



Volume 1 issue 14

Welcome to our weekly bulletin.

These are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements and new resources for the week 8th – 12th April 2024.

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

○ **Gina Daly, Programme Information Officer**

Ph: 087-1972084 or email gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087 7477553 Email: mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087-1884191 or email eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087 6025263 or email nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087 4705805 or email Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087 3429757 Email: aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087-4485558 or email sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

Ph: 087 104 5197 or email helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**

Ph: 087-7882688 or email linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**

Ph: 087- 9217918 or email adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Notes 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.

We are in **Swords Library**, Rathbeale Road, Commons West, Swords, Co Dublin on **Tuesday April 16th from 10.30 - 12.30pm**



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

Latest news 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 facilitate 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 services.

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

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday 19th April 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](http://www.gov.ie) - 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-countychildcare.ie



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

mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie



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 **29th of April**.
- The portal will be open on or before the **31st 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



Training session on the AIM Level 7 Compliance Process 2023/2024

Pobal are delivering training sessions on the AIM Level 7 Compliance Process 2023/2024. The dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 16/04/ 2024 @ 2.30pm
- Tuesday 16/04/2024 @ 6.30pm

The PowerPoint Presentation will cover the following AIM Level 7 related topics:

- Resources
- What is involved in the compliance inspection process?
- Rectification actions for AIM Level 7 non-compliant findings
- Key messages to support compliance with AIM Level 7 requirements

The GoTo Webinar Registration links are on hive or we have included here for your convenience to register for the training.

AIM L7 Compliance Process SP1

16/04/2024 from 2.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2767101769180352343>

AIM L7 Compliance Process SP2

16/04/2024 from 6.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2558401268088998231>


A recording of one of the sessions will be published on the Early Years Hive along with a copy of the presentation once the training sessions are complete.

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>



YOUR Early Years hive SNAPSHOT

8 April 2024

Upcoming task	Who should do it?	What do I need to do?	When do I need to do it?
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Returns	Services offering NCS 2023/24.	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the Returns page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-7 April returns due Tuesday 9 April. • 8-14 April returns due Tuesday 16 April.
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 Returns page.	Primary Authorised User (PAU) must submit by Friday 12 April.

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?
Updated FAQ document for Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements Available	Any service that received Core Funding income during the 2022/23 programme year.	Refer to the announcement section of the Early Years Hive.
Early Years Hive Improvements	All Early Years Hive users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search bar now more prominent at the top centre of the Early Years Hive. • Links to external websites now listed along the footer of the Early Years Hive.

Pilot Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF)

The new Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) pilot, launched by Minister O Gorman in December last year, will open for Early Years Educators to make application in May 2024, for the academic year 2024/2025.

Those wishing to make an application in May must meet the following eligibility criteria for the NSLF,

- be working with children in a Tusla-registered Early Learning and Care (ELC) or School Age Childcare (SAC) service,
- the service in which the applicant is working in, must have a **current** signed Core Funding contract with DCEDIY.
- Applicants must have worked within an ELC or SAC service for the six months prior to their application.

Applicants must have a current application/offer for 2024/25 entry to a Level 7/8 Degree course approved by the Qualification Advisory Board (QAB) that is eligible for Nurturing Skills Learner Funding. Eligible courses for the academic year 2024/2025 can be viewed on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund website at www.gov.ie/NurturingSkillsLearnerFund

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The pilot Nurturing Skills Learner Fund is designed to complement and add to other Government financial supports, such as the Free Fees Initiative and SUSI grants and the scheme will make a contribution of up to 90% of course fees over the course of the degree.

Funding will be paid each year to an amount of 80% of the total cost of course fees (after discounting other governmental assistance such as Free Fees, SUSI etc..) to a maximum cap of €3,200 per year. This funding will be paid directly to the educational institution on behalf of the successful applicants. The remaining 10% (of the overall 90% contribution) will be refunded to the applicants after completion of the course and contingent on the successful applicants remaining working in the sector for 6 months after completing. Please note it is the responsibility of successful applicants to pay the remainder of their course fees plus student levies when requested by the course provider.

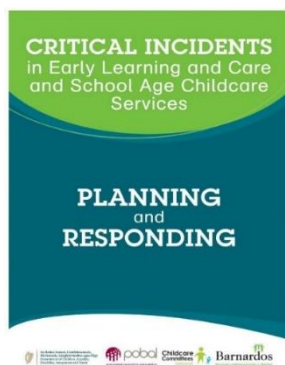
As the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund will run in a pilot phase for 2024, funding will be limited, therefore, in this pilot phase only new students for 2024/25 will be eligible to apply. Also, where the demand for funding is greater than the supply of funding, the selection of successful applicants will be based on the following criteria in the following prioritisation order:

1. the number of graduates in the applicant's service, with priority for applicants from services with no graduates,
 2. Priority index, with priority for applicants from services supporting the most disadvantaged children
 3. the role of the applicant in a service, with priority for those in lead educator or manager roles.
- If, after the above prioritisation has been applied and not been decisive, random selection will be applied.

The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund will open to applicants in early May, to create an account and upload employment details. Applicants should email Pobal, at NSLF@pobal.ie to request a link to the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund Student Portal. This link will be available from the 1st May 2024.

The full application process will open in early June, with applicants being notified of a decision in early July.

