Symfony

EntityType Field

A special `ChoiceType` field that's designed to load options from a Doctrine entity. For example, if you have a `Category` entity, you could use this field to display a `select` field of all, or some, of the `Category` objects from the database.

Rendered as	can be various tags (see ChoiceType Field (select drop-downs, radio buttons & checkboxes))
Parent type	ChoiceType
Class	EntityType

Tip

The full list of options defined and inherited by this form type is available running this command in your app:

```
# replace 'FooType' by the class name of your form type
$ php bin/console debug:form FooType
```

Basic Usage

The `entity` type has just one required option: the entity which should be listed inside the choice field:

```php
use App\Entity\User;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('users', EntityType::class, [
    // looks for choices from this entity
    'class' => User::class,

    // uses the User.username property as the visible option string
    'choice_label' => 'username',

    // used to render a select box, check boxes or radios
    // 'multiple' => true,
    // 'expanded' => true,
]);
```

This will build a `select` drop-down containing *all* of the `User` objects in the database. To render radio buttons or checkboxes instead, change the multiple and expanded options.

Using a Custom Query for the Entities

If you want to create a custom query to use when fetching the entities (e.g. you only want to return some entities, or need to order them), use the query_builder option:

```php
use App\Entity\User;
use Doctrine\ORM\EntityRepository;
use Doctrine\ORM\QueryBuilder;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('users', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => User::class,
    'query_builder' => function (EntityRepository $er): QueryBuilder {
        return $er->createQueryBuilder('u')
            ->orderBy('u.username', 'ASC');
    },
    'choice_label' => 'username',
]);
```

Note

Using form collections may result in making too many database requests to fetch related entities. This is known as the *"N + 1 query problem"* and it can be solved by joining related records when querying for Doctrine associations.

Using Choices

If you already have the exact collection of entities that you want to include in the choice element, just pass them via the `choices` key.

For example, if you have a `$group` variable (passed into your form perhaps as a form option) and `getUsers()` returns a collection of `User` entities, then you can supply the `choices` option directly:

```
use App\Entity\User;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('users', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => User::class,
    'choices' => $group->getUsers(),
]);
```

Select Tag, Checkboxes or Radio Buttons

This field may be rendered as one of several HTML fields, depending on the `expanded` and `multiple` options:

Element Type	Expanded	Multiple
select tag	`false`	`false`
select tag (with `multiple` attribute)	`false`	`true`
radio buttons	`true`	`false`
checkboxes	`true`	`true`

Field Options

choice_label

type: `string`, `callable` or PropertyPath

This is the property that should be used for displaying the entities as text in the HTML element:

```
use App\Entity\Category;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('category', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => Category::class,
    'choice_label' => 'displayName',
]);
```

If left blank, the entity object will be cast to a string and so must have a `__toString()` method. You can also pass a callback function for more control:

```
use App\Entity\Category;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('category', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => Category::class,
    'choice_label' => function (Category $category): string {
        return $category->getDisplayName();
    }
]);
```

The method is called for each entity in the list and passed to the function. For more details, see the main choice_label documentation.

Note

When passing a string, the `choice_label` option is a property path. So you can use anything supported by the PropertyAccess component

For example, if the translations property is actually an associative array of objects, each with a `name` property, then you could do this:

```
use App\Entity\Genre;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('genre', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => Genre::class,
    'choice_label' => 'translations[en].name',
]);
```

class

type: `string` **required**

The class of your entity (e.g. `App:Category`). This can be a fully-qualified class name (e.g. `App\Entity\Category`) or the short alias name (as shown prior).

em

type: `string` | `Doctrine\Persistence\ObjectManager` **default**: the default entity manager

If specified, this entity manager will be used to load the choices instead of the `default` entity manager.

query_builder

type: `Doctrine\ORM\QueryBuilder` or a `callable` **default**: `null`

Allows you to create a custom query for your choices. See EntityType Field for an example.

The value of this option can either be a `QueryBuilder` object, a callable or `null` (which will load all entities). When using a callable, you will be passed the `EntityRepository` of the entity as the only argument and should return a `QueryBuilder`. Returning `null` in the Closure will result in loading all entities.

