

Exploring the need for a Representative Advocacy Service for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland

About this document



This is an Easy to Read document.

Easy to Read puts pictures and words together to explain ideas.



New words are **bold**

We tell you what **bold** words mean.



This Easy to Read document tells you key information from our new research. The research is about the need for a representative advocacy for children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland



You can contact us for a full copy of this research if you are interested.

What is this research project about?



Advocacy means speaking up for yourself.

This project wants to know if children with intellectual disabilities in Ireland need help with **advocacy**.



When we say children, we mean people aged 9 to 17 years old.

Inclusion Ireland asked the team at the University of Galway to do this research.

Advocacy



There are lots of different types of advocacy.

This project is interested in **representative advocacy** for children with intellectual disabilities in Ireland.

Representative advocacy is when it is a person's job to help another person speak up for their rights.



In Ireland, the National Advocacy Service helps adults with disabilities.

They cannot help children with disabilities.

We looked at representative advocacy services in other countries to see what we could learn from them.

Who did we talk to?



We talked to different groups during this project. The groups were:



Children with intellectual disabilities



Their parents and families



People who work in this area



What did people tell us?



Parents said it was hard to understand the different services available and it took a lot of work to get their children the things they needed.



Parents would like help to figure out:

- How the different systems work
- Who they need to talk to
- How to fill out forms
- How to make sure the information is accessible and easy to understand



They were not sure if a new advocacy service would help with these things.



What did people tell us?



Parents said it would be important for advocates to listen to parents because they know what their children need.

They were not sure if the advocate needed to talk to the children.



Parents wanted someone that could help support in different areas, like at school or when talking to doctors or people in healthcare.



Children with intellectual disabilities said they want an advocate who:

Listens to them

Is easy to talk to

Is friendly and kind

Is honest and trustworthy



What did people tell us?



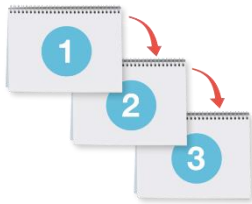
The people working in the area said we need an advocacy service that could help children have their rights respected



They weren't sure if it should be one advocacy service for all children, or if we need different services for different groups of children, like children with disabilities, children new to Ireland, and children in care



They said advocates should talk to the child they were helping or spend time with them. They should know about children's rights and disability.



What should we do next?



We need to do more research about representative advocacy service in Ireland and how it will be run.



This research needs to involve children with intellectual disabilities.