**International Froebel Society 10th Biennial Conference**

**Presentation Title:** “The relationship with parents is crucial” – Exploring the Home Visitor’s role in early intervention and prevention services for families with young children.

**Theme:** Relationships Matter – working with children and their families

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6. **Description of proposed topic:**
* **Background:** ’Home visiting programmes, as early intervention initiatives, have been found to improve enhance parenting skills, strengthen parent-child relationships, and improve parenting mental health and wellbeing, these effects are particularly evident in families with very young children (Doyle et al., 2015; Eckenrode et al., 2017). **Aims:** We conducted an informal stakeholder consultation exercise as the preliminary element of a new national study (called UNITES). The overarching aim of UNITES is to profile & review all HV services in Ireland. The objective of this initial exploratory exercise was to understand how the Home Visiting Sector defined themselves, introduce them to the study, and explore who they worked in partnership with. **Method:** A group of approximately 80 Home Visiting Management and Home Visiting Practitioners (HVPs) across Ireland agreed to discuss their views and experiences of working with families with young children as part of a larger (online and in-person) workshop that was conducted as part of the CARN conference which was held in November 28th 2022. The aim of the workshop, to which the research team were invited, was to introduce the UNITES study and explore ways of working together. **Results:** A number of key topic areas were identified from our analysis of the material generated from the discussion, including the paramount importance of the relationship between the HVPs and families. **Conclusion:** This paper will explore this topic in more detail and will highlight a number of related issues, including the lack of any tailored or targeted training at undergraduate level for Home-Visitors.
1. **Keywords:**
* Home Visiting, Early Intervention and Prevention, Relationships, Parents, Children

**References:**

Doyle, O., Fitzpatrick, N., Lovett, J., & Rawdon, C. (2015). Early intervention and child physical health: Evidence from a Dublin-based randomized controlled trial. *Economics & Human Biology*, 19, 224-245.

Eckenrode J, Campa MI, Morris PA, Henderson CR Jr, Bolger KE, Kitzman H, Olds DL. (2017). The Prevention of Child Maltreatment Through the Nurse Family Partnership Program: Mediating Effects in a Long-Term Follow-Up Study. *Child Maltreat*. May;22(2):92-99. doi: 10.1177/1077559516685185. Epub 2016 Dec 29. PMID: 28032513.