Further updates and information regarding Nurturing Skills Learner Fund and the application process will be available, in due course, on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund website at www.gov.ie/NurturingSkillsLearnerFund



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. [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Critical Incident Plan_English_Feb2012.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Critical%20Incident%20Plan%20English%20Feb2012.pdf)



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-implementation-plan.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://chidsafeguardingelc.ie/>



Child Safeguarding Training – 5 Year Cycle

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.

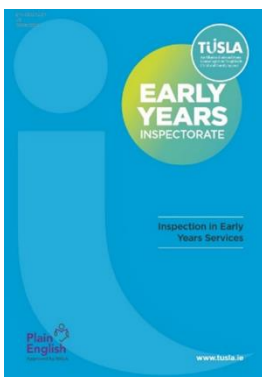




If approval is required for the new academic year starting September 2024, please note the timeframes to submit applications to the Early Years Inspectorate:

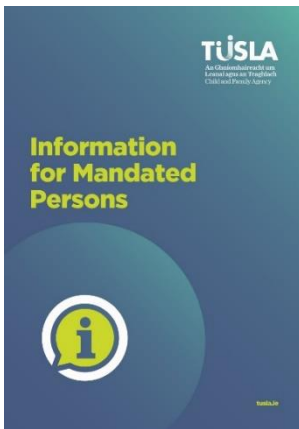
- New service applications: 1 June 2024
- Change in circumstances applications: 1 July 2024

[change in circumstances](#)



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



April is World Autism Month. This resource from the Hanen Centre illustrates how following a child's lead supports their social communication skills while having fun together. Click on the link for more information. [Child led play](#)

A new service opened in Fingal.



Berta Lazarovici is delighted to announce that she has launched a new line for services for families with neurodivergent 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 [commitment](#) 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



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

BECOME A PLAY VOLUNTEER!

Help make hospital a happier place!

Become a play volunteer in CHI at Crumlin and engage with children and young people through games, arts and crafts, card games and more!

2 hours a week.
Must be available weekday mornings or afternoons.
Must be 18 years or older.

APPLY NOW!
CHILDRENINHOSPITAL.IE





Children
In Hospital
Ireland (CHI)

For more information and/or to apply, please visit: [Play volunteer](https://www.childreninhospital.ie)

For Childminders



*****Attention All Childminders***Your 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.

.

You can have your say anonymously by clicking on the link below.

Please read the easy read regulation summary below and complete this short online survey.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/aed77959-7825-b278-c220-df264c5b5748>



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

MANAGING YOUR TAX FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDMINDERS

Do you find tax returns & bookkeeping
stressful ?

Your CCC is here to help!

In collaboration the National Childminding Development team & SM Accounting Solutions have developed bespoke training for childminders free from confusing jargon.



- ✓ **7th May** Accounting Basics 7-9pm
- ✓ **14th May** Financial Records ,Books & Accounts 7-9pm
- ✓ **21st May** Income Taxes 7-9:30pm
- ✓ **28th May** Submitting Your Tax on ROS 7-9:30

Opportunities for Q & A

FREE



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



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028



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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

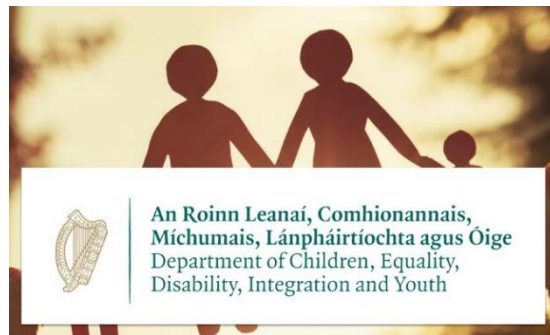


National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

For Parents



Mother Tongues is conducting a survey aimed at parents who are raising bilingual babies and toddlers:
Click to open survey - [Survey](#)



ECCE - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Published by [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#)

[FAQ](#)



www.rollercoaster.ie

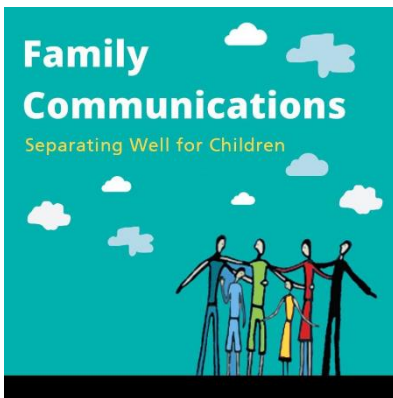
We've put together this handy guide to make sure you're asking the right questions!



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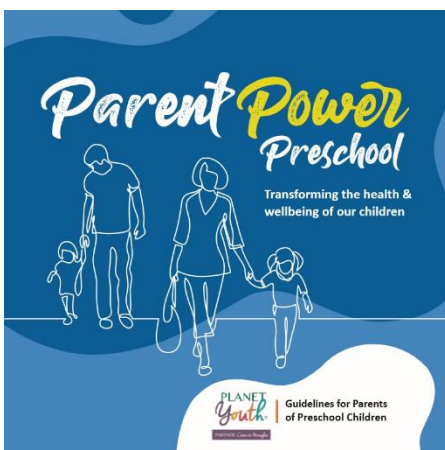
How to choose an Early Learning Centre and reduce your costs



Separating Well for Children: Sharing Parenting Successfully Post-Separation
Delivered on Zoom, One Family's parenting courses start on 30 April.

[Zoom link](#)

One Family parenting programmes - [Link to site](#)



This CYPSC booklet for parents of children in preschool has advice and suggestions which illustrate how having good routines and spending quality time together makes for happy, healthier children [Booklet](#)

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 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
- **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