add to your repertoire as your Irish improves.
  - Try to make sure that you know the story well so that you can make maximum use of your voice and facial expressions to communicate with the children and
  - So that everyone listening to the story can see the pictures, tape a copy of the text to the rear of the book so that you use the same language each time that you read the story.

At the end of the day, enjoy the Irish that you use and the children will enjoy it too!

Go n-éirí leat!

Good Luck!

## Fáiltiú ar Maidin / The Morning Greeting

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### **Fáiltiú ar Maidin** (aonarach)

#### **The Morning Greeting** (singular)

Dia Dhuit

Hello

Dia is Muire Dhuit

Hello (in response)

Tá fáilte romhat

You are welcome

Tar isteach

Come in

Tá an lá fuar,

It is a cold day,

fliuch, tirim, go breá, go hálainn,

wet, dry, fine, lovely,

go dona, uafásach

bad, terrible

Slán, a Mhamáí/a Dhaidí

Goodbye, Mammy/Daddy

Slán

Goodbye

#### **Fáiltiú ar Maidin** (iolrach)

#### **The Morning Greeting** (plural)

Dia Dhaoibh

Hello

Dia is Muire Dhaoibh

Hello (in response)

Tá fáilte romhaibh

You are welcome

Tagaigí isteach

Come in

Slán libh

Goodbye

#### **Rann**

#### **Rhyme**

Bainfidh mé díom mo chóta

I will take off my coat

Bainfidh mé díom mo chóta

I will take off my coat

Bainfidh mé díom mo chóta

I will take off my coat

Trala lala lala la

Trala lala lala la

The rhyme above can be sung or recited upon arrival, after coming in from the garden, after dressing up, etc. The counterpart is:

An gcuirfidh tú orm mo naprún?

Will you put my apron on me?

An gcuirfidh tú orm mo naprún?

Will you put my apron on me?

An gcuirfidh tú orm mo naprún?

Will you put my apron on me?

Trala, lala lala la

Trala, lala lala la

The same simple tune can also be used as a welcoming song using the following phrase:

Fáilte romhat a.... (ainm páiste)	Welcome.... (insert child's name)
Fáilte romhat a.... (ainm páiste)	Welcome.... (insert child's name)
Fáilte romhat a.... (ainm páiste)	Welcome.... (insert child's name)
Trala, lala lala la	Trala, lala lala la

### Éadaí

### Clothes

Gaeilge/Irish	Béarla/English
An cóta	The coat
Na cótaí	The coats
Na lámhainní	The gloves
An gúna	The dress
An geansaí	The jumper
An léine	The shirt
An t-léine	The t-shirt
An blús	The blouse
An sciorta	The skirt
An bhróg	The shoe
Na bróga	The shoes
An stoca	The sock
Na stocaí	The socks
Na riteoga	The tights
An bríste	The trousers
An póca	The pocket
An cnaipe	The button

## Gníomhaíochtaí / Activities

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### Gníomhaíochtaí (aonarach)

Cad ba mhaith leat a dhéanamh?

Ar mhaith leat súgradh le...?

Tá mé ag súgradh

Maith thú!

Tá sé sin go deas

Tá sé sin go hálainn

Is maith liom é

An maith leatsa é?

Ar mhaith leat scéal?

Ba mhaith

Féach ar seo

Thit sé ar an úrlár

An féidir leat é a fháil?

Is féidir liom

Tá sé/sí ag caoineadh/gáire

Bí cúramach

Tá mé tuirseach

#### Gníomhaíochtaí (iolarach)

Cad ba mhaith libh a dhéanamh?

Ar mhaith libh súgradh le...?

Táimid ag súgradh

Maith sibh!

Is maith linn é

An maith libh é?

Ar mhaith libh scéal?

Féachaigí ar seo

Thit siad ar an úrlár

An féidir libh é a fháil?

Is féidir linn

Tá siad ag caoineadh

#### Activities (singular)

What would you like to do?

Would you like to play with...?

I am playing

Well done!

That is nice

That is lovely

I like it

Do you like it?

Would you like a story?

I would

Look at this

It/he fell on the floor

Can you get it/him?

I can

He/she is crying/laughing

Be careful

I'm tired

#### Activities (plural)

What would you like to do?

Would you like to play with...?

We are playing

Well done!

We like it

Do you like it?

Would you like a story?

Look at this

They fell on the floor

Can you get it?

