



Volume 1 issue 22

Welcome to our weekly
bulletin.

These are the deadlines,
important dates, and
announcements and new
resources for the week 27-30th
May 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, Development Officer (AIM & Ukrainian Support Lead).**
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.



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

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

Latest COPP NEWS:

Please see a nice activity that may interest your service.



[Get children outdoors to play and learn, on Outdoor Classroom Day and all year round!](#)

FCCC Training



Introduction to Síolta, Aistear and the Practice Guide

FCCC is delighted to announce that they are hosting an Introduction to Síolta, Aistear and the Practice Guide workshop.

This workshop is aimed at practitioners who would like to increase their understanding of and familiarity with the Aistear Síolta practice guide and is a prerequisite for NSAI Aistear and Play CPD delivered through Better Start Quality Development Service.

This workshop and all NSAI training and CPD supports are eligible quality improvement activities for Core Funding Quality Action Plans

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Wednesday 19 th June	6.00-9.00pm	FCCC offices Digital Office Centre Dublin Airport Balheary Road K67 E5A0 Swords

To book a place click on the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/902158118217?aff=oddtcreator>

This session is free and limited to 20 participants and 2 places per service.



 YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

27 May 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"> • 20-26 May returns due Tuesday 28 May. • 27 May-2 June returns due Tuesday 4 June.
Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 4, 5 and 7: Applications now open	Services involved in AIM Levels 4, 5 and/or 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit applications on the relevant AIM level's page under the Programmes menu. • Refer to the AIM Guides for application support and training materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit applications at least three months before a child's planned ECCE start date. • Note: The AIM Level 7 review and confirm issue has been resolved and the process is operating fully again.
Updated Service Profile	All services using the Early Years Hive, and Partner Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all sections of your Service Profile are up to date. • Refer to the Service Profile guide for support. 	The Service Profile must always be kept up to date.
Annual Early Years Sector Profile (AEYSP) 2023/24 Survey	All services, but particularly those interested or involved in Core Funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the survey is mandatory for Core Funding Partner Services. All other services are encouraged to complete the survey. • Services will only be able to commence the survey once their Service Profile has been updated. • Guidelines are available here. 	Survey is open until Friday 31 May 2024 and is available on the Surveys page.

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 may have missed:	Who is it relevant to?	Where can I find it?
Notice from DCEDIY of Fraudulent Early Years Training Courses	All Early Years Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraudulent ads are appearing on social media using Government of Ireland and Department of Education logos offering free ELC training courses and study aids. • Confirm the authenticity of any suspicious courses on the gov.ie website. • All information about NSLF training available at www.gov.ie/NurturingSkillsLearnerFund.
Notice regarding the upcoming European elections on 7 June 2024	Services located on school premises where the school is used as a polling station.	Refer to the announcement section on the Early Years Hive.



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

For your information

Deadline Extended to Friday 7th June 2024 AT 11.00PM

Deadline for the Early Years Annual Sector Profile

Friday 7th June 2024

CMDG deadline for completed applications (please see detail below)

26th June 2024:

Deadline for submission of Core Funding Financial Report (Income & Expenditure Template)

28th July 2024

Deadline for submission of your Core Funding QAP Report 2023/2024



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



Notice for services located in schools re closure day due to Local and European elections on 7th June.

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.

Affected 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.



A Whole-of-Government Strategy for
Babies, Young Children and their Families
2019-2028

Equal Start

Equal Start is a funding model and a set of associated universal and targeted measures to support access and participation in early learning and care (ELC) and school-age childcare (SAC) for children and their families who experience disadvantage.

It is the fourth element of Together for Better, the funding model for ELC and SAC, which currently comprises the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme, including the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Core Funding.

Further information on Equal Start can be accessed at [gov - Equal Start \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Annual Early Years Sector Profile

The Annual Early Years Sector Profile 2023/24 survey is currently available on the Early Years Hive. The survey will remain open until **Friday 7th June 2024** and can be accessed through the Early Years Hive at this [link](#). [Guidelines](#) are also available on the Early Years Hive.

All services are encouraged to complete the survey; however, it is **mandatory** for all existing Core Funding Partner Services. **Services are required to update their Service Profile before commencing the 2023/24 Annual Early Years Sector Profile survey. Information and guidance on changes to the Service Profile can be accessed [here](#)**

Fraudulent Early Years Training courses

The DCEDIY advise all early year's services of fraudulent advertising currently circulating on social media using Government of Ireland and Department of Education logos, offering free early learning and childcare training courses and free study aids such as laptops. These advertisements are not from the Department. These adverts should not be confused with the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF).

