`

Leabhar Tuismitheoirí agus Feighlithe Leanaí

Naíonra Céimeanna Beaga

I nGaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg,

Gleann Aibhne,

Br. An Ghoirt,

Inis,

Co. an Chláir.

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1: An Naíonra:

‘Séard atá i gceist le Náíonra ná gnúpa páistí idir 3-5 bliain d'aois agus Stiúrthóir a thagann le chéile ar feadh cúpla uair a chloig sa lá chun a bheith ag imirt is ag foghlaim tríd an imirt, i halla, i dteach nó in áras éigin eile atá oiriúnach. Bíonn dhá phríomhaidhm ag an Náíonra:

- cabhrú leis an bpáiste é/í féin a fhorbairt ar gach slí;
- cabhrú leis an bpáiste an Ghaeilge a shealbhú nó a c(h)umas labhartha sa Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus í a úsáid mar ghnáth theanga chumarsáide.

Bíonn réimse fairsing gníomhaíochtaí agus cluichí ar siúl ag an bpáiste sa Náíonra, ag imirt le gaineamh agus le huisce agus ag spraoi le bréagáin oiriúnacha. Cuirtear béim ar an ealaíon agus ar an gceardaíocht. Déantar réamhobair don léitheoireacht, don scríbhneoireacht agus don mhatamaitic. Is í an Ghaeilge amháin a úsáideann an Stiúrthóir chun é seo go léir a eagrú agus a phlé leis na páistí.

1: The Náíonra:

A *Náíonra* is a group of children of between 3-5 years of age who come together for a few hours each day, under the guidance of a *Stiúrthóir* or leader, to play and to learn through play, in a hall or a house or some other suitable accommodation. The *Náíonra* has two main objectives:

- to help the child to develop in every way;
- to help the child acquire Irish or to improve his/her knowledge of Irish by using it as the means of communication.
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The child will be involved in a wide range of activities and games, using sand and water as well as playing with appropriate toys. Art and craft activities are emphasised. Some preliminary work is done in the development of the skills involved in reading, writing and mathematics. Irish is the only language used by the *Stiúrthóir* in organising and discussing these activities with the children.

2: Cur chuige an Naíonra:

Sealbhú seachas múineadh teanga a bhíonn i gceist sa Naíonra. Cloiseann na paistí an Ghaeilge a labhairt ag an Stiúrthóir an t-am ar fad. Tumoideachas a ghlaotar ar an modh seo. Sa tumoideachas bíonn an páiste ag foghlaim tri mheán an dara teanga. Tuigtear an méid a deir an páiste ina chéad teanga ach freagraítear é sa dara teanga, agus cuirtear ná focail atá uaidh ar fáil dó. Bíonn dlúthcheangal idir an Ghaeilge agus:

- Gníomhaiochtaí / súgradh a mbíonn an páiste páirteach iontu
- Gluaiseacht, gníomhamhrain agus ceol a mbíonn an páiste páirteach iontu
- Fearas a bhíonn in úsáid ag an bpáiste ag an am
- Guth, tuin chainte agus infhilleadh an Stiúrthóra
- Comharthai aghaidhe agus coirp an Stiúrthóra

Tugann an comhthéacs seo brí don chaint agus de réir a chéile sealbhaíonn an páiste an Ghaeilge mar a dhéanfadh an páiste leis an gcéad teanga. Tosóidh an páiste ag caint nuair a bheidh sé ullamh chuige, gach duine ina am féin.

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2: The Naíonra Philosophy:

The *Náíonra* enables children to acquire Irish as distinct from teaching them in the traditionál manner. Children hear Irish being spoken at all times by the *Stiúrthóir Naíonra (Naíonra* Leader).

This method is known as Early Immersion Education. With early immersion the child learns through a second language (in this case Irish). The *Stiúrthóir* understands everything the child says in his first language but answers him in the second language while also providing him with the necessary vocabulary in the second language. The Irish he hears is associated with:

- Activity / play in which the child is involved
- Movement, song and music in which the child is involved
- Equipment being used by the child at the time
- Voice, inflection, intonation of the *Stiúrthóir*
- Body language of the *Stiúrthóir*

This context gives meaning to the language and the children pick up phrases, formulae and words as a child would when acquiring his first language. The child will begin to use Irish when he is ready to do so, each child at his own pace.

