

# **Educational Experiences and Outcomes of Children with Special Educational Needs: A Secondary Analysis of Data from the Growing Up in Ireland Study**

**Peter Archer and Caroline McKeown**

## **Abstract**

This presentation describes some of the key findings emerging from a study commissioned by the NCSE that examined the experiences of children with special educational needs using Wave 2 of the Growing Up in Ireland dataset. This is a follow-up to the analyses of Wave 1 data when children were aged nine, to explore change and progress in children's outcomes over time. The Growing up in Ireland study collected data from children, their parents, and school principals, when children were thirteen years of age. Quantitative data was used to examine children's achievement, engagement, and well-being. The study also examined the background characteristics of children and whether or not these were related to their outcomes. A seven-group classification of special educational needs was identified and formed the basis of the comparisons. The presentation describes the classification system, shows some headline results, and concludes by discussing the limitations of the study and the conclusions arising from the analysis.

## **Biographical Notes**

Peter Archer is the Chief Executive Officer of the Educational Research Centre. He began his career at the Centre in 1972. In 1988 he became a policy analyst for the CORI (the Conference of Religious in Ireland). He returned to the Centre in 1999. He has an involvement in all aspects of the work of the Centre. He has a particular interest in educational disadvantage and the interface between research and policy.

Caroline McKeown is a Research Associate at the Educational Research Centre. She is currently involved in the national implementation of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) study, which assesses the skills and knowledge of 15-year olds in science, reading and mathematics. Her research interests are focussed on child and family well-being, particularly in relation to young people's outcomes in education and health. Caroline has previously worked on a number of different studies in relation to young people's health and well-being in the UK and Ireland, including the KIDS Study (KCL), and the SENYPIC study (UCD). Caroline holds a BA in Sociology and Social Policy and an MSc in Applied Social Research from Trinity College Dublin, and is currently registered as a PhD candidate at the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin.