

# NEART

## Authors

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## Aims

- Document current pedagogical practices in student professional practice placement (SPPP), and analyse & identify challenges and examples of high quality pedagogical practice
- Identify the nature of digital technology (tools) used in SPPP
- Identify elements of reflective practice possibly unique to SPPP in ECEC

## Findings - Challenges

- Temporary suspension of SPPP
- Rescheduling of placement
- Keeping pace with recommendations and changes, and closures and reopening of settings
- Sudden loss of student learning through 'hands on' experience and of opportunity to supervise students in practice settings
- Readjustment of assessment process
- Inadequate learning through in person CoP

## Findings - Responses

- Provision of in-depth virtual workshops and pre-placement training through tripartite arrangements for student learning
- Setting up of online CoP, peer learning and role play
- Creating virtual opportunities for students to experience and observe live settings
- Use of frequent online communication for supervision and guidance
- Recording discussions on moments of practice/use of films
- Making adjustments to portfolio submissions for assessment

## Context

Just ahead of Covid-19, ECEC higher education programmes went through a professional recognition process. In order to encourage quality in qualifications, education and professional development in ECEC, the new professional Awards criteria and guidelines (PACG, 2019) recommends a significant focus on supervised professional placement practice. 14 Higher education ECEC institutions underwent significant alterations and obtained certification of which 12 institutions participated in this research. In addition to the changes made due to PCAG, faced closures due to the COVID19 pandemic. This posed a challenge and in some ways an opportunity to innovate and provide suitable experiences for initial teaching practice placement experiences in ECEC

## Next Steps

- Conduct interviews with ECEC setting managers
  - Further analysis
  - Dissemination
  - Development of CPD
- Module redesign (where applicable)

## Impact

Through further analysis and identification of the challenges and opportunities for high quality pedagogical practice in relation to placement, this research will inform and potentially improve the placement module design across ECE programmes