3: Cad is Tumoideachas ann?

Ciallaíonn an tumoideachas córas ina múintear gach ábhar trí theanga shonraithe amháin. I gcás ná ngaelscoileanna is í an Ghaeilge teanga thumtha an chórais. Is í an Ghaeilge meán cumarsáide agus teagasc na scoile.

Is ionann an Ghaeilge agus teanga oibre na scoile. Leanann páistí i ngaelscoileanna an gnáth churaclaim scoile mar atá leagtha síos ag an Roinn Oideachas agus Eolaíochta ó dheas nó an Roinn Oideachais ó thuaidh. Baintear amach líofacht iomlán sa Bhéarla agus sa Ghaeilge tríd an chóras seo.

Ta múnlaí éagsúla den tumoideachas á gcleachtadh go hidirnáisiúnta. Faoi láthair tá múnlaí chomhchosúla den tumoideachas á gcleachtadh sna gaelscoileanna, bunaithe ar an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta.

3: What is immersion Education?

In the immersion education model pupils learn all subjects through the rnedium of a designated language. In lrish-medium schools or gaelscoileanna, Irish is the language through which all subjects are taught and all communication is conducted. Irish becomes the working language of the school.

Pupils attending a gaelsccoil follow the standard curriculum as laid out by the Department of Education and Science in the south or the Department of Education in the north. Through the immersion system pupils achieve a high level of fluency in both English and Irish.

Various models of immersion education are practiced internationally. Similar models, based on international best practice are practiced in gaelscoileanna.

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4: Cén fáth go roghnóinn an tumoideachas do mo pháiste?

- Baintear amach ard-chaighdeán oideachais i ngach ábhar an churaclaim, sa Bhéarla ach go háirithe.
- Tá sé cruthaithe gurb é an córas is éifeachtaí do shealbhú na Gaeilge.

4: Why should I choose immersion education for my child?

- It provides high quality education in all subject areas, particularly in English
- It is proven to be the most effective way of learning the Irish language.

5: Sealbhú ná Gaeilge sa Naíonra:

Sa Naíonra ní chuirtear brú ar aon pháiste an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Creidtear gur trí sheans a thabhairt don pháiste éisteacht le Gaeilge, go sealbhóidh sé/sí an dara teanga, díreach mar a rinne leis an gcéad cheann - trí éisteacht, trí thuiscint, trí aithint focal agus struchtúr agus de réir a chéile trí fhrásaí agus abairtí a chur le chéile dó/di féin.
Anuas ar na gnáthbhuntáistí a bhaineann le haon saghas réamhscolaíochta fónta, is fiú go mór leas a bhaint as an gcumas ar leith atá ag páistí réamhscoile chun teanga a shealbhú agus as struchtúr an Naíonra mar ionad idéalach chun teanga a fhoghlaim. Bíonn an chaint bunaithe ar na rudaí a bhíonn ar siúl ag an bpáiste, ar na bréagáin agus ar an trealamh os a c(h)omhair amach, agus bíonn focail an Stiúrthóra sothuigthe ón gcomhthéacs. Bíonn na gníomhaíochtaí agus na cluichí páistí ann go rialta agus frasaí ceangailte leo. Bíonn seans ag gach páiste labhairt leis an Stiúrthóir agus a bheith ag caint. Bíonn an teanga nua ceangailte le duine, le hionad agus le himeachtaí ar leith.

5: Acquistion of Irish in the Naíonra:

In the *Naíonra,* no pressure is put on any child to speak Irish. The idea is that the child will acquire this second language in the way in which he/she acquired the first - by listening, understanding, isolating words and structures and, eventually producing words, phrases and sentences.
Apart from the general advantages of good pre-schooling, there are additional benefits to be gained from exposing a child to a second language at this level. The pre-school child is already actively involved in language learning and the *Naíonra* presents an ideal situation for that purpose. The activities and the language associated with them, are based on real toys and equipment; words used by the *Stiúrthóir* are self-explanatory from their contexts or can be linked to actions and recurring events. Every child has plenty of opportunity to talk and speak with the *Stiúrthóir.* The new language is associated with a person, a place and certain activities.

