

Volume 1 issue 12

Welcome to our weekly bulletin.

These are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements and new resources for the week 18th – 22nd March 2024.

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

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Note from FCCC



FCCC Expression of Interest Form

Fingal CCC have developed an expression of interest form. We are hoping you can take the time to complete this quick form. This form will allow us to deliver and develop training that you want and at times that suits you best. We would really appreciate it if you can click on the link below and submit the form to give us the information required to provide support and training to everyone in Fingal working in the Early Years Sector.

Fingal EOI form https://forms.office.com/e/eEGNFXSTkn



FCCC Training

Dear Childcare Practitioner,

Please find details below of Speech & Language sessions for providers and parents which will take place in our offices - Digital Office Centre, Swords in April.

Please find details of sessions and the booking links below

Places are limited and are based on a first come first served. There is no fee for this event.

Providers Workshop



Link to book Provider Session:

 $\underline{https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/speech-and-language-development-workshop-for-childcare-providers-tickets-\\862912302927$



Parents Workshop

Please share with the parents who attend your services.



Link to book Parent Session:

https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/speech-and-language-development-workshop-for-parents-tickets-862861591247



STEAM in ECEC Workshop

Spaces still available but filling up fast

Please see below a flyer in relation to STEAM in ECEC Workshop which FCCC are rolling out on the 9^{th of} April 2024 from 10am to 4pm at Digital Office Centre, Balheary Road, Swords, Co Dublin K67E5AO.

To Book a place at this event please use the below link:

https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/steam-in-ecec-workshop-tickets-858723815047

The criterion for this workshop is:

- Maximum of 1 place per service
- Attendees must have a minimum of a QQI Level 5 in childcare qualification.
- The workshop is open to educators who are working with children from 0-6 years in an ECEC setting.
- Bookings are on a first come first serviced basis with a maximum of 25 places.







Fingal CCC have set up a network group (community of professionals)

Last week in our Network(copp)

The network is growing each week, and we hosted a great information session in collaboration with Better start around the quality development programme. This evolved from discussions at our last face to face meeting. Lots going on the in the WhatsApp chat around making parent handbooks, inspections and supporting each other. We are looking for new ideas and topics so please feel free to call or email if you have ideas or want to join. Let's keep building on making a supportive network.

The goal of this network is to offer support to each other and share ideas. It will be the role of Fingal CCC to facitiliate this group in the beginning. The vision is down the line to hand it over to the network group.

To begin with we hope to be meeting once a month or as the group requests. These meetings can be online, face to face or in each others serivces.

You all have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to ELC and SAC but it can often be isolating or lonely if you are on your own. This group creates a support network for all who join it.

The topics will vary and will be driven by what the group want to discuss or would like more knowledge on.

We have set up a whatsapp group and plan to meet again in March.

We have planted the seed and would love your help in making this grow



For more information please email: karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie or call: 0874705806





11 March 2024

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Upcoming task	Who should do it?	What do I need to do?	When do I need to do it?
National Síolta Aistear Initiative (NSAI) - Aistear and Play 2024	Services enrolled in Core Funding.	Click here to complete your expression of interest in taking this course, or visit the Better Start website for further information.	Application deadline: Monday 11 March at 5:00pm.
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Returns	Services offering NCS 2023/24.	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the Returns page of the Early Years Hive.	 4-10 March returns due Tuesday 12 March. 11-17 March returns due Tuesday 19 March.
Expenditure Return Required for Playing Outside Grant (POG) 2021	Services that received the POG 2021 grant.	If your service is subject to a verification check, relevant documentation (e.g. supporting invoices, bank statements) must be submitted on the Early Years Hive return portal.	Open 21 February 2024 to 21 March 2024 for completion by your registered Primary Authorised User (PAU).
Service Calendar Updates for Easter Break	All services planning to close for any dates during 25-29 March or 2-5 April (Easter break)	Services closing any of these dates must add the closure to their service calendar. Note: Good Friday (29 March) is not a bank holiday.	Deadline: Before the Easter break.
Building Blocks Expansion Grant Application Window Open	Partner services who wish to avail of the grant and meet the minimum criteria.	 Review grant terms and complete application on the Early Years Hive at Programmes - Building Blocks Application. Full information available in the Application Guidelines, Technical Guide and Demonstration Video. 	Application deadline: Wednesday 3 April 2024.

