



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

## Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellowship Scheme 2020

### Review Centre/Group Mentor (RCM)

Dr Sarah Miller, Director Campbell UK & Ireland, Queen's University Belfast.

### Review title

Early childhood interventions in low and middle income countries

### Review type

Evidence and gap map

### Review details

The aim of this evidence and gap map (EGM) is to identify and summarise the available, rigorous evidence in the area of early childhood interventions in low and middle income countries. Currently the protocol for the EGM is being developed. The EGM will map existing systematic reviews and impact evaluations to enable identification of the strong, weak or non-existent evidence of the impact of different types of early childhood programmes across a range of outcomes. The EGM forms part of the work of the LINKS research project (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/links>) which seeks to support the development and evaluation of early childhood development programmes in societies affected by conflict. There already exists compelling evidence that high quality ECD services that focus on creating and sustaining nurturing environments for young children not only have a significant effect in improving short-term developmental outcomes but that these improvements are associated with improved long-term outcomes in adulthood. ECD services can, therefore, play a key role in contributing to sustainable development. By being at the heart of local communities, and engaging directly with families, they can also be a major vehicle for change in enabling and sustaining horizontal and vertical social cohesion. The EGM will highlight how the evidence that is currently being generated through the LINKS project contributes to the body of work already conducted in the field and what evidence gaps still remain, particularly in relation to the role of early childhood programmes promoting social cohesion.

**Estimated start and completion dates\*** – *please note dates are subject to change and flexibility on Fellows part is required*

Starting immediately (or as soon as feasible). Estimated completion date: December 2020.

Competency	Level of requirement
1. Building a case for a review and choosing useful titles, including working with stakeholders and searching the literature for existing reviews	Desirable
2. Contributing to the development of a protocol	Desirable
3. Familiarity with PRISMA reporting guidelines and methodological standards (e.g., MECIR standards for Cochrane reviews or other relevant standards for other types of evidence synthesis)	Essential
4. Contributing to developing a search strategy and experience of conducting a search in at least one bibliographic database and a grey literature search	Desirable
5. Experience of screening at both title and abstract and full text level	Essential
6. Experience of data extraction	Desirable*
7. Experience of quality assessment of included studies/reviews	Desirable*
8. Contribute to numerical and/or narrative synthesis	Desirable*
9. Contribute to write up if paper/report	Essential
10. Contribute to summary of findings tables as appropriate	Desirable
11. Writing plain language summaries, blogs or other media outputs to develop skills in 'translating' and communicating review evidence for a lay audience	Essential

\*For this call we are including this Evidence Gap and Map (EGM). EGMs are a way of mapping existing evidence and prioritising evidence syntheses. As such, the competencies addressed within this EGM Fellowship will be somewhat different to other Fellowships. Those competencies that differ are marked with an asterisk in the above table.

For more information about EGMs click [here](#)