6: An Tuismitheoir agus an Naíonra:

Bíonn fáilte roimh thuismitheoirí sa Náíonra agus is tábhachtach ar fad go dtuigfidh an pháiste gur mhaith lena t(h)uismitheoirf é/í a bheith ann agus an Ghaeilge a bheith a foghlaim aige/aici.

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Níl aon bhaol go ndéanfaí dochar do chéad teanga an pháiste. Bíonn dhá theanga agus níos mó a labhairt ag daoine ar fud an domhain gan aon deacracht acu. Is feidir leo athrú ó theanga go teanga gan smaoineamh air, ag brath ar an ábhar atá á phlé, ar an gcomhchainteoir nó ar an suíomh.
Ní chuirtear isteach ar an gcéad teanga nuair a thosaítear ar theanga eile a fhoghlaim - a mhalairt sin ar fad, leathnaítear ar an gcumas iomlán teanga. Is fearr a thuigeann an duine dátheangach cad is teanga ann agus bíonn sé/sí níos oscailte do chórais nua.
Ó thaithí ná Naíonraí anseo in Eirinn agus a gcomhleithéidí i dtíortha eile, níl aon bhaol ann go n-éireoidh an páiste measctha. Níl aon deacracht aige/aici an dá theanga a dheighilt óna chéile.
Tógann sé tamall sula dtosaíonn páiste ag labhairt teanga nua agus ní hionann aon bheirt sa ráta foghlama. Ná bíodh aon tuismitheoir díomách mura mbeidh toradh le feiscint nó le clos fiú tar éis bliana ar an Naíonra. I gcás an chéad teanga de, tógann sé timpeall ar dhá bhliain sula dtosaíonn páiste ag caint ach ní hionann sin is a rá nach mbíonn aon rud ar siúl sa dá bhiain sin.
Éisteacht agus tuiscint – is iad sin fréamhachra an chumais chainte. Leathnófar amach de réir a chéile ar na chéad frásaí, tuigfear agus tógfar as a chéile as na rannta agus na hamhráin. Tiocfaidh an lá a mbeidh an páiste in ann iad a úsáid in c(h)omhthéasc féin.
Is buntáiste an mhór é don pháiste bunchloch choincréiteach de shamplaí a bheith aige / aici is é/í ag dul ar scoil, áit a bhfuil I bhfad níos mó daltaí, níos lú ama ag an múinteoir agus an Ghaeilge á múineadh mar ghnáthábhar scoile.

6: The Parent and the Náíonra:

Parents are most welcome in the *Naíonra.* It is of vital importance that the child understands that his/her parents want him/her to learn Irish in the *Naíonra.*
There is no basis for the fear that the child's first language will suffer by exposure to a second. In many parts of the world, two languages and more are mastered without difficulty, switching freely from one to the other according to the subject, situation or speaker.
The first language does not lose out when the child begins to acquire another; on the contrary, the total language ability is promoted. A bilingual person understands better the nature of language and is more open to new systems.
The experience of *Náíonraí* here and of similar groups in other countries has been that children do not get confused. They have no problem separating one language from the other.
It takes a while for a child to begin using a new language and no two learn at the same rate. Parents should not be disappointed even if there is no apparent progress after a year in the Naíonra. It takes most children two years to begin to use their first language but that is not to say that nothing has been happening for those two years.
Listening and understanding are the essential first steps to speaking. The first simple phrases will eventually be extended, pieces from songs and rhymes will be analysed and stored for future use The day will comes when the child will be able to adapt what he/she has heard to his/her own contexts.

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Having a base of concrete examples will be of great benefit to the child going to school where the numbers are much bigger, teacher attention more limited and Irish treated more as a school subject.

7: An gá go mbeadh Gaeilge agam mar thuismitheoir?

