



**Volume 1 issue 6**

Welcome to our weekly bulletin.

These are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements and new resources for the week 12-16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**FCCC staff are available via phone & email (Please see below).**

○ **Gina Daly, Programme Information Officer**

Ph: 087-1972084 or email [gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Mairead Tucker, Lead Development Officer Swords and Surrounding Areas**

Ph: 087 7477553 Email: [mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Eimear Furlong, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas (Currently on Maternity Leave – contact info on 01 4851727/[info@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:info@fingalcountychildcare.ie) )**

Ph: 087-1884191 or email [eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Nicola McKernan, Development Officer, Dublin 15, and Surrounding Areas**

Ph: 087 6025263 or email [nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Karen Comiskey- Development Officer (Core Funding Support Lead)**

Ph: 087 4705805 or email [Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Aoife Ball, AIM Project Officer and Ukrainian Support contact.**

Ph: 087 3429757 Email: [aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Sarah McKenna, Regional Childminding Development Officer (CMDO)**

Ph: 087-4485558 or email [sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Helen Campbell, Finance & Office Manager**

Ph: 087 104 5197 or email [helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**

Ph: 087-7882688 or email [linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

○ **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**

Ph: 087- 9217918 or email [adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

## We are hiring.

Please find in the link below a job advert for the role of part-time/maternity cover DO (3 days per week until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024).

[www.activelink.ie/node/106250](http://www.activelink.ie/node/106250)

**Closing Date; Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 5pm**

## FCCC Training



### **Better Start Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Online Information Session for Parents**

Fingal County Childcare Committee has always focussed on ensuring that parents in Fingal are kept informed and supported throughout their child's time attending an Early Years' Service.

The Better Start Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) which was unveiled in June 2016 is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with additional support needs can access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. Its goal is to empower both service providers and parents working together to ensure children have access to an inclusive pre-school experience, and that every child can fully participate in the ECCE programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education.

FCCC will be hosting an online session to ensure that parents are knowledgeable and confident when engaging in the application process in partnership with an Early Years' Service.

DATE	TIME	FINGAL AREA
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Online via Teams 10.00am to 11.00am	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/aim-information-session-for-parents-hosted-by-better-start-tickets-837354879987?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/aim-information-session-for-parents-hosted-by-better-start-tickets-837354879987?aff=oddtcreator</a>

## **Better Start Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** **Online Refresher information session for Providers**

Fingal County Childcare Committee has always focussed on ensuring that early year's providers in Fingal are kept informed of matters that influence high quality provision and practice for the sector.

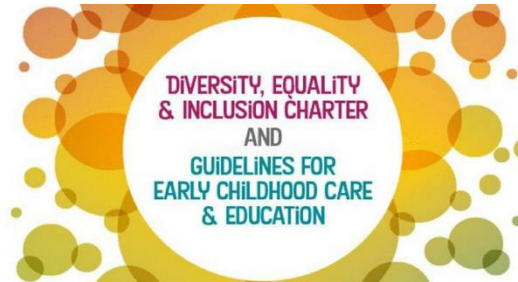
The Better Start Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) which was unveiled in June 2016 is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with additional needs can access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. Its goal is to empower service providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every child can fully participate in the ECCE programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education.

FCCC will be hosting an online session within Fingal to ensure that early year's settings are confident when applying through this process. The online session will be specifically for services with:

- New staff in the service
- Will be engaging with AIM for the first time.
- Wish to refresh on the objectives of AIM.

DATE	TIME	Fingal Area
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Online via Teams 6.00pm to 7.00pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/837341730657?aff=oddttdcreator">https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/837341730657?aff=oddttdcreator</a>

- **Places still available \***



### **Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Training**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9.00 to 5.00pm, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm to 8.00pm and  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm to 8.00pm**

***(All sessions above must be attended by participants to successfully complete the course)***

Venue	Dates	Time	Click link below to book place
<b>Digital Office Centre,          Balheary Industrial          Park,          Balheary Road          Swords, Co Dublin          Eircode: K67E5AO</b>	<b>Saturday 24.02.2024</b>	<b>9.00am - 5.00pm</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/diversity-equality-and-inclusion-training-tickets-819945407787?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/diversity-equality-and-inclusion-training-tickets-819945407787?aff=oddtcreator</a>
	<b>Monday 26.02.2024</b>	<b>4.30pm - 8.00pm</b>	
	<b>Wednesday 28.02.2024</b>	<b>4.30pm - 8.00pm</b>	