We can

They are crying

Bígí cúramach  
Táimid tuirseach

Be careful  
We are tired

### Rann

Léifidh mé scéilín deas duit,  
Léifidh mé scéileín deas duit,  
Léifidh mé scéilín deas duit,  
Trala, lala lala la

### Rhyme

I'll read a little story to you  
I'll read a little story to you  
I'll read a little story to you  
Trala lala lala la

The rhyme above can be sung or recited when you intend to read a story or indeed when a child offers to 'read' you a story! Remember, children love to hear stories read. A range of recordings to accompany books are available in Irish, but don't feel that you or the children need to be word perfect to enjoy this activity.

### Trealamh

### Equipment

Gaeilge/Irish	Béarla/English
An chathaoir	The chair
Na cathaoireacha	The chairs
An bord	The table
An cófra	The cupboard
An páipéar	The paper
An phéint	The paint
An taos	The dough
An marla	The plasticine
An leabhar	The book
Na leabhair	The books
An Gaineamh	The sand
An t-uisce	The water
Na míreanna mearaí	The jigsaw puzzles

## Ag ní na lámha / Washing the hands

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### Ag Ní na Lámha (aonarach)

Caithfidh mé mo lámha a ní

Uisce

Gallúnach

Tá mo lámha fliuch

Tá mo lámha tirim

Te

Fuar

Nigh do lámha

Triomaigh do lámha

Cuimil do lámha

#### Washing the Hands (singular)

I have to wash my hands

Water

Soap

My hands are wet

My hands are dry

Hot

Cold

Wash your hands

Dry your hands

Rub your hands

#### Ag Ní na Lámha (iolrach)

Caithfimid ár lámha a ní

Tá ár lámha fliuch

Tá ár lámha tirim

Nígí bhur lámha

Triomaigí bhur lámha

Cuimil bhur lámha

#### Washing the Hands (plural)

We have to wash our hands

Our hands are wet

Our hands are dry

Wash your hands

Dry your hands

Rub your hands

#### Rann

Nigh na lámha

Nigh na lámha

Lámha beaga míne

Nigh na lámha

Nigh na lámha

Is gheobhaidh tú féirín Dé hAoine!

#### Rhyme

Wash the hands

Wash the hands

Little smooth hands

Wash the hands

Wash the hands

And you'll get a gift on Friday!

Triomaigh na lámha

Triomaigh na lámha

Lámha beaga míne

Triomaigh na lámha

Dry the hands

Dry the hands

Little smooth hands

Dry the hands

Triomaigh na lámha

Dry the hands

Is gheobhaidh tú féirín De hAoine!

And you'll get a gift on Friday!

**An Corp**

**The Body**

<b>Gaeilge/Irish</b>	<b>Béarla/English</b>
An ceann	The head
An béal	The mouth
An tsrón	The nose
An smig	The chin
An chluas	The ear
Na cluasa	The ears
An tsúil	The eye
Na súile	The eyes
An aghaidh	The face
An ghruaig	The hair
An lámh	The hand
Na lámha	The hands
An chos	The feet
Na cosa	The feet
An mhéar	The finger/toe
Na méara	The fingers/toes
An ghlúin	The knee
Na glúine	The knees

## Am Lóin / Lunchtime

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### **Am Lóin** (aonarach)

An bhfuil ocras ort?

Tá ocras orm

An bhfuil tart ort?

Tá tart orm

Suigh síos

Cé atá ag tabhairt amach na málaí?

Cé leis an mála seo?

Is liomsa é

Oscail é

Ar mhaith leat ceapaire?

Ba mhaith liom ceapaire

Ar mhaith leat deoch?

Ba mhaith liom deoch

Go raibh maith agat

Fáilte romhat

#### **Lunchtime** (singular)

Are you hungry?

I'm hungry

Are you thirsty?

I'm thirsty

Sit down (singular)

Who is handing out the bags?

Who owns this bag?

It is mine

Open it

Would you like a sandwich?

I would like a sandwich

Would you like a drink?

I would like a drink

Thank-you

You're welcome

#### **Am Lóin** (iolarach)

An bhfuil ocras oraibh?

Tá ocras orainn

An bhfuil tart oraibh?

Tá tart orainn

Suígí síos

Is linne é

Oslaígí iad

Ar mhaith libh ceapaire?

Ba mhaith linn ceapaire

Ar mhaith libh deoch?

Ba mhaith linn deoch

Go raibh maith agaibh

Fáilte romhaibh

#### **Lunchtime** (plural)

Are you hungry?

We are hungry

Are you thirsty?

We are thirsty

Sit down

It is ours

Open them

Would you like a sandwich?