If you are unsure of the authenticity of any information about childcare training courses claiming to be from the Department of Education or Government of Ireland, please be aware that the most trusted source of information on funding schemes is available on the gov.ie website, all updates and information regarding NSLF and the application process are available, on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund website at www.gov.ie/NurturingSkillsLearnerFund



Pilot Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF)

The new Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) pilot is open for Early Years Educators to make applications for the academic year 2024/2025. Those wishing to make an application must be working with children in a Tusla registered ELC/SAC service for the last 6 months (before their application). The service must also have a current Core funding contract with the DCEDIY.

From 1st May 2024, applicants with a current application/offer for 2024/25 entry to a Level 7/8 degree course approved by the Qualification Advisory Board (QAB) eligible for NSLF **should email Pobal**, at NSLF@pobal.ie to request a link to the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund Student Portal. Please see attached document and for further information, including the list of approved courses and the application process are available at [gov - Nurturing Skills Learner Fund \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



AIM Level 4,5 & 7 Go Live Dates

Please note that the AIM Level 4, 5 & 7 application process for programme call 2024/25 are now open.

Important Information

Services are reminded to submit any relevant AIM application at least three months prior to a child's planned start date in ECCE.

A how-to video for AIM Level 5 will be available on the resources page linked below.

Better Start / AIM how-to videos - Service Provider Portal (ncs.gov.ie)

Should you have any queries in relation to the AIM programme, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) by raising a Request on Hive using the following categories:

- Programme: (select the AIM level)
- Request type: Application.
- Request type detail: How To

Important Information

Services are reminded to submit AIM Level 4, 5 & 7 applications at least three months prior to a child's planned start date on the ECCE Programme.



AIM Level 4,5 & 7 Go Live Dates

Please note that the AIM Level 4, 5 & 7 application process for programme call 2024/25 will open on 7th May at 11am 2024.



AIM rules and Guidance



Compliance Guidance



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

Temporary arrangements for students to work in settings during the summer period.

In light of the current staffing pressures in early learning and care (ELC) and school-age childcare (SAC) services, as a temporary measure specifically to help services with short-term staffing shortages over the summer period, the DCEDIY has arranged an accelerated process for assessment of equivalence with the level 5 minimum qualification requirement for students currently enrolled on a recognized level 6, 7 or 8 course. For further details on this please see relevant documentation attached.

<https://fingalcountychildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/20240508-Updated Comms to providers on temporary arrangements jobs board and fast track.pdf>

<https://fingalcountychildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/20240430-Student-Application-letter-Summer.pdf>

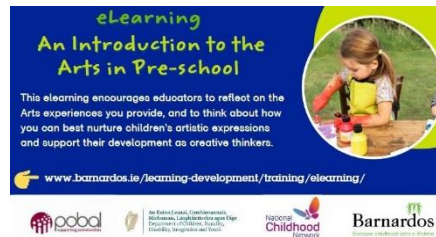


Mo Scéal ~ preschool to primary school transition support materials for early years educators
[link](#)



Better Start has resources to assist early years educators support children moving to primary school.

- Social Stories tip sheet: <https://www.betterstart.ie/.../Social-Stories%E2%84%A2...?>
- Social story template: https://mcusercontent.com/.../Transition_to_Primary...

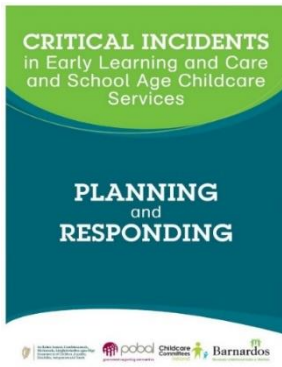


This eLearning from Barnardos takes approximately 50 minutes and a certificate is issued upon completion.
<https://www.barnardos.ie/.../an-introduction-to-the-arts.../>



Better Start Quality Development Service

Better Start Quality Development Service have recently developed a new promotional video. To access the video click on the following link: <https://www.betterstart.ie/the-quality-development-service/>



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_Incident_Plan_English_Feb2012.pdf)



Viral Infections: HSE Guidance for the ELC Sector

Guidance



In an early years setting, a key person approach is when a child is assigned a particular educator who will act as their go-to person as well as acting as the link between the service and the child's parents.

