

MoMEC: Mentoring Men in ECEC

Gatekeeper Information Sheet

What is the research about?

The early childhood education and care workforce in Ireland is over 98% female. Many studies have been conducted into the reasons for this phenomenon. One finding is the importance of support mechanisms, mentoring and supportive leadership. This study aims to identify the mentoring needs of men in ECEC using an anonymous short quantitative survey or follow up interview, develop and implement evidence-based recommendations to support male educators with the aim of increasing participation and retention in the ECEC sector in the participating countries.

Who is carrying out the study?

My name is Joanne McHale, and I am a lecturer in ECEC in TU Dublin. My previous research focuses on men's participation in ECEC and the mechanisms that support or hinder this participation. Together with my colleagues in Germany, Turkey, Norway and New York, we are conducting this international project. My focus will be on the Irish context.

What will the research involve?

For participants (male educators over the age of 18, working in ECEC), participation involves the completion of a short survey (10 mins) on their experiences and mentorship needs.

Additionally, a small number of participants may be invited to participate in follow up interviews to add depth to the information gathered in the surveys.

Why have I been contacted?

You have been contacted because your role in an ECEC-related organisation gives you access to a network of ECEC educators.

What is being asked of me?

We are asking that you share the attached survey link and information sheet among your network in order to reach as many men in ECEC as possible. This will allow us to get the greatest response-rate which will strengthen the analysis and results of our study.

Will men’s participation be voluntary anonymous and confidential?

Yes. All information provided will be kept strictly confidential. No identifying information will be collected during surveys.

Are there any risks or benefits?

This study is considered low risk. Survey responses are anonymous and no personal data from interviews will be shared. Confidentiality is embedded in the design. Should any question cause discomfort, participants are free to decline to answer or withdraw without providing a reason. Responses will be analysed in order to better understand men’s mentoring needs in ECEC and underpin the development of mentoring resources to support male educators and organisations in ECEC.

What will happen to the results?

The results will be used for academic purposes, such as publications or presentations and to inform the development of mentoring resources to support male educators and organisations in ECEC. A summary of the findings can be shared with you upon request.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by TU Dublin’s Research Ethics Committee.

Contact for Further Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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