Caution

The entity used in the `FROM` clause of the `query_builder` option will always be validated against the class which you have specified at the class option. If you return another entity instead of the one used in your `FROM` clause (for instance if you return an entity from a joined table), it will break validation.

Overridden Options

choice_name

type: `callable`, `string` or PropertyPath **default**: `null`

Controls the internal field name of the choice. You normally don't care about this, but in some advanced cases, you might. For example, this "name" becomes the index of the choice views in the template and is used as part of the field name attribute.

This can be a callable or a property path. See choice_label for similar usage. By default, the choice key or an incrementing integer may be used (starting at `0`).

Tip

When defining a custom type, you should use the ChoiceList class helper:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\ChoiceList\ChoiceList;

// ...
$builder->add('choices', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choice_name' => ChoiceList::fieldName($this, 'name'),
]);
```

See the "choice_loader" option documentation.

Caution

The configured value must be a valid form name. Make sure to only return valid names when using a callable. Valid form names must be composed of letters, digits, underscores, dashes and colons and must not start with a dash or a colon.

In the `EntityType`, this defaults to the `id` of the entity, if it can be read. Otherwise, it falls back to using auto-incrementing integers.

choice_value

type: `callable`, `string` or PropertyPath **default**: `null`

Returns the string "value" for each choice, which must be unique across all choices. This is used in the `value` attribute in HTML and submitted in the POST/PUT requests. You don't normally need to worry about this, but it might be handy when processing an API request (since you can configure the value that will be sent in the API request).

This can be a callable or a property path. By default, the choices are used if they can be casted to strings. Otherwise an incrementing integer is used (starting at `0`).

If you pass a callable, it will receive one argument: the choice itself. When using the EntityType Field, the argument will be the entity object for each choice or `null` in a placeholder is used, which you need to handle:

```
'choice_value' => function (?MyOptionEntity $entity): string {
    return $entity ? $entity->getId() : '';
},
```

Tip

When defining a custom type, you should use the ChoiceList class helper:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\ChoiceList\ChoiceList;

// ...
$builder->add('choices', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choice_value' => ChoiceList::value($this, 'uuid'),
]);
```

See the "choice_loader" option documentation.

In the `EntityType`, this is overridden to use the `id` by default. When the `id` is used, Doctrine only queries for the objects for the ids that were actually submitted.

choices

type: `array` | `\Traversable` **default**: `null`

Instead of allowing the class and query_builder options to fetch the entities to include for you, you can pass the `choices` option directly. See EntityType Field.

data_class

type: `string` **default**: `null`

This option is not used in favor of the `class` option which is required to query the entities.

Inherited Options

These options inherit from the ChoiceType:

choice_attr

type: `array`, `callable`, `string` or PropertyPath **default**: `[]`

Use this to add additional HTML attributes to each choice. This can be an associative array where the keys match the choice keys and the values are the attributes for each choice, a callable or a property path (just like choice_label).

If an array, the keys of the `choices` array must be used as keys:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

$builder->add('fruits', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choices' => [
        'Apple' => 1,
        'Banana' => 2,
        'Durian' => 3,
    ],
    'choice_attr' => [
        'Apple' => ['data-color' => 'Red'],
        'Banana' => ['data-color' => 'Yellow'],
        'Durian' => ['data-color' => 'Green'],
    ],
]);

// or use a callable
$builder->add('attending', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choices' => [
        'Yes' => true,
        'No' => false,
        'Maybe' => null,
    ],
    'choice_attr' => function ($choice, string $key, mixed $value) {
        // adds a class like attending_yes, attending_no, etc
        return ['class' => 'attending_'.strtolower($key)];
    },
]);
```

Tip

When defining a custom type, you should use the ChoiceList class helper:

```
use App\Entity\Category;
use Symfony\Component\Form\ChoiceList\ChoiceList;