- Aistear Síolta Key Person Approach tip sheet

<https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/.../using-a-key-person...>

- Barnardos Key Person Approach - Positive Relationships with Children in the Early Years

<https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/.../25d9a3bc-7353.../content>



Tusla have published a regulatory notice related Services that are found to be Operating Outside of Registration
See Link to this notice : [Booklet](#)



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](#)



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

For Childminders

To register click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/supporting-childminder-wellbeing-tickets-908240019347?aff=oddtcreator>



SUPPORTING CHILDMINDER WELLBEING



WITH DR. MARY O'KANE

Childminders show a huge commitment to providing high-quality care for children. We recognise that this can be challenging at times. Therefore, we are delighted to invite childminders to attend a webinar with Dr. Mary O'Kane, who will discuss the impact of stress and provide tips for supporting their well-being and preventing burnout.

DR MARY O'KANE IS AN AUTHOR AND LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY, EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES AND EDUCATION WITH THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE, 7PM VIA ZOOM



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



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

Note – you can apply for this even if you received the grant last year



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

Childminding Development Grant 2024

Grant of up to €1,000 for Toys, Childcare,
Outdoor & Safety Equipment
IT equipment (maximum of €500)*

**Now open for applications !
Closing Date: 7th June**



Open to all
potential and
existing
childminders

75 % paid in
advance
25 % paid in
arrears

Contact your
local City/County
Childcare
Committee



***Terms and conditions apply**



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





For Parents

NPC
SUPPORTING PARENTS
SUPPORTING CHILDREN

STEPPING UP PRE-SCHOOL TO PRIMARY

Join us for free online sessions as we guide parents through the transition from pre-school to primary.

Get practical tips and advice to support your child's exciting journey from pre-school to primary school.

Let's take the next step together!

REGISTER

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US:
TEL: +353 1 887 4034
EMAIL: INFO@NPC.IE

www.surveymonkey.com/r/EY_Transition_May2024

Applying for the NCS for the first time and need help completing your application form?

Find our Application Guide at:

ncs.gov.ie

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

Applying for the NCS for the first time and need help completing your application form? Check out our Application Guide at: <https://bit.ly/3QezDGA>

**Remember NCS subsidies are
not automatically renewed!
Check out our full Renewal
Guide at:**

ncs.gov.ie

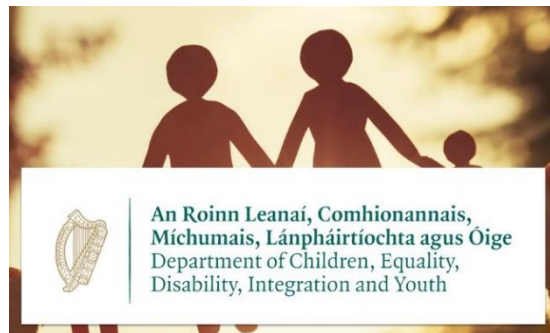


An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Remember NCS subsidies are not automatically renewed! Each NCS award has an end date, and you must renew your application before this date, and give the new CHICK to your provider, to keep receiving a subsidy for your child. Check out our full Renewal Guide at: <https://bit.ly/44a1zRy>



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](#)



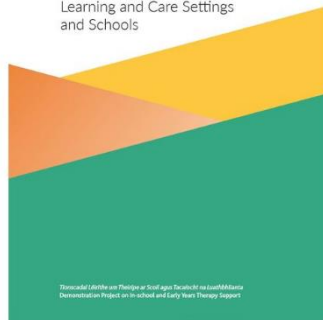
Supporting Parents - A New Website from DCEDIY/Ag Tacú le Tuismitheoirí - Suíomh Gréasáin Nua ó DCEDIY

Supporting Parents - A new information and advice resource for all stages of parenthood from DCEDIY. Parenting is rewarding and challenging. But, whatever age your child is and no matter how experienced you are, all parents will benefit from a little support and advice. There's lots of information out there. The Supporting Parents initiative is bringing together trusted, high quality resources in one place, to help you navigate your parenting journey



**Preparing Young Children
 for Primary School**

A Resource for Parents, Early Learning and Care Settings and Schools



Booklet



<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e5a96-supporting-parents-a-national-model-of-parenting-support-services/>



How to choose an Early Learning Centre and reduce your costs

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

Please find below links to information from the HPSC concerning 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 shared this information with parents, guardians, and staff. Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE In addition, please find the link to the 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 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday or visit the HSE website HSE Covid 19

Should you have any queries on the above, our contact details are 01- 4851727 or info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Kind Regards, Fingal County Childcare Committee.