**Lunch and Refreshments provided.**

**This round of training is being offered on the dates above and attendance at all sessions is mandatory to obtain a certificate. To book a place please go to the Eventbrite Link above.**



Would you like to join our copp? If yes, please email or call karen for information;

[karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie) or mobile 087 4705806

What you will gain:

- Connect with people in your area & networking
- Sharing information in a way that builds insight and understanding of the topic.
- Promote and sustain values of individuals and organisations
- Enable shared problem solving, create new ideas and sharing practices
- Collaborative process to encourage the free flow of ideas and exchange of information.
- Generate new knowledge through professional talks, resource sharing etc.
- Reflective practice and learning potential

## Note from FCCC

The FCCC team will be visiting P&T groups, Libraries and Shopping centres in the Fingal area to provide information, advice and support to Parents and Childminders in relation to all areas of childcare. Keep an eye on our FB page for upcoming dates.



**Parent & Toddler Group**

Calling all Parent & Toddler Groups in the Fingal Area  
 Fingal County Childcare Committee is here for you

**FCCC Provides:**

- ✓ Information
- ✓ Support & Advice
- ✓ Support to access Grants

Scan the QR code to get in touch

**FINGAL COUNTY**  
**CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
 COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige  
 Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



## Useful resources on measles

HSE

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/measles/>

HPSC website.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vaccinepreventable/measles/factsheet/measlesinformationleafletforthegeneralpublic/Information%20on%20measles%20English%20August%202018%20new%20format.pdf>

<https://www.hpsc.ie/news/title-24037-en.html>

## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 \*Today\***

Finance and Impact Returns (FIRs) submission deadline.

23/24 QAP Midpoint Review Period closes

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

Financial reporting deadline for Core Funding

## For your information



# YOUR EARLY YEARS HIVE SNAPSHOT

29 January 2024

Upcoming task	Who should do it?	What do I need to do?	When do I need to do it?
<b>National Childcare Scheme (NCS) returns</b>	Services offering NCS 2023/24	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the Returns page	22-28 January returns due Tuesday 30 January  29 January - 4 February returns due Tuesday 6 February
<b>Finance and Impact Returns (FIRs) for December 2023</b>	All applicable users	Complete and submit FIRs (including info for September-December 2023, inclusive) through Pobal Online	Submission deadline is Friday 2 February at 5:00pm
<b>Scheduled Maintenance to the Early Years Hive</b>	All Early Years Hive users	Note that the portal will be unavailable for a short amount of time during this maintenance	Thursday 1 February at 6:00pm (lasting approximately 15 minutes)  Provisionally scheduled for Thursday 8 February as well
<b>February Core Funding Review &amp; Confirm</b>	Partner services that have submitted their original Core Funding Application Module on or before the 31 January 2024	1) Ensure most recent Core Funding application / application change is at 'approved' 2) Complete Review & Confirm	Review & Confirm window open 1-12 February
The tasks above are for general guidance only. You may have additional tasks outstanding. Please regularly check the announcements page and the notifications page of the Early Years Hive.			

You might have missed:	Who is it relevant to?	Where can I find it?
<b>AIM Level 1 Applications</b>	All services with new and existing LINC graduates that have not submitted an AIM Level 1 2023 application.	Apply for the 2023/2024 programme call via the Early Years Hive, where you will also find the Applicant guidelines.
<b>AIM Level 5 Equipment Transfer of Ownership (TOO)</b>	All services in possession of AIM5 equipment due to be transferred.	Transfer of ownership process to open late February 2024. Consult the 'how to' guide on the Early Years Hive for help.



### Notice for services located in schools - closure day due to referendums (8 March)

Early Learning and Care/School Age Childcare Providers located **within a school premises or on the school grounds**, and where the school is used as a **polling station** for elections/referendums on a day which the ELC/SAC service is scheduled to be open **are not required**:

- to amend their calendars

or

- apply for force majeure.

