



## Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives

#### A44 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): Free Pre-School Year Electronic Return Form

<b>Data owner</b>	Department of Children and Youth Affairs ( <a href="http://www.dcyia.ie">www.dcyia.ie</a> )
<b>Brief description</b>	Data are collected in relation to each child participating in the ECCE, CETS (Childcare Employment and Training Support) or CCS (Community Childcare Subvention) programmes in each childcare facility. Data include demographics of the child; number of ECCE hours; information for use by the Department of Education and Skills to assist with plans for the following year's primary school education; information on childcare staff; and estimated running costs of the pre-school year. The number of children in the facility who are not participating in any of the ECCE, CETS or CCS childcare programmes is also collected, but details of the individual children are not.
<b>Primary function of data</b>	The ECCE e-Return Form is completed by childcare facilities participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme in order for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) to calculate the correct ECCE capitation for the year.
<b>Key classificatory variables</b>	ID Other; PPSN; Sex; DOB
<b>Themes/domains</b>	Financial/Economic
<b>Unit of observation</b>	Individual child
<b>Start date of data collection</b>	January 2010
<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	Annually, through e-Return. Data generally collected in 2nd week of September. However, children may start at any time during the year and may also transfer, etc; therefore, manual collection of data is ongoing throughout the pre-school year.
<b>Data format</b>	Separate record for each child
<b>Method of data collection</b>	Electronic data collection. An electronic e-Return is submitted to the DCYA by each childcare facility.
<b>Access/further information</b>	Department of Children and Youth Affairs ( <a href="http://www.dcyia.ie">www.dcyia.ie</a> )
<b>Notes</b>	<p>For September 2013, children must have been born between 02/02/2009 and 30/06/10 (both dates inclusive) in order to be eligible for the ECCE programme. For each subsequent year, just add on one year to 2009 and 2010 in each case. Children can only avail of one year in the ECCE programme. Take-up is over 60,000 each year.</p> <p>It should be noted that children eligible for the ECCE programme may as an alternative be availing of the CETS or CCS programmes. These programmes assist parents with childcare costs and these details are returned to the DCYA separately.</p>