

Parents and Underage Sport, Ireland (2020)

A chara,
My name is Enda Butler and I am a Sport & Exercise Science student from the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. For my final project, I am undertaking a nationwide study examining how parental attitudes and perceptions shape the physical training and athletic development of children in sport.

The survey is available to complete online now by via ink below

I would greatly appreciate if this email could be forwarded to senior management within the school, and the link ultimately emailed to parents.

Also, any means by which participation could be improved, such as a mention in a newsletter, or placement on a noticeboard would be most helpful. I am inviting the parents of children in your school, as well as parents amongst the faculty to participate in this research study by completing an online survey. The survey is now active, and may be completed up until **April 10th, 2020**.

Participation will pose no risk to the responder. The participants can fill out this online survey in their own time using their own computer/device and should take less than ten minutes. Every effort has been made to ensure that the questions are not of a sensitive nature.



<https://sur.ie/7ySJyA>

The cover page will tell participants about the purpose of this research study and allow them to consent to the survey. Parents are free to withdraw participation at any stage, without the requirement to provide reasons for withdrawal.

Purpose of the study

This study seeks to understand how parents shape the development of their children in sport. This study is part of the final year requirements for my Bachelor of Science degree. A questionnaire will be used within a mixed methodology study where quantitative research helps to assess prevalence and frequencies of sporting engagement and the level of involvement of both children and parents. Qualitative research helps to interpret behaviours concerning coaches, education, barriers to participation, specialisation and drop out. The purpose is to see if the prevailing attitudes align with current best practice recommendations within the Sport Science literature.

Benefits in taking part

To the best of our knowledge, there are no published studies which address parental attitudes using these methods. Analysis of the resulting data will be beneficial for children, schools, clubs, and the scientific community and will hopefully facilitate a discussion around the significance of parental attitudes in shaping children's sporting behaviours. Comparisons may be made in future studies to different age groups, nationalities, or socioeconomic backgrounds.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to clarify any of the above points.

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