We would like a sandwich

Would you like a drink?

We would like a drink

Thank-you

You're welcome

**Rann**

Tá tart is ocras orm anois

orm anois

orm anois

Tá tart is ocras orm anois

Ba mhaith liom suí chun boird don lón!

**Rhyme**

I am thirsty and hungry now

now

now

I am thirsty and hungry now

I would like to sit at the table for lunch!

**Bia****Food**

<b>Gaeilge/Irish</b>	<b>Béarla/English</b>
An ceapaire	The sandwich
An t-úll	The apple
An t-oráiste	The orange
An briosca	The biscuit
An milseán	The sweet
An cháis	The cheese
An fheoil	The meat
An t-arán	The bread
An t-im	The butter
An subh	The jam
An bainne	The milk
An siúcra	The sugar
An tae	The tea
An caifé	The coffee
An sú	The juice

## Breithlá / Birthday

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### **Breithlá (aonarach)**

Tá nuacht speisialta ag... dúinn inniu

Cén nuacht speisialta atá agat a...?

Inniú mo lá breithe.

Tá breithlá ag ... inniú!

Cén aois tú?

Tá ... trí/ceithre/cúig bliana d'aois inniu.

Tabharfaimid bualadh bos mór do...!

*In case of multiple birthdays on the same day:*

#### **Breithlá (iolrach)**

Tá nuacht speisialta ag ... agus ag... dúinn inniu

Cén nuacht speisialta atá agaibh a ... agus a...?

Inniu ár lá breithe

Tá breithlá agaibh inniu!

Cén aois sibh?

Tá siad trí/ceithre/cúig bliana d'aois inniu.

Tabharfaimid bualadh bos mór dóibh!

#### **Birthday (singular)**

... (insert child's name) has special news for us today

What special news do you have...?

Today is my birthday

It is ...'s Birthday today!

What age are you?

... is three/four/five years old today.

Let's give ... a big clap!

#### **Birthday (plural)**

... and ... have special news for us today.

What special news do you have...?

Today is our birthday

It is your Birthday today!

What age are you?

They are three/four/five years old today.

Let's give them a big clap!

#### **Rann**

Lá breithe faoi shéan

Lá breithe faoi shéan

Lá breithe faoi shéan duit

Lá breithe faoi shéan

#### **Rhyme**

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday

## Ag glanadh an tseomra / Cleaning the room

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### Ag Glanadh an tSeomra (aonarach)

Tá sé in am an seomra a ghlanadh

Cá bhfuil an scuab?

Gheobhaidh mé an deannachán

Cuir sa bhosca bruscair é

Cá bhfuil an cheirt?

Fág ar an tseilf é

Cá dtéann sé seo?

Anseo

Tá sé trom

Tá sé éadrom

Le do thoil

#### Cleaning the Room (singular)

It is time to clean the room

Where is the brush?

I will get the dustpan

Put it in the bin

Where is the cloth?

Leave it on the shelf

Where does this go?

Here

It is heavy

It is light

Please

#### Ag Glanadh an tSeomra (iolrach)

Tá sé in am na seomraí a ghlanadh

Cá bhfuil na scuaba?

Gheobhaidh mé na deannacháin

Cuir sa bhosca bruscair iad

Cá bhfuil na ceirteanna?

Fág ar an tseilf iad

Cá dtéann siad seo?

Anseo

Tá siad trom

Tá siad éadrom

Le bhur dtoil

#### Cleaning the Room (plural)

It is time to clean the rooms

Where are the brushes?

I will get the dustpans

Put them in the bin

Where are the cloths?

Leave them on the shelf

Where do these go?

Here

They are heavy

They are light

Please

#### Rann

Réitimis an seomra

Réitimis an seomra

Ó glanaimis

is cóirimis

is réitimis an seomra!

#### Rhyme

Let's tidy the room

Let's tidy the room

Oh let's clean

and let's arrange

And let's tidy the room!

**Dathanna & Uimhreacha****Colours & Numbers**

<b>Gaeilge/Irish</b>	<b>Béarla/English</b>
Bán	White
Dubh	Black
Dearg	Red
Buí	Yellow
Glas	Green
Gorm	Blue
Liath	Grey
Donn	Brown
Oráiste	Orange
Corcra	Purple
A haon	One
A dó	Two
A trí	Three
A Ceathair	Four
A Cúig	Five
A Sé	Six
A Seacht	Seven
A hOcht	Eight
A Naoi	Nine
A Deich	Ten
Duine	One person
Beirt	Two people
Triúr	Three people
Ceathrar	Four people
Cúigear	Five people
Seisear	Six people
Seachtar	Seven people
Ochtar	Eight people
Naonúr	Nine people
Deichniúr	Ten people

## Am dul abhaile / Going home time

### Gaeilge/Irish

### Béarla/English

#### **Am dul abhaile** (aonarach)

Tá Mamaí/Daidí anseo

Tá sé in am dul abhaile

Feicfidh mé amárach thú

Go raibh maith agat

An bhfuil do mhála agat?

Slán

#### **Going home time**(singular)

Mammy/Daddy is here

It is time to go home

I'll see you tomorrow

Thank-you

Do you have your bag?

Goodbye

#### **Am dul abhaile** (iolrach)

Feicfidh mé amárach sibh

Go raibh maith agaibh

An bhfuil bhur málaí agaibh?

Slán libh

#### **Going home time** (plural)

I'll see you tomorrow

Thank-you

Do you have your bags?

Goodbye

#### **Rann**

Cuirfidh mé orm mo chóta

Cuirfidh me orm mo chóta

Cuirfidh mé orm mo chóta

Trala lala lala la

#### **Rhyme**

I will put on my coat

I will put on my coat

I will put on my coat

Trala lala lala la

## Rannta agus Amhráin / Songs and Rhymes

Ordinary nursery rhymes can be used in group recitation to develop the child's language and sense of rhythm. There are many rhymes in Irish which can be used to naturally extend the child's vocabulary to include Irish words and phrases. Here are a few to get you started. (Don't forget to help yourself and the child to remember the words by using actions – the more theatrical the better!)

### Rann

Cuimil do bhosa

Cuimil do bhosa

Suas is síos

Dún do lámha

Oscail do lámha

Dún is oscail arís

Dorn ar dhorn

Dorn ar dhorn

Suas, suas, suas

Buail do bhosa

Buail the bhosa

Thuas, thuas, thuas

### Rhyme

Rub the palms of your hands

Rub the palms of your hands

Up and down

Open your hands

Close your hands

Close and open again

Fist on fist

Fist on fist

Up, up, up

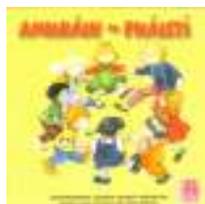
Clap your hands

Clap your hands

Up there, up there, up there

Verse 1 – rub the palms of the hands together as the hands are raised and lowered, then close the palms and open the palms as the words are sung. The words 'dún' (close) and 'oscail' (open) are key words which can be used widely in other situations.

Verse 2 – the hands are closed into a fist and placed one on top of the other rhythmically as the arms are raised. The hands are then clapped high over the head. As the child learns this rhyme, he/she is unconsciously learning the difference between 'suas' (used when there is an upward motion) and 'thuas' (used when something is up, but in a stationary position)



**Rann**

Istigh sa Zú  
 Tá an Babaí Cangarú  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois go luath!

Istigh sa Zú  
 Tá an Mamaí Cangarú  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois go luath!

Istigh sa Zú  
 Tá an Daidí Cangarú  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois  
 Léim anois go luath!

**Rhyme**

In the Zoo  
 Is the Baby Kangaroo  
 Jump now  
 Jump now  
 Jump now swiftly!

In the Zoo  
 Is the Mammy Kangaroo  
 Jump now  
 Jump now  
 Jump now swiftly!

In the Zoo  
 Is the Daddy Kangaroo  
 Jump now  
 Jump now  
 Jump now swiftly!

Get the group of children to join hands in a circle and choose one child to be the ‘Babaí Cangarú’ and go into the middle to hop/jump like a kangaroo. The other children walk or skip around while singing the first two lines. When it comes to ‘Léim anois’, everybody jumps with the child in the middle. For the second verse, another child is chosen as ‘Mamaí Cangarú’ and the game starts again. The first child may stay in the centre with ‘Mamaí Cangarú’ or rejoin the outer circle. Another child is chosen as ‘Daidí Cangarú’ in the third verse.

**Rann**

Roille, roille , ráinne  
 Timpeall linn, i bhfáinne  
 Ríleoró! Ríleoró!  
 Suas san aer le mo choisín ó!

**Rhyme**

Ring-o, Ring-o, Rosie  
 Around we go in a circle  
 Reel-o row, Reel-o row  
 Up in the air with my little foot –  
 Oh!

The rhyme above is a simple Ring-o-Rosie type game. At the last line, the children raise one foot!