- Ní ghá go mbeadh ach is buntáiste é don pháiste má tá Gaeilge a labhairt sa bhaile agus gur léir don pháiste nach teanga scoile amhain í an Ghaeilge.
- Failtítear go mór roimh phaistí ó gach cúlra teanga agus cultúir.
- Cuirtear tacaíocht teanga ar fáil do thuismitheoirí a dteastaíonn uathu a scileanna Gaeilge a fheabhsú.
- Cabhraíonn meon dearfach le forbairt an pháiste agus tá sé seo amhlaidh d'fhorbairt iomlán an pháiste sa ghaelscoil.

7: Is it necessary for me as a parent to speak Irish?

- While it is not necessary for you to to be able to speak Irish, it is an advantage to to your child if Irish is spoken in the home, as they can see that it is not just a school language.
- Children from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds are welcome in the gaeilscoileanna.
- Irish-language support is provided as much as possible to parents who wish to improve their skills.
- A positive mental attitude is fundamental to your child's development, as it is for children in gaelscoileanna.

8: Páistí atá á dTógáil le Gaeilge:

Is mór an tacaíocht a thugann Naíonra d'aon pháiste atá a t(h)ógáil le Gaeilge, go háirithe lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Tugann an Naíonra deis dó/di teagmhail le lucht labhartha Gaeilge seachas a t(h)eaghlach féin agus eolas a chur ar an saol taobh amuigh dá t(h)each féin trí Ghaeilge.

8: Children being raised with Irish:

The *Naíionra* gives enormous support to any child being raised with Irish outside the Gaeltacht. The *Naíonra* provides an opportunity to meet others, apart from his/her family, who speak Irish. It also gives the child an experience of the world outside his/her home through Irish.

9: Roinnt Mholtaí do Thuismitheoirí:

Is cabhair an-mhór é don pháiste agus don Naíonra má dhéanann na tuismitheoirí iarracht pé Gaeilge atá acu a labhairt leis an bpáiste féin agus leis an Stiúrthóir. Is féidir ionad labhartha Gaeilge a dhéanamh as an Naíonra, frasaí gearra a úsáid - iad a fhoghlaim más gá - ag eagrú an pháiste chun dul ann, ag beannú agus ag fágáil slán (féach an liosta frasaí ag cúl an leabhráin). D'fhéadfaí leas a bhaint freisin as uaireanta áirithe cosúil le béilí, am luí, siúlóid nó turas i gcarr, chun a bheith ag cleachtadh abairtí simplí agus ag leathnú amach ar an mbunábhar ón Naíonra.

Taispeáin do shuim féin don pháiste, déan iarracht go fonnmhór. Is féidir spórt a bhaint as teanga nua, is féidir cluiche a dhéanamh as an bhfoghlaim. Faigh roinnt leabhair, téipeanna,

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póstaer. Féachaigí ar aon chlár Gaeilge do pháistí atá ar an téilifís (m. sh. TG4), éistigí le chéile le Raidió na Gaeltachta, tabhair na páistí chuig aon drama nó ócáid mar a bheidh an Gaeilge le clos. Inseoidh an Stiúrthóir duit cad iad na leabhair, na rannta agus na hamhráin a mbaineann sí féin úsáid astu agus cá mbíonn said ar fail.

9: Some suggestions for Parents:

It is a great help to the child and the *Náíonra,* if the parents try to use whatever Irish they have with him/her and with the Stiúrthóir. The *Naíonra* can be made an occasion of speaking Irish. Practice, and learn if necessary, some simple phrases getting the child ready, greeting the *Stiúirthóir* and saying goodbye (see rear of booklet for list of· phrases). Mealtimes, bedtimes, walks and car journeys are other opportunities for practising the same simple phrases because they occur regularly and extend the child's experience of events to which Irish can be connected.

Show your interest to your child and do it cheerfully. A new language is fun: you can make a game of it. Get some books, tapes and posters. Watch any childrens television programmes in Irish (e.g. TG4), listen together to Raidió na Gaeltachta, take the children to any play or other event where they may hear some Irish. The Stiúrthóir will tell you what books, fhymes, songs and other material she uses and where they can be got.