Services providing the ECCE programme are **not** required to make up that day for the purposes of meeting the 182-day rule in the programme year.



The February Review & Confirm window is now open and will close on Monday 12th February 2024. Prior to completing the Review & Confirm, you must ensure that all data on the Service Profile is up to date. Secondly, the Core Funding Application Module must be at status 'Approved'. If the Application Module is at a 'Referred Back' status, the issue must be rectified prior to completing the Review & Confirm. Support documents can be located on [HIVE>Resources>Help & Support>Core Funding>Core Funding Application](#).



### **Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 1**

The DCEDIY have agreed a transitional arrangement for financial reporting to cover year 1 and year 2 of the Core Funding scheme. Financial reporting requirements in this transitional phase have been significantly simplified and streamlined and the material now available on the Early Years Hive reflects those changes.

It should be noted that the Financial Management Tool is optional. The financial reporting deadline for Core Funding is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. The revised reporting requirement during the transitional phase will consist of a sector specific Income and Expenditure Report. This Income and Expenditure Report will significantly reduce the reporting requirement on partner services.

Relevant documents can be located on Hive> Resources>Programme Documents>Core Funding documents> Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 1 (2022/23)

### **FCCC Core funding support**

If you have any question or need support please contact: Karen Comiskey, Development Officer – Core Funding: Mobile: 0874705806 | Email: [karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

### **Finance and Impact Returns (FIRs)**

The FIRs can be completed now and should be submitted through Pobal Online. The DCEDIY has advised the importance for all community services to continue to submit FIRs as this allows the DCEDIY and Pobal to identify and resolve problems. FIRs also act as an informative tool for future financial planning. The deadline for submissions has been extended to **Friday, 16 February 2024 at 5pm** and submissions should include information relating to September- December 2023 inclusive.



### **Mid Term Break Reminder**

As services are closed for the mid-term on Thursday 15th February and Friday 16th February, with the option to extend to a five-day break, it may be necessary to make the following changes on your Early Years Hive.

We advise making any necessary changes as soon as possible to ensure there are no issues when returns are submitted, and payments processed.

### **NCS: Service Calendar and Returns**

If your service is closed for part or all of the week, you must mark the closures on your NCS service calendar accordingly. You must also note whether it is a subsidised (paid) closure or not.

For more information, please see 'How to add a closure' on the NCS Service Calendar section of Help & Support.

For school-aged/ECCE children, if you are increasing their hours during mid-term, please ensure you do not forget to amend the hours for children whose hours reduce after mid-term. As you know NCS subsidy hours cannot be claimed for hours that a child is in school or ECCE, or hours that your service is closed, and any over-claims are liable to be recouped.

NCS returns must be submitted on the Early Years Hive each week. Returns become available from the last day (Sunday) of the reporting week and must be completed by the following Tuesday and are based on the previous week's attendance.

If a return is not submitted within the required timeframe, all subsidy payments will be suspended until it is submitted.

Changes cannot be made to service calendar opening hours or claim hours once a return for that week has been submitted on the Early Years Hive.

If you require further assistance, please raise a Service Request using the following categories ensuring that you include the CHICK number in the request.

- Programme: NCS
- Request Type: NCS Calendar
- Request Type Details: General

### **ECCE: Service Calendar**

Providers in contract for the ECCE programme are reminded that changes to service calendars must be first approved by County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and parents must be given 20 working days' notice in writing of any change to the service's calendar.

Copies of such notices must be kept on file for compliance purposes.

Approved providers in contract for the ECCE Programme must be open for a minimum of 38 weeks (or 182 days) over the programme year.

For further information on service calendars, please contact your local CCC or refer to the ECCE Service Calendar section of Help & Support.

If you require further assistance, please raise a Service Request using the following categories:

- Programme: ECCE
- Request Type: ECCE Calendar
- Request Type Details: General

### **CCSP Saver Programme: Amending Sessions (e.g. a child is moving from part-time to full-time)**

If a registration is changing and needs to be updated from part-time to full-time, please input a CCSP Leaver with the date the child is changing service level. A new registration should then be created with the updated level of service for the appropriate period, within 6 weeks of the start date of the new registration.