// ...
$builder->add('choices', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choice_attr' => ChoiceList::attr($this, function (?Category $category): arra
        return $category ? ['data-uuid' => $category->getUuid()] : [];
    }),
]);
```

See the "choice_loader" option documentation.

choice_translation_domain

type: `string`, `boolean` or `null` **default**: `false`

This option determines if the choice values should be translated and in which translation domain.

The values of the `choice_translation_domain` option can be `true` (reuse the current translation domain), `false` (disable translation), `null` (uses the parent translation domain or the default domain) or a string which represents the exact translation domain to use.

expanded

type: `boolean` **default**: `false`

If set to true, radio buttons or checkboxes will be rendered (depending on the `multiple` value). If false, a select element will be rendered.

group_by

type: `string`, `callable` or PropertyPath **default**: `null`

You can group the `<option>` elements of a `<select>` into `<optgroup>` by passing a multi-dimensional array to `choices`. See the Grouping Options section about that.

The `group_by` option is an alternative way to group choices, which gives you a bit more flexibility.

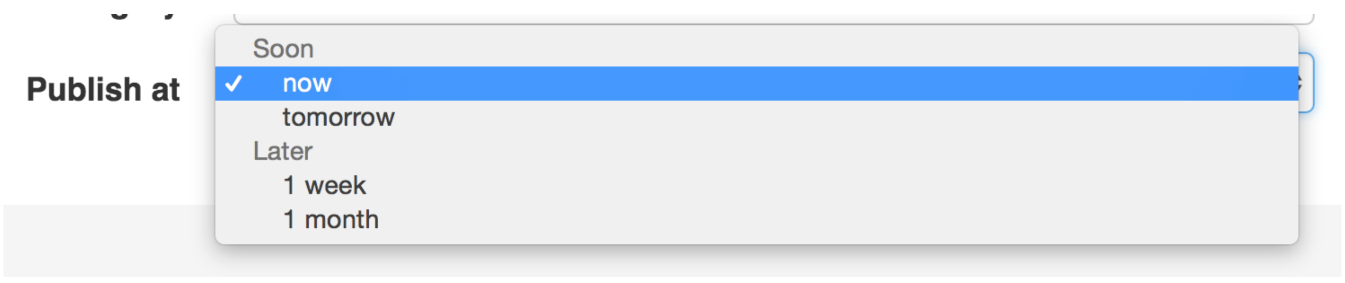
Take the following example:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

$builder->add('publishAt', ChoiceType::class, [
    'choices' => [
        'now' => new \DateTime('now'),
        'tomorrow' => new \DateTime('+1 day'),
        '1 week' => new \DateTime('+1 week'),
        '1 month' => new \DateTime('+1 month'),
    ],
    'group_by' => function($choice, $key, $value) {
        if ($choice <= new \DateTime('+3 days')) {
            return 'Soon';
        }

        return 'Later';
    },
]);
```

This groups the dates that are within 3 days into "Soon" and everything else into a "Later" `<optgroup>`:



If you return `null`, the option won't be grouped. You can also pass a string "property path" that will be called to get the group. See the choice_label for details about using a property path.

Tip

When defining a custom type, you should use the ChoiceList class helper:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\ChoiceList\ChoiceList;

// ...
$builder->add('choices', ChoiceType::class, [
    'group_by' => ChoiceList::groupBy($this, 'category'),
]);
```

See the "choice_loader" option documentation.

multiple

type: `boolean` **default**: `false`

If `true`, the user will be able to select multiple options (as opposed to choosing just one option). Depending on the value of the `expanded` option, this will render either a select tag or checkboxes if `true` and a select tag or radio buttons if `false`. The returned value will be a Doctrine's Array Collection.

Note

If you are working with a collection of Doctrine entities, it will be helpful to read the documentation for the CollectionType Field as well. In addition, there is a complete example in the How to Embed a Collection of Forms article.

placeholder

type: `string` or `boolean`

This option determines whether or not a special "empty" option (e.g. "Choose an option") will appear at the top of a select widget. This option only applies if the `multiple` option is set to false.

- Add an empty value with "Choose an option" as the text:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

$builder->add('states', ChoiceType::class, [
    'placeholder' => 'Choose an option',
]);
```

- Guarantee that no "empty" value option is displayed:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

$builder->add('states', ChoiceType::class, [
    'placeholder' => false,
]);
```

If you leave the `placeholder` option unset, then a blank (with no text) option will automatically be added if and only if the `required` option is false:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

// a blank (with no text) option will be added
$builder->add('states', ChoiceType::class, [
    'required' => false,
]);
```

placeholder_attr

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

Use this to add additional HTML attributes to the placeholder choice:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\ChoiceType;
// ...