10: Leabhair Ghaeilge do Pháistí:

Tá rogha an-mhaith leabhair Ghaeilge ann do pháistí óga. Bíonn siad ar fáil i mórán siopaí leabhar maithe ar fud na tíre. Mura féidir leat teacht orthu i do cheantar féin, ta cúpla áit gur féidir eolas a fháil ina dtaobh:

An Siopa Leabhar, 6 Sráid Fhearchair, Baile Átha Cliath 2. Fón: 01-4783814

AIS, 31 Sráid ná bhFíníní, Baile Átha Cliath 2. Fón: 01-6398437

Freisin, tá liosta de na leabhar Gaeilge a bheadh oiriunách do phaistí Naíonra ar fáil ón Stiúrthóir. Ta catalog de leabhair oiriunácha le fáil ó Fhorbairt Naíonraf Teo., maraon le póstaeir Ghaeilge.

10: Books in Irish for Children

There is now a wide selection of books in Irish for young children available in many good bookshops across the country. If you cannot find such a shop in your own area, here are a couple of places you may make enquiries:

An Siopa Leabhar, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4783814

AIS, 31 Fenian Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6398437

Also, a list of books in Irish, suitable for children of *Naíonra* age, is available from the *Stiúrthóir.* Forbairt Náíonraí Teo. has a catalogue of suitable Irish books for children and also has Irish posters available.

11: Abairtí Simplí:

Is abairtí simplí den chuid is mó a bheidh uait chun labhairt le do pháiste. Seo roinnt samplaí a bailíodh ó pháistí Naíonraí. Cé gurb é polasaí an Naíonra ligean don pháiste an Ghaeilge a shealbhú go nádurtha, is féidir cabhrú leis/léi frasaí mar seo a dhaingniú ina (h)aigne agus iad a úsáid i réimse leathan comhthéacsanna.

11: Simples Phrases:

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Simple phrases are the most useful for talking with your child. We have collected the following examples used in early stages by children in a Náíonra. While it is the policy of the Naíonra to let the child acquire Irish naturally, you can help reinforce his/her understanding of these phrases and expand their use into a wide range of contexts.

Ag Beannú / Hello and Good-bye:
Dia dhuit / Hello
Slán leat / Good-bye
Feicfidh mé amárach tú / I'll see you tomorrow

Moladh / Praising:
Maith thú! / Well done!
Maith an buachaill/an cailín! / Good boy/girl!
Tá sé sin go deas/go álainn! / That's nice/lovely!
Is maith liom é / I like it
An maith leatsa é? / Do you like it?

Rud a Iarraidh / Asking for Something:
Ar mhaith leat briosca? / Would you like a biscuit?
Ba mhaith / I would
Ba mhaith liom péint dhearg / I'd like red paint
Féach ar seo / Look at this
Go raibh maith agat / Thank you
Fáilte romhat / You're welcome

Frásaí Eile / Other Phrases:
Cad tá á dhéanamh agat? / What are you doing?
Táim ag súgradh / I'm playing
Níl tú ag féachaint orm / You're not looking at me
Máire bhocht / Poor Maire
Tá sí ag caoineadh / She's crying
Thit sé ar an urlár / He fell on the floor
An féidir leat é a fháil? /Can you get it?
Is féidir / I can
Tá ocras/tart orm / I am hungry/thirsty
Tá tuirse orm/tá mé tuirseach / I am tired

Dathanna / Colours:
Bán, dubh, dearg, buí, glas, gorm, liath, donn, oráiste, corcra.
White, black, red, yellow, green, blue, grey, brown, orange, purple.

Uimhreacha / Numbers:
A haon, a dó, a trí, a ceathair, a cúig, a sé, a seacht, a hocht, a naoi, a deich (numbers 1-10).
Duine, beirt, triúr, ceathrar, cúigear, seisear, seachtar, ochtar, naonúr, deichniúr (persons 1-10).

An Corp / The Body:
An ceann, an béal, an tsrón, an smig, an chluas, na cluasa, an tsúil, na súile.