Please see 'How to end/add a CCSP Saver Programme child registration' on the CCSP child registration section of Help & Support for guidance.

If you require further assistance, please raise a Service Request using the following categories:

- Programme: CCSP
- Request Type: Registrations
- Request Type Details: Leaver



### **Access to Better Start training through Continuous Professional Development**

Each member of staff must have their own active directory account to take part in training. When staff self-enrol for training through the LMS365 course catalogue they must self-enrol using their own accounts.

Enrolling under a different account may result in certificates of completion issued under a different username and the course not being recorded on the individual's learning transcript.

To access the support guides, please see Help & Support > Better Start L&D Guides.

For further support with any queries, please contact:

[Professionaldevelopment@betterstart.ie](mailto:Professionaldevelopment@betterstart.ie)

### **OECD Starting Strong Teaching and Learning International Survey**

This year marks the first year that Ireland is participating in the OECD Starting Strong Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS Starting Strong). Recruitment for the survey is already underway. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) began contacting selected services in December to gather a sample that is representative of the wider sector. If your service has been selected, it is important that you complete and return the 'listing form' included in your information pack. This form asks you to provide details of all early years educators and managers in your setting who either:

a) regularly work with children under three (U3)

OR

b) regularly work with children aged three to school age (ISCED 02)

A sample of early years educators and managers from each of these groups will be invited to complete an online survey between February and April 2024. The information provided will help to support the working conditions and training needs of early years educators and managers and build the overall quality of the workforce.

The CSO have a dedicated support line to help selected services through the steps involved in completing the listing form.

Selected services can access support from the CSO on the contact details provided below:

Gemma O'Connell Duff: Telephone: (+353) 21 453 5110 / Email: [talis@csa.ie](mailto:talis@csa.ie)

Further information on TALIS Starting Strong can be found at: [bit.ly/TalisStartingStrong](https://bit.ly/TalisStartingStrong)

## Barnardos – new publication

Guidance on how early years educators can help children learn how to manage and express their feelings and help them learn how to behave in situations of stress and conflict.

<https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/.../99bf80c8-4037.../content>

Training Events Spring 2024		 Train with us	
Introduction to Reflective Practice in Early Learning and Care	Date: 13th February 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €15	The aim of this webinar is to assist participants to begin or continue to reflect on their own practice as they engage with clients and colleagues. Participants will have the opportunity to look at some examples of reflective tools and exercises where they can identify some of the characteristics of different types of reflection.	
Understanding Young Children's Behaviour in Early Learning and Care	Date: 20th February 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €15	The aim of this workshop is to support Early Year's Educators in understanding the factors that influence children's behaviour and to see behaviour as communication.	
Supervision in Early Learning and Care	Date: 27th February 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €25	The aim of this workshop is to give guidance on the development and implementation of a supervision structure in an Early Learning and Care setting. This training will be helpful for early learning and care providers, putting in place processes to meet regulatory requirements on staff supervision.	
Promoting the Social & Emotional Well Being of Babies Toddlers and Young Children – <i>An Infant Mental Health Approach</i>	Date: 5th March 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €15	The aim of this workshop is to introduce participants to the concepts of infant mental health and to consider ways to support children's social and emotional wellbeing using a relational framework.	
Dealing with Difficult Calls	Date: 12th March 2024 Time: 6.30pm to 9.30pm Cost: €50	This training seeks to provide participants with a space to explore a range of caller presentations; the factors that shape an individual's reaction to stress and effective strategies to use when taking difficult calls.	
Sharing Developmental Concerns with Parents	Date: 19th March 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €15	This workshop is suitable for those working in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare in supporting their role in communicating developmental concerns with parents about their child.	
Trauma Awareness in early Learning and Care	Date: 26th March 2024 Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm Cost: €90	The aim of this 1 day training is to build expertise and confidence among the Early Years professionals supporting children in Early Learning and Care settings who have experiences of trauma.	