$builder->add('fruits', ChoiceType::class, [
    // ...
    'placeholder' => '...',
    'placeholder_attr' => [
        ['title' => 'Choose an option'],
    ],
]);
```

6.3 The `placeholder_attr` option was introduced in Symfony 6.3.

preferred_choices

type: `array` or `callable` **default**: `[]`

This option allows you to move certain choices to the top of your list with a visual separator between them and the rest of the options. This option expects an array of entity objects:

```
use App\Entity\User;
use Symfony\Bridge\Doctrine\Form\Type\EntityType;
// ...

$builder->add('users', EntityType::class, [
    'class' => User::class,
    // this method must return an array of User entities
    'preferred_choices' => $group->getPreferredUsers(),
]);
```

The preferred choices are only meaningful when rendering a `select` element (i.e. `expanded` false). The preferred choices and normal choices are separated visually by a set of dotted lines (i.e. `-------------------`). This can be customized when rendering the field:

```
{{ form_widget(form.publishAt, { 'separator': '=====' }) }}
```

translation_domain

type: `string` **default**: `messages`

In case choice_translation_domain is set to `true` or `null`, this configures the exact translation domain that will be used for any labels or options that are rendered for this field.

trim

type: `boolean` **default**: `false`

Trimming is disabled by default because the selected value or values must match the given choice values exactly (and they could contain whitespaces).

These options inherit from the form type:

attr

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

If you want to add extra attributes to an HTML field representation you can use the `attr` option. It's an associative array with HTML attributes as keys. This can be useful when you need to set a custom class for some widget:

```
$builder->add('body', TextareaType::class, [
    'attr' => ['class' => 'tinymce'],
]);
```

See also

Use the row_attr option if you want to add these attributes to the form type row element.

by_reference

type: boolean **default**: true

In most cases, if you have an author field, then you expect setAuthor() to be called on the underlying object. In some cases, however, setAuthor() may *not* be called. Setting by_reference to false ensures that the setter is called in all cases.

To explain this further, here's a simple example:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\EmailType;
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\FormType;
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\TextType;
// ...

$builder = $this->createFormBuilder($article);
$builder
    ->add('title', TextType::class)
    ->add(
        $builder->create('author', FormType::class, ['by_reference' => ?])
            ->add('name', TextType::class)
            ->add('email', EmailType::class)
    )
```

If by_reference is true, the following takes place behind the scenes when you call submit() (or handleRequest()) on the form:

```
$article->setTitle('...');
$article->getAuthor()->setName('...');
$article->getAuthor()->setEmail('...');
```

Notice that setAuthor() is not called. The author is modified by reference.

If you set by_reference to false, submitting looks like this:

```
$article->setTitle('...');
$author = clone $article->getAuthor();
$author->setName('...');
$author->setEmail('...');
$article->setAuthor($author);
```

So, all that `by_reference=false` really does is that it clones the object, which enforces the framework to call the setter on the parent object.

Similarly, if you're using the CollectionType field where your underlying collection data is an object (like with Doctrine's `ArrayCollection`), then `by_reference` must be set to `false` if you need the adder and remover (e.g. `addAuthor()` and `removeAuthor()`) to be called.

data

type: `mixed` **default**: Defaults to field of the underlying structure.

When you create a form, each field initially displays the value of the corresponding property of the form's domain data (e.g. if you bind an object to the form). If you want to override this initial value for the form or an individual field, you can set it in the data option:

```
use Symfony\Component\Form\Extension\Core\Type\HiddenType;
// ...

$builder->add('token', HiddenType::class, [
    'data' => 'abcdef',
]);
```

Caution

The `data` option *always* overrides the value taken from the domain data (object) when rendering. This means the object value is also overridden when the form edits an already persisted object, causing it to lose its persisted value when the form is submitted.

disabled

type: `boolean` **default**: `false`

If you don't want a user to modify the value of a field, you can set the disabled option to true. Any submitted value will be ignored.

empty_data

type: `mixed`

The actual default value of this option depends on other field options:

- If `multiple` is `false` and `expanded` is `false`, then `''` (empty string);
- Otherwise `[]` (empty array).