The above tasks are for general guidance only. You may have additional tasks outstanding. Please check the announcements page and notifications page of the Early Years Hive regularly.

You might have missed:	Who is it relevant to?	Where can I find it?
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Increase in Subsidies	Services offering NCS 2024/25: From 2 September, the minimum rate for NCS subsidies will increase. Awards will be recalculated and updated.	Refer to the announcement section on the Early Years Hive.



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

Today -Friday 22nd March 2024

Financial reporting deadline for Core Funding

Wednesday 3rd April 2024

Building Blocks Expansion Grant 2024

Friday 3rd May 2024

Parent & Toddler Group Grant Application closing date

Friday 26th June 2024

Deadline for submission of Core Funding Financial reporting

For your information

FCCC is delighted to announce the official launch of the Parent & Toddler Grant 2024, press release below.

gov - Minister O'Gorman launches Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative 2024 (www.gov.ie) For more information regarding guidelines & application process please email mairead@fingal-





Fingal County Childcare Committee is delighted to announce the launch of the Parent & Toddler Grants 2024!

For more information on how to apply for this grant or any questions you may have, please email











Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 1

Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 1

As you are aware Partner Services who signed up for Core Funding Year 1 (Sept 22- Aug 23) must now complete a financial report in respect of that year. This financial report consists of an Income & Expenditure report (template is available on Hive> Resources> Programme Documents> Core Funding documents> Core Funding financial reporting requirement year 1)

The Income & Expenditure report will be submitted on a new portal, which will open in two stages:

- The portal will be open to providers to register and to link with their nominated accountant on or before the 29^{th of} April.
- The portal will be open on or before the 31^{st of} May to accept completed Income and Expenditure report templates.
- The deadline for submission of the completed Income & Expenditure report template is 26th June.

You should have received a letter from DCEDIY with further details.

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

Arts in Early Learning and Childcare Scheme

DCEDIY, in collaboration with the Arts Council have announced the opening of the Arts in Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare Scheme. Applications are made by Artists/Art Organisations and are administered by the Arts Council. Closing date for applications is April 4th, 2024. Further information on details of this scheme and application form can be accessed here.





Hive Announcement - Aistear and Play 2024

The purpose of the NSAI is to support the implementation of the two National Frameworks-Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood and Education and Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

Aistear and Play is delivered by Better Start Early Years Specialists. This continuous professional development (CPD) can be a part of your Core Funding Quality Action Plan.

The training will take place over five, 2.5 hour in-person sessions. The course includes two on-site mentoring visits by a Better Start Early Years Specialist, one after session three and another after session five.

If your setting is interested in taking part in Aistear and Play, <u>CLICK HERE</u> and complete your expression of interest. For further information you can visit the Better Start website National Síolta Aistear Initiative: Aistear and Play - Better Start

Building Blocks Expansion Grant

The Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) circulated a <u>press release</u> (Thursday 22 February 2024), in relation to Building Blocks – Expansion Grant Scheme. Applications are now available on the Early Years Hive by navigating to <u>Programmes – Building Blocks Application</u>. **Applications will close on April 3rd, 2024.**

Detailed information regarding Building Blocks - Expansion Grant, is available in the <u>Application Guidelines</u>. Applicants can contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) with any queries by raising a service request on the Early Years Hive under the programme: 'Building Blocks - Expansion Grant' and selecting the relevant sub-category.



Building blocks application demonstration <u>Training video</u>



Measles outbreak

In recent months there has been a rise in cases of measles in parts of the UK and Europe. On 7th February the HSE reported the death of an adult with confirmed measles. This is the first confirmed measles case notified in Ireland in 2024. The HSE is writing to ask for your support in raising awareness among parents, guardians and staff about:

- Watching out for the symptoms of measles
- The importance of the MMR vaccine in protecting children.

https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/child-health-and-wellbeing/hse-measles-a4-poster.pdf



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

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



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 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

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— An Infant Mental
Health Approach

Date: 5th March 2024 Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost: €1:

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

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.

Time: 6.30pm to 9.30pm Cost: €50

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

Trauma Awareness in early
Learning and Care

Date: 26th March 2024

The aim of this 1 day to Early Years profession

concerns with parents about their child.

