



**A very Happy Christmas
from all the
Growing Up in Ireland team!**



Thank you!

Hi there! You are one of 8,500 very important children from all around Ireland taking part in *Growing Up in Ireland*. When you were 9-years-old you were chosen, from all the 9-year-olds in the country, to take part in this exciting study.

All the members of the *Growing Up in Ireland* team would like to say a big THANK YOU for being a part of the study – without you this study could not exist.

Growing Up in Ireland is very important as it will help the Government to make better decisions about things that affect children and to make life better for all children and families in the country.

By taking part YOU are helping to make a better future for all children in Ireland.



**What Makes
You Most
Happy?**

When we asked you what made you happiest, here were the most popular answers:

Family 24%
Friends 22%
Sport 20%

If you would like to find out more about *Growing Up Ireland* visit our website at www.growingup.ie

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We plan on coming back to visit you and your family again when you are 13-years-old. This second visit is a really important part of the study as it will help us find out how you have grown and changed since you were 9-years-old. We are very much looking forward to seeing you again and in the meantime we will stay in touch and keep you updated with all the news from the study.



The picture in this newsletter was drawn by Megan O'Brien of Ard Scoil Mhuire, Bruff, Co Limerick, who is a member of the *Growing Up in Ireland* Children's Advisory Forum (CAF). Megan's picture was chosen from a range of pictures sent to us by the children of the CAF.

Growing Up in Ireland – Your Study

Two years ago you may remember one of our team called to your school and home and you answered lots of different questions to help us to find out what it is like to grow up in Ireland in the 21st century.

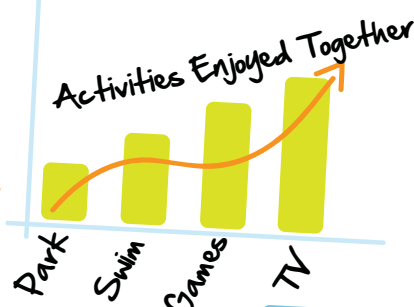
We have been very busy since then looking at all the answers we collected from you and all the other children in the study, as well as the mums, dads and teachers who also answered lots of our questions.

This newsletter includes some of the things we found out; we hope you enjoy reading it!

You and Your Family

We asked you what kinds of activities you and your family enjoyed together. The most common activities included:

Watching TV together	89%
Playing games outside	49%
Playing games inside	47%
Swimming	25%
Going to the park	22%



When I Grow Up...

Here is a list of the most popular things you said you wanted to be when you grew up – it will be interesting to see if you change your mind as you get older!

The boys said:		The girls said:	
Sports person	43%	Primary School Teacher	22%
Garda / Police Officer	6%	Hairdresser/Beautician	14%
Primary School Teacher	2%	Vet	11%
Singer/Musician	2%	Singer/Musician	9%

PETS CORNER



68% of you told us you had a at least one family pet and the most popular reason you gave for liking your pet was that they were fun to be around.



No.1 Pastime?

Hanging Out With Friends

We gave you a list of 10 pastimes and asked you to rate your favourite one. Here is what you told us: The number one ranked pastime was hanging out with friends with 35% of you rating this as your favourite.

29% of you ranked sport as your number one and 9% said playing games outside.



Helping out at home



Here is a list of chores you told us you helped out with at home often or occasionally:

	Girls	Boys
Help with cooking for the family	80%	67%
Hoovering/cleaning	89%	82%
Help in the garden	69%	70%
Wash dishes/empty dishwasher	83%	69%
Put out bin	53%	65%
Cleaning the car	57%	60%
Help with younger brothers or sisters	57%	56%
Help with an elderly or sick relative	62%	61%

Do you like School?

93% sometimes or always liked school

When we asked you how much you liked school and your teacher, 93% of you told us you liked school

53% always liked teacher

'sometimes or always' and over half of you said you 'always' liked your teacher.

HOMEWORK

96%, or more than nine out of ten children in the study, received homework four nights a week.

