# **BUILDING EMPATHY**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

# CONTEXT

- Increased incidence of mental health issues
- Chronic lack of services in North Wicklow
- Emotional Wellbeing Symposium
- Building on previous years' work
- Health Promoting School



# S.P.E.C.S.

- Supporting Parents and Early Childhood Services
- Consortium of statutory and community bodies
- ABC Programme (DCYA/Atlantic Philanthropies)
- Delivering nationally and internationally recognised programmes



- International programme (Canada)
- Short-term goals
  - More respectful caring relationships
  - Reduced levels of bullying and aggression
- Long term goals
  - Responsible citizenship
  - Responsive parenting



- Trained instructor from staff
- 27 lessons
- 9 Classroom visits
- Baby as "Teacher"



- Observing development
- Emotional literacy
  - Predicting changes
  - Reflecting on feelings
- Perspective taking



#### Research findings

- o increase in prosocial behaviour
- o decrease in aggression
- o increase in social & emotional understanding
- increase in knowledge of parenting
- o increase in cognitive and emotional empathy



### ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

- Barnardo's lead agency
- Training & ongoing mentoring/support
- Programme evaluation
- Increased capacity in Year 2
- Cost of training corporate outreach