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The head, the mouth, the nose, the chin, the ear, the ears, the eye, the eyes.

An ghruaig, an lámh, na lámha, an chos, na cosa, an mhéar, ná méara, an ghlúin, na glúine, an aghaidh.
The hair, the hand, the hands, the foot, the feet, the finger/toe, the fingers/toes, the knee, the knees, the face.

Eadaí / Clothes:
An cóta, na cótaí, na lámhainní, an guna, an geansaí, an léine, an blús, an sciorta.
The coat, the coats, the gloves, the dress, the jumper, the shirt, the blouse, the skirt.

An bhróg, na bróga, an stoca, na stocaí, na riteoga, an bríste, an póca, an cnaipe.
The shoe, the shoes, the sock, the socks, the tights, the trousers, the pocket, the button.

Lón, Bia / Lunch, Food:
An ceapaire, an t-úll, an t-oráiste, an briosca, an briosca seacláide, an milseán.
The sandwich, the apple, the orange, the biscuit, the chocolate biscuit, the sweet.

An cháis, an fheoil, an t-arán, an t-im, an subh.
The cheese, the meat, the bread, the butter, the jam.
An bainne, an siúcra, an tae, an caife, an líomanáid bhán, an sú oráiste.
The milk, the sugar, the tea, the coffee, the white lemonáde, the orange juice.

Trealamh / Equipment:
An chathaoir (na cathaoireacha), an bord, an cófra.
The chair(s), the table, the cupboard.

An páipéar, an phéint, an taos, an marla, an leabhar (na leabhair).
The paper, the paint, the dough, the plasticine, the book(s).

An gaineamh, an t-uisce, na míreanna mearaí.
The sand, the water, the jigsaw puzzle.

Aidiachtaí / Adjectives:
Te, fuar, mór, beag, fliuch, tirim, trom, eadrom.
Hot, cold, big, small, wet, dry, heavy, light.

Uafásach, greannmhar, amaideach, ar fheabhas.
Terrible, funny, stupid, excellent.

12: Foinsí úsáideacha/ Useful links

Teanga / Language

www.abair.ie	Speech synthesiser for the Irish language
www.acmhainn.ie	Language resources such as dictionaries and terminology lists
www.csis.ul.ie/focloir/	Dictionary *An Foclóir Beag* supplied by University of Limerick

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www.focal.ie	Online Irish dictionáry
www.scriobh.ie	Computer and internet resources to aid written Irish

Áiseanna / Resources

www.cic.ie	Cló lar-Chonnachta publishes a wide range of literature & music
www.futafata.com	A small independent record company and book publishing house
www.fiosfeasa.com	Supplier of multimedia products and translation services
www.litriocht.com	Online bookshop
www.udar.ie	Glór na nGael's online shop

Eagrais Ghaeilge / Irish language organisations

www.comhluadar.ie	Comhluadar provides support for families raising their children through Irish
www.gaelport.ie	Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge is a representative body of 23 Irish language organisations
www.cnag.ie	Conradh na Gaeilge promotes the Irish language, heritage and culture throughout the country
www.gaeilge.ie	Forás na Gaeilge is the body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland
www.gaelchultur.com	Gaelchultur promotes the Irish language and culture through language courses and cultural workshops
www.gael-linn.ie	Gael Linn was established to foster and promote the Irish language and its heritage throughout Ireland
www.gaelscoileanna.ie	Gaelscoileanna Teo. is a national, voluntary organisation supporting the development of Irish-medium schools at primary and at post-primary level
www.nanaionraigaelacha.ie	Na Naíonraí Gaelacha is an independent, voluntary organisation for Stiúrthóirí Náíonra (Náíonra Leaders)

Óg eagrais /Youth organisations

www.spleodar.ie	Spleodar aims to develop an appreciation of Irish in teenagers and educate them in co-operation and leadership skills
www.feachtas.ie	Feachtas aims to promote the Irish language amongst young people between 8-18, and to help with their personal and social development.
www.ogras.ie	Ógras aims to promote the Irish language, national culture and youth development through youth organisations for children between 8-19