Scan the QR for more information and to book your place

Or Contact us: [training@barnardos.ie](mailto:training@barnardos.ie)

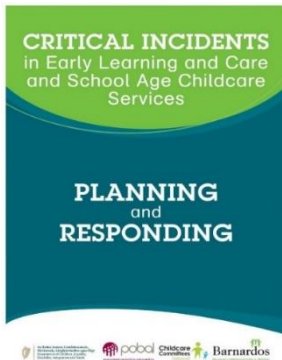


## Early Years Sectoral e-Bulletin February 2024

The February 2024 edition of the Early Years e-Bulletin for early learning and care (ELC) and school-age childcare (SAC) providers can be accessed at:

[February 2024 Early Years Sectoral E-Bulletin](#)

## Critical Incidents in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services: Planning and Responding



All Early Learning and Care (ELC) and school Age Childcare (SAC) services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan as outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services. A guide has been developed from previous guidance on critical incidents planning, including the Critical Incident Plan Toolkit and the extensive work of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), to support ELC and SAC services to think about and plan for critical incidents and to have practical supports in place should it be necessary to respond to a critical incident. Please see guidance below.



### First5 Little Library

Below you will find a copy of the First5 Little Library at your Local Library eBulletin. It includes information on the supports available from the local library to ELC & SAC services as well as details on the Little Library Evaluation.



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### Little Book at Bedtime:

A free bedtime storybook and library card wallet is available at the library for all children of 4 years and under, to pick up and keep. This exciting initiative aims to engage all parents of young children to read stories with them at bedtime. Parents and their children can pop into their local library to pick up their free bedtime story book and join the library. Bedtime story books are available in English and Irish.



### A Guide to Early Years Education Inspection

Inspectorate  
Updated January 2024



Updated January 2024 - how the Department of Education Inspectorate conducts an early years education inspection.

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/233708/a923cf1c-6565-48d8-a96b-2b1330e70b14.pdf>



All LINC graduates can register for LINC's online CPD programme. You do not need to be the Inclusion Coordinator in your setting to participate.

This CPD can be included in Quality Action Plans under option 5.

● FAQs and how to apply: <https://lincprogramme.ie/cpd-for-incos>



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New from TU Dublin: Together Old and Young (TOY) handbook.

Intergenerational learning focuses on bringing older adults and young children together to share knowledge, skills and values.

<http://www.toyproject.net/.../Generations-growing...>



### First 5 Implementation Plan

The DCEDIY published the implementation plan for 'First 5', the ten-year whole of government strategy for babies, young children and their families which describes the ambitious steps that will be taken over the period 2023 to 2025 to ensure children get the best start in life.

Click on the below link for full press release.

[http://westmeathchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/24.11-PRESS-RELEASE\\_New-First-5-implementation-plan.pdf](http://westmeathchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/24.11-PRESS-RELEASE_New-First-5-implementation-plan.pdf)



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## Environmental Labels

Tip Sheet for Early Years Educators



Environmental labels are signs used to identify learning and play areas, equipment and resources in an early year setting. They support children to effectively use and learn about their preschool environment and to identify the different play and learning areas available for them to explore and play in.

See Better Start's tip sheet: [Environmental labels](#)



Betterstart is delighted to launch the new AIM information video. This video was designed to tell the story about the role of the Early Years Specialist when delivering Expert Educational Advice and Support. It provides details about how to access AIM supports as well as what can be expected from the mentoring journey. Have a look here

<https://www.betterstart.ie/access-and-inclusion-model/>



### **Viral Infections: HSE Guidance for the ELC Sector**

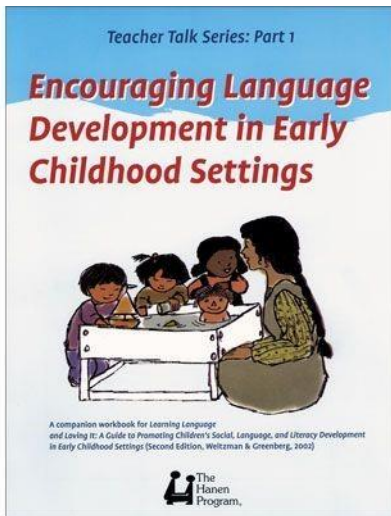
Dear provider,

We are writing to you today (17/11/23) with a memo from the HSE and supporting poster which provide advice for ELC settings on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Regards,

Early Years Division, DCEDIY

[Guidance](#)