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

Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm



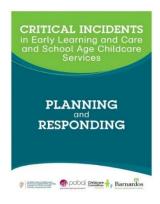
Scan the QR for more information and to book your place

Date: 27th February 2024

Or Contact us: training@barnardos.ie







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 plan ning, 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. https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Critical Incident Plan English Feb2012.pdf



LINC Level 6 is now open for applications, closing **4 April 2024**One application per setting: https://lincprogramme.ie/apply-now

- **≯**Who can apply?
- Any setting with a preschool room contracted for a DCEDIY early years programme can nominate a staff member.
- Settings who already have a LINC student/graduate working can nominate another staff member.
- Priority will be given in the following order:
- Settings who do not currently employ a LINC graduate/INCO/LINC student
- Settings who already employ a LINC graduate & have over 22 ECCE-aged children attending
- All other settings
- ▼Online information sessions: https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../linc-programme-information...
- Overview: https://lincprogramme.ie/about/programme-overview
- Substitution of the state of th
- XLINC Level 6 is an eligible activity for Core Funding quality action plans.





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.



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.



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-implementationplan.pdf



Viral Infections: HSE Guidance for the ELC Sector

Guidance



Child Safeguarding Training Procedure

Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services are required to have a procedure in place that outlines how all workers and volunteers can access information and training that is relevant to their role in child safeguarding. The National Child Safeguarding Programme have developed this poster to support services to develop a Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure. It is recommended that this training cycle is completed over a 5-year cycle.

Further information on developing child safeguarding procedures can be found in the Child Safeguarding Resource Document; Guidance for Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services in Ireland and on the National Child Safeguarding Programme website https://childsafeguardingelc.ie/

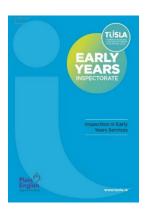


This 5 year training cycle starts from the next time you attend the Children First Child Safeguarding Awareness Training for Organisations (Step 3). This is the face to face foundation level training. Each individual service's Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure should guide when each worker/volunteer begins this cycle.



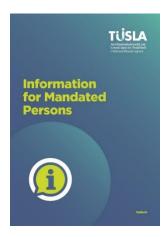






This new leaflet provides information for parents on the different types of inspections and other work carried out by Tusla and the Department of Education inspectorates. <u>Leaflet</u>

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 Tulsa'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/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/



What to do if worried about a child



A new service opened in Fingal.



Berta Lazarovici is delighted to announce that she has launched a new line for services for families with neuro-divergent members - BeeUtiful Minds - http://www.beeutifulminds.ie

"At BeeUtifulMinds we envision a world built on pillars of acceptance, diversity and kindness. Our aim is to provide families with knowledge and support so they can know better and be better.

Our services address families who have neurodivergent members (autistic, ADHD, gifted and/or with learning difficulties, a.o.), who are going through the processes of assessment/ diagnostic or just want to try out a different approach.

Our BeeUtiful Minds <u>commitment</u> is to help you enjoy the playful moments and let the heartfelt steps naturally follow.

We would appreciate it if you could spread the news to anyone in your community who might benefit from our services and please like and share us on social media!"

facebook.com

Beeutiful Minds (@beeutifulminds.ie) • Instagram photos and videos



For Childminders

Attention All ChildmindersYour Voice Counts....

Join one of FCCC focus group meetings either in person or online and learn more about the proposed draft childminding regulations and have the opportunity to provide invaluable feedback which will help shape the new regulations.

To book a place click the link or scan the QR codes from one of the 2 sessions that follow.









For Parents



Link to book Parent Session:

https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/speech-and-language-development-workshop-for-parents-tickets-862861591247



Mother Tongues is conducting a survey aimed at parents who are raising bilingual babies and toddlers:

Click to open survey - <u>Survey</u>



ECCE - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Published by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



Find out how to claim additional hours of National Childcare Scheme subsidy during the mid-term at:

Combined The Antional An Roinn Leanai, Combined Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

With Easter just around the corner, we want to remind all families that you can claim additional hours under the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) during the upcoming break! For more information, please read our FAQs at: www.ncs.gov.ie/en/faqs/ or contact the Parent Support Centre for advice. You can call the Parent Support Centre on 01 906 8530.

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 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 <u>info@fingalcountychildcare.ie</u>
- Complete the Cessation of Services form for Tusla click on the link below. 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 could 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

Kind Regards, Fingal County Childcare Committee