This option determines what value the field will *return* when the submitted value is empty (or missing). It does not set an initial value if none is provided when the form is rendered in a view.

This means it helps you handling form submission with blank fields. For example, if you want the `name` field to be explicitly set to `John Doe` when no value is selected, you can do it like this:

```
$builder->add('name', null, [
    'required'   => false,
    'empty_data' => 'John Doe',
]);
```

This will still render an empty text box, but upon submission the `John Doe` value will be set. Use the `data` or `placeholder` options to show this initial value in the rendered form.

If a form is compound, you can set `empty_data` as an array, object or closure. See the How to Configure empty Data for a Form Class article for more details about these options.

Note

If you want to set the `empty_data` option for your entire form class, see the How to Configure empty Data for a Form Class article.

Caution

Form data transformers will still be applied to the `empty_data` value. This means that an empty string will be cast to `null`. Use a custom data transformer if you explicitly want to return the empty string.

error_bubbling

type: `boolean` **default**: `false` unless the form is `compound`

If `true`, any errors for this field will be passed to the parent field or form. For example, if set to `true` on a normal field, any errors for that field will be attached to the main form, not to the specific field.

error_mapping

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

This option allows you to modify the target of a validation error.

Imagine you have a custom method named `matchingCityAndZipCode()` that validates whether the city and zip code match. Unfortunately, there is no `matchingCityAndZipCode` field in your form, so all that Symfony can do is display the error on top of the form.

With customized error mapping, you can do better: map the error to the city field so that it displays above it:

```
public function configureOptions(OptionsResolver $resolver)
{
    $resolver->setDefaults([
        'error_mapping' => [
            'matchingCityAndZipCode' => 'city',
        ],
    ]);
}
```

Here are the rules for the left and the right side of the mapping:

- The left side contains property paths;
- If the violation is generated on a property or method of a class, its path is the `propertyName`;
- If the violation is generated on an entry of an `array` or `ArrayAccess` object, the property path is `[indexName]`;
- You can construct nested property paths by concatenating them, separating properties by dots. For example: `addresses[work].matchingCityAndZipCode`;
- The right side contains the names of fields in the form.

By default, errors for any property that is not mapped will bubble up to the parent form. You can use the dot (`.`) on the left side to map errors of all unmapped properties to a particular field. For instance, to map all these errors to the `city` field, use:

```
$resolver->setDefaults([
    'error_mapping' => [
        '.' => 'city',
    ],
]);
```

help

type: `string` or `TranslatableInterface` **default**: `null`

Allows you to define a help message for the form field, which by default is rendered below the field:

```
use Symfony\Component\Translation\TranslatableMessage;

$builder
    ->add('zipCode', null, [
        'help' => 'The ZIP/Postal code for your credit card\'s billing address.',
    ])

    // ...

    ->add('status', null, [
        'help' => new TranslatableMessage('order.status', ['%order_id%' => $order->ge
    ])
;
```

6.2 The support for `TranslatableInterface` objects as help contents was introduced in Symfony 6.2.

help_attr

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

Sets the HTML attributes for the element used to display the help message of the form field. Its value is an associative array with HTML attribute names as keys. These attributes can also be set in the template:

```
{{ form_help(form.name, 'Your name', {
    'help_attr': {'class': 'CUSTOM_LABEL_CLASS'}
}) }}
```

help_html

type: `boolean` **default**: `false`

By default, the contents of the `help` option are escaped before rendering them in the template. Set this option to `true` to not escape them, which is useful when the help contains HTML elements.

label

type: `string` or `TranslatableMessage` **default**: The label is "guessed" from the field name

Sets the label that will be used when rendering the field. Setting to `false` will suppress the label:

```php
use Symfony\Component\Translation\TranslatableMessage;

$builder
    ->add('zipCode', null, [
        'label' => 'The ZIP/Postal code',
        // optionally, you can use TranslatableMessage objects as the label content
        'label' => new TranslatableMessage('address.zipCode', ['%country%' => $countr
    ])
```

The label can also be set in the template:

Twig PHP

```twig
{{ form_label(form.name, 'Your name') }}
```

label_attr

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

Sets the HTML attributes for the `<label>` element, which will be used when rendering the label for the field. It's an associative array with HTML attribute as a key. This attributes can also be directly set inside the template:

Twig PHP

```twig
{{ form_label(form.name, 'Your name', {
    'label_attr': {'class': 'CUSTOM_LABEL_CLASS'}
}) }}
```

label_format

type: `string` **default**: `null`

Configures the string used as the label of the field, in case the `label` option was not set. This is useful when using keyword translation messages.