Better Start's Hanen Teacher Talk training - practical, interactive strategies for early years educators to help children interact and communicate. New dates added for February and March: <https://www.betterstart.ie/.../hanen-teacher-talk.../>



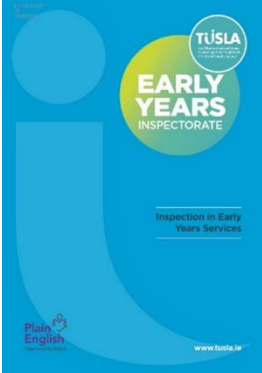
As advised at the end of January, the current inspection Disputed Findings process has been extensively reviewed and enhanced. The process is now called Inspection Findings Review (IFR) process and will be implemented for inspections which are carried out on or after 12th February 2024. The process for Inspection Findings Review and for Factual Accuracy have been separated into two distinct clear processes. The Inspection Findings Review provides a clear and robust process for when a registered provider disagrees with inspection findings in the inspection report.

You can access all the relevant documents, along with several guidance documents to support you with the process on the Tusla Inspection Tools and Templates webpage. <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-providers/early-years-inspections-2/inspection-tools-and-templates-2/>

A webinar was held to outline the new process on 29th January 2024 which has been recorded and made available on the Tusla website. You can access the session, along with the presentations now, <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/>

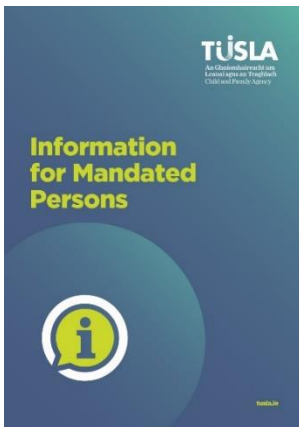
Following on from the Tusla Webinar - Inspection Findings Review and Multiple Provider Overview on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January for providers, if you didn't get the opportunity to attend, a recording is available on the Tusla website, <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/>

[Renewal of garda vetting](#)



This new leaflet provides information for parents on the different types of inspections and other work carried out by Tusla and the Department of Education inspectorates. [Leaflet](#)

[Link to vetting booklet](#)



### **First Aid Responder (FAR) requirement**

Due to recent Tusla inspections outcome we would like to remind Providers that:

- At least one person trained in first aid (FAR) is available to the children while the service is in operation.
- At least one person trained in first aid (FAR) is available to the children when on outings.
- A list of people trained in first aid (FAR) is available.
- In-date certification for each trained FAR is available.

The number of people trained in first aid for children (FAR) and available for first aid response is based on the service's risk assessments, including the size of the service and the hazards identified.



## Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months



Tusla has introduced a new guidance document, which sets out the revised position of Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate on sleep provision for children under 24 months in early learning and care services.

There is also a webinar available for your convenience using the following link: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/>



[What to do if worried about a child](#)



## For Parents



### Helping Your Child To Manage Their Anxiety

Validate their feelings. Tell your child that it is OK to feel anxious, scared or upset.



Help your child create a picture in their mind of a place where they feel happy and calm. Encourage them to go to this place in their minds when they begin to feel anxious.



Ask your child to draw a picture or write about what worries them. It's sometimes helpful for the child to tear it up and throw it away.



Reassure your child that you are there and willing to help. Remember, touch sometimes works better than words.



Remember, pets can help. Petting an animal can help relieve anxiety for children and for parents too!



Try some physical activities with your child - belly breathing, star jumps, punching a punchbag, stress balls, running, jumping, or blowing bubbles. Let your child choose what works best for them so they can use it when they are anxious.



Spend time thinking about possible solutions with your child and remember to encourage them to practice these strategies when they are calm.



Remind your child of when they have managed their anxiety in the past. Show that you are confident that they can do it again.





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## For Childminders



**National Action Plan  
for Childminding  
2021-2028**



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

**We've launched the public  
consultation on the draft  
childminding regulations  
today.**

**This is your  
chance to  
have your say.**



### Launch of Public Consultation on New Draft Childminding Regulations

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February Minister O’Gorman launched the public consultation on the New Draft Childminding Regulations.

