Kid, n., a young goat; a child; a term of affection; a moniker.

Cuid, (pron. kid, cuid, kidj) n., share, part, portion; a term of endearment, love, affection: a chuid, (pron. a khid), my dear; mo chuid de’n tsaoghal, (pron. mo khid den tæl) all I have, my darling; a chuid inghean, (pron. a khid inyían) his daughters; a chuidín, (pron. a khidín, a khijín) my little dear. (Dineen, 281, 282, FP, 326)

Anglo-American dictionaries derive the word “kid,” from an 11th century English word “kide,” meaning a young goat. Kid meaning “a child” enters the printed English language in the 16th century as a so-called “low slang” or “cant” word. (Barnhart, 564; OED)

“Kid, a little dapper fellow, a child.” (Grose, Vulgar Tongue, 1785)

In Irish-American vernacular a “kid” is anyone you love, like, admire, or care about, as well as a generic term for children. The “kid” in question could be 8 or 80, but “a kid” (a chuid, my dear, my loved one) is always someone you care about. The English “kid” is a young goat you skin for a pair of "kid" gloves. In the 17th and 18th centuries, poor Irish “kids” were hunted down to sell.

“The Ships...often call at Ireland to victual, and bring over frequently white Servants... Such as come bound by Indenture, commonly call’d
Kids, who are usually to serve four or five Years.” (H. Jones, *Virginia*, 1724, 53)

In 1673, a “kidnapper” was defined in Richard Head’s *The Canting Academy* as “a fellow that walketh the streets, and takes all advantages to pick up the younger sort of people, whom with lies and many fair promises he inticeth on board a ship and transports them into foreign plantations.” (Maurizio Gotti, *The Language of Thieves and Vagabonds*, Lexicographica 94, 36)

Stealing a kid (a chuid, my darling) from an Irish mother was robbing the “cuid” (portion, part) that she loved more than any other

In O’Neill’s play, *The Web*, set in the New York slums in the first years of the 20th century, Tim Moran is a “yegg” (armed robber) on the “lam” from the law, who tries to save a young woman and her baby from a “cadet” (pimp).

“Tim (to Steve): ‘D’yuh think I’m goin’ to stand by and let yuh beat her up cause she wants to keep her kid? ...Git outa here before I croak yuh. (...Steve goes out and can he heard descdending the stairs...Rose looks up at him from the bed...Then she breaks into convulsive sobbing.)

Tim (making an attempt at consolation): There, there, Kid, cut out the cryin’. He won’t bother yuh no more…”

“Tim (kindly) ‘ That’s a bad cough yuh got, Kid.
“Rose: ‘...I went to a doc about a month ago. He told me I had the “con” and had it bad...he said I’d have to be careful or the kid ‘ud catch it from me... (She sobs.) I don’t even kiss her on the mouth.’

“Tim: ‘Yuh sure are up against it, Kid. (He appears deeply moved.) Gee, I thought I was in bad...” (Eugene O’Neill, The Web, 1913, 20, 21, 22, 23)

Jack Black became a road “kid” in the 1880s.

“‘You’re welcome to travel with me, kid, if you want to jungle up for a month or two,’ my companion said. ‘The fruit will be getting’ ripe south, and there’ll be green corn and new spuds ands the gumps are fat already. I promise myself some famous mulligans around these parts...’

...

“‘So long, kid. May see you out West next fall when I make the poultice route.’” (Jack Black, You Can’t Win, 1926, 41)

In the 19th century “Kid” became an Irish-American moniker of affection and admiration for boxers, ball players, and “sports.”

“KID” KENNARD

Defeats Billy Murray in a Prize Fight
A Thirteen Round Contest at Rockaway

Beach Last Night

“The much talked of and three times postponed fight between Jim Kennard, the St. Paul Kid, and Billy Murray was fought on Rockaway beach last night. “ (Brooklyn Eagle, Nov. 3, 1896, 5)

In the underworld a “kid” was a “cully” and a pal.

Kid Duff (Dubh, pron. doo, duv, dark) was the “Dark Kid;” the Clinic (Claonach, pron. clænač, crooked, deceitful) Kid could not be trusted; the Postal (Postúil, Conceited) Kid had a big head.

But at the end of the day the Irish “Kid” (Cuid) as an English “young goat” is a Brooklyn-Irish joke.

IRISH KID

“Pat Oi want to get a pair av shoes foor th bye.

“Clerk Certainly, sir. French kid?

“Pat No soor, he’s an Irish kid.”

(Brooklyn Eagle, March 22, 1897, 12.

A “Kiddo”. (A Chuid Ó, my darling, oh; my dear) is a “dear kid.”