If you're using keyword translation messages as labels, you often end up having multiple keyword messages for the same label (e.g. `profile_address_street`, `invoice_address_street`). This is because the label is built for each "path" to a field. To avoid duplicated keyword messages, you can configure the label format to a static value, like:

```
// ...
$profileFormBuilder->add('address', AddressType::class, [
    'label_format' => 'form.address.%name%',
]);

$invoiceFormBuilder->add('invoice', AddressType::class, [
    'label_format' => 'form.address.%name%',
]);
```

This option is inherited by the child types. With the code above, the label of the `street` field of both forms will use the `form.address.street` keyword message.

Two variables are available in the label format:

`%id%`
: A unique identifier for the field, consisting of the complete path to the field and the field name (e.g. `profile_address_street`);

`%name%`
: The field name (e.g. `street`).

The default value (`null`) results in a "humanized" version of the field name.

Note

The `label_format` option is evaluated in the form theme. Make sure to update your templates in case you customized form theming.

mapped

type: `boolean` **default**: `true`

If you wish the field to be ignored when reading or writing to the object, you can set the `mapped` option to `false`.

required

type: `boolean` **default**: `true`

If true, an HTML5 required attribute will be rendered. The corresponding `label` will also render with a `required` class.

This is superficial and independent of validation. At best, if you let Symfony guess your field type, then the value of this option will be guessed from your validation information.

Note

The required option also affects how empty data for each field is handled. For more details, see the empty_data option.

row_attr

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

An associative array of the HTML attributes added to the element which is used to render the form type row:

```
$builder->add('body', TextareaType::class, [
    'row_attr' => ['class' => 'text-editor', 'id' => '...'],
]);
```

See also

Use the `attr` option if you want to add these attributes to the form type widget element.

label_translation_parameters

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

The content of the label option is translated before displaying it, so it can contain translation placeholders. This option defines the values used to replace those placeholders.

Given this translation message:

```
# translations/messages.en.yaml
form.order.id: 'Identifier of the order to %company%'
```

You can specify the placeholder values as follows:

```
$builder->add('id', null, [
    'label' => 'form.order.id',
    'label_translation_parameters' => [
        '%company%' => 'ACME Inc.',
    ],
]);
```

The `label_translation_parameters` option of children fields is merged with the same option of their parents, so children can reuse and/or override any of the parent placeholders.

attr_translation_parameters

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

The content of the `title` and `placeholder` values defined in the attr option is translated before displaying it, so it can contain translation placeholders. This option defines the values used to replace those placeholders.

Given this translation message:

```
# translations/messages.en.yaml
form.order.id.placeholder: 'Enter unique identifier of the order to %company%'
form.order.id.title: 'This will be the reference in communications with %company%'
```

You can specify the placeholder values as follows:

```
$builder->add('id', null, [
    'attr' => [
        'placeholder' => 'form.order.id.placeholder',
        'title' => 'form.order.id.title',
    ],
    'attr_translation_parameters' => [
        '%company%' => 'ACME Inc.',
    ],
]);
```

The `attr_translation_parameters` option of children fields is merged with the same option of their parents, so children can reuse and/or override any of the parent placeholders.

help_translation_parameters

type: `array` **default**: `[]`

The content of the help option is translated before displaying it, so it can contain translation placeholders. This option defines the values used to replace those placeholders.

Given this translation message:

```yaml
# translations/messages.en.yaml
form.order.id.help: 'This will be the reference in communications with %company%'
```

You can specify the placeholder values as follows:

```php
$builder->add('id', null, [
    'help' => 'form.order.id.help',
    'help_translation_parameters' => [
        '%company%' => 'ACME Inc.',
    ],
]);
```

The `help_translation_parameters` option of children fields is merged with the same option of their parents, so children can reuse and/or override any of the parent placeholders.