Minister O’Gorman’s Press Release can be accessed on the following link:

[gov.ie/en/press-release/b7c86-minister-ogorman-launches-public-consultation-on-new-childminding-regulations/](https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/b7c86-minister-ogorman-launches-public-consultation-on-new-childminding-regulations/)

Public Consultation Information can be accessed on the following links:

[gov.ie/en/consultation/2071d-public-consultation-on-the-draft-childminding-regulations/](https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2071d-public-consultation-on-the-draft-childminding-regulations/)

[gov - National Action Plan for Childminding 2021 - 2028 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/national-action-plan-for-childminding-2021-2028/)

This public consultation aims to ensure that as many childminders as possible can have their say. Fingal County Childcare Committee will facilitate focus groups with childminders in the coming weeks.



**FINGAL COUNTY**  
**CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

**Advice and Information for  
Parents and Childminders**

**For Parents**

- National Childcare Scheme
- ECCE
- AIM Model of Inclusion

**For Childminders**

- Becoming a childminder
- National Action plan for childminding

**AIM**  
ACTION INCLUSION MODEL

**National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028**

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Mairiúnaí, Léighleáiríochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

**FINGAL COUNTY**  
**CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

**Are you childminding or thinking of becoming a childminder in Fingal?**

**OUR CHILDMINDING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SARAH MCKENNA IS HERE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT ON:**

- ✓ Running a childminding business
- ✓ Accessing Grants/Funding
- ✓ Information sessions
- ✓ Networking with other childminders
- ✓ Training for childminders
- ✓ National Action Plan for Childminding

**CONTACT US**

087 - 4485558

sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Scan the QR code to join our mailing list

**National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028**

## FCCC Jobs Board

Fingal CCC have updated their website to include an interactive Jobs Board. This Jobs Board will support early childcare providers to advertise their recruitment needs and to provide parents with the opportunity to advertise needs with the aim of linking, early years, childminders, and parents in the Fingal area. The new FCCC Jobs Board facilitates the recruitment of staff into the ELC Sector in Fingal. To advertise a job simply go to our website and click on the jobs board tab. Employers with job vacancies can post a job by clicking on the link above and fill in the required fields. The jobs posted will go live immediately and will be visible on the site for 30 days and will then be archived. **Note - you don't need to set up a log in, just complete the form and click submit.**

## Service Closures

We have been asked what the process is for services, if for whatever reason, you have decided not to reopen or closed within the current programme year. The steps are as follows:

- **Inform FCCC via email to [info@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:info@fingalcountychildcare.ie)**
- **Complete the Cessation of Services form for Tusla – click on the link below.**  
[http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Cessation\\_of\\_Service.pdf](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Cessation_of_Service.pdf)
- **Inform Pobal & make any necessary changes to registrations on the HIVE. - Service Closure** If an Approved Provider closes its ELC service, or ceases to provide a DCEDIY childcare programme, notice must be submitted in writing immediately to the local City/County Childcare Committee and the Data Management Team in the Scheme Administrator by raising a service request on the EY HIVE and selecting the Request Programme Type “User Account Management”, then selecting the Category “How to” and the Sub-Category “Closures. FCCC will link in with individual services once the notification has been received.

## Facebook

If you are a Facebook user, or would like to set up a Facebook account, we would be most grateful if you could please ‘Like’ our Fingal County Childcare Committee Facebook page, and please feel free to ‘Share’ it too.

We will post regular updates for ELC/ SAC services and Childminders.

Our Facebook page can be found at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/fingalcountychildcare/>

## Covid Case Advice

### Covid case advice \*new information\*

Please find below links to information from the HPSC in relation to Covid-19 and information from the HSE for ELC and SAC providers on preventing the spread of Covid-19 and children returning to ELC and SAC settings.

We would be grateful if you can share this information with parents, guardians, and staff.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/news/title-23357-en.html> (updated 11th August 2023)

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/child-returning-to-school-or-childcare/>

In addition, please find link below to the Management of Infectious Diseases in Childcare Facilities guidance resource.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/lifestages/childcare/File,13444,en.pdf> Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings (2012)

For general Covid-19 queries you can contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday or visit the HSE website <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/>

Should you have any queries on the above, our contact details are 01- 4851727 or [info@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:info@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

**Kind Regards, Fingal County Childcare Committee**