



**Volume 1 issue 24**

Welcome to our weekly  
bulletin.

These are the deadlines,  
important dates, and  
announcements and new  
resources for the week 10-  
14<sup>TH</sup> June 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 )**  
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, Development Officer (AIM & Ukrainian Support Lead).**  
Ph: 087 3429757 Email: [aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
  
- **Sarah McKenna, 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)

## Notes from FCCC

### Sensory Toolkits

Our sensory toolkits are back in the office and ready to go out to more childcare services



### 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](mailto: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!

## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

### 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

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

### 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

## For your information



## 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)



Minister [Roderic O'Gorman TD](#) has secured Government approval for the publication of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill, paving the way for further reforms within the early learning and childcare

Click here for full press release and details of these regulations: <https://bit.ly/3Vkm59C>



YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

10 June 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 <a href="#">Returns</a> page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-9 June returns due Tuesday 11 June.</li> <li>• 10-16 June returns due Tuesday 18 June.</li> </ul>
Completing Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 7 Review and Confirm (R&C)	Services with an AIM Level 7 R&C available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to the <a href="#">AIM Guides</a> for application support and training materials.</li> <li>• Where you have submitted an AIM R&amp;C and incorrectly selected "Yes" or "No" to changes, please follow the below steps:</li> <li>• If your AIM R&amp;C has been submitted but <b>not yet</b> at an "Approved" status, please withdraw your AIM R&amp;C and submit a new AIM R&amp;C noting the relevant changes to the child or services circumstances.</li> <li>• If your application has been submitted and <b>is</b> at an "Approved" status, please submit the relevant AIM Level 7 Review advising of changes to the child or services circumstances. (Please see AIM Guides linked above for guidance on submitting reviews)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where an error is identified please follow the steps advised as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
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?
New pay agreement to provide pay increases for the early learning and childcare workforce	All Early Years Services	You can read the full press release <a href="#">here</a> .



### **Update: Programme Readiness 2024/25**

Programme readiness for ECCE, AIM Level 1, NCS and CCSP will be available on the Hive in the coming weeks, along with Core Funding applications and funding agreements.

This is later than in previous years and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. The delay is due to new system enhancements currently being developed which are taking longer than anticipated but we are working hard towards opening programme readiness during the week of 24 June.

All programme readiness information, guidance and training will be communicated on the announcements page of the Hive.

Regards

The Early Years Team

### **New Employment Regulation Orders for the Early Years Services Sector**

The Orders include the removal of the requirement for graduates to have three years' experience before they are eligible for Graduate Lead Educator/Graduate Manager rates of pay to widen access to graduate premiums under Core Funding.

From 24 June, Core Funding partner services will have the opportunity to attract a Graduate Lead Educator/Manager premium for staff who meet the following criteria:

#### ● Graduate Lead Educator for ELC sessions

- Must be assigned to the role of Lead Educator in an ELC session(s) and be reflected as such in the Core Funding application.
- Must hold an eligible qualification per the Department's list of approved qualifications, Level 7 or above.
- Each ELC session can only have one Lead Educator at any one time

#### ● Graduate Manager Premium

- Must be a Graduate Manager working in an ELC service.
- Must hold an eligible qualification per the Department's list of approved qualifications, Level 7 or above.
- An individual cannot be in receipt of both a Graduate Manager Premium and a Graduate Lead Educator Premium.
- SAC-only services and/or childminders are not eligible for the Graduate Manager Premium.

#### ● What am I required to do in advance?

- The information for graduate staff members must be accurate and up to date on the service profile.

#### ● What am I required to do when the EROs come into effect on 24 June 2024?

- Partner services with an eligible staff member must submit an application change no earlier than 24 June 2024 with a change effective date of 24 June 2024.
- An application change is required if a partner service is adding a staff member to their Core Funding application module for the first time.
- An application change is required if a partner service has a staff member in their existing Core Funding application module who now qualifies for the Graduate Lead Educator/Manager premiums.

Any increase in the Graduate Lead Educator/Manager premiums will be effective from the application change submission date or the change effective date, whichever is later. Partner services have until 30 June 2024 to submit an application change with a change effective date of 24 June 2024.

## Pobal Training - Core Funding

- Key points - core funding application module 2024/25
  - Changes to the core funding application module 2024/25
  - Live demonstration of the application module 2024/25
- Friday, 21 June 10:30am <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/34367874787062358>
  - Monday, 24 June 2:30pm <https://register.gotowebinar.com/regi.../4775249808013032026>
  - Monday, 24 June 6:30pm <https://register.gotowebinar.com/regi.../8902984683963198294>



### **Extension of AIM to support additional hours for ECCE aged children.**

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Minister Roderic O’Gorman announced plans for an additional €14 million in supports for children with a disability under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). For further information please click [here](#) and see FAQ Link below

[FAQ](#)

### **Public Consultation on a National Plan for Irish Language Provision in ELC & SAC**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is carrying out a public consultation on a national plan for Irish language provision in Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare. The consultation details are available [here](#).

**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.

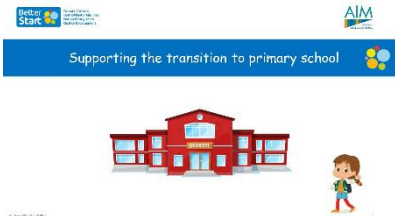
<https://fingalcountychildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/20240508-Updated Comms to providers on temporary arrangements jobs board and fast track.pdf>

<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](#)



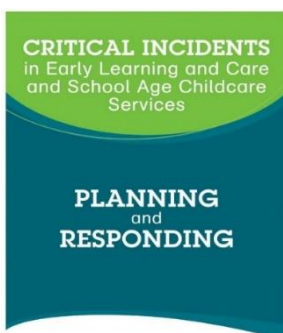
Better Start has resources to assist early years educators support children moving to primary school.

- Social Stories tip sheet:  
<https://www.betterstart.ie/.../Social-Stories%E2%84%A2...?>
- Social story template: [https://mcusercontent.com/.../Transition\\_to\\_Primary...](https://mcusercontent.com/.../Transition_to_Primary...)



### 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 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](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Critical_Incident_Plan_English_Feb2012.pdf)





## Tusla Corrective & Preventive Action Form

The Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) form has been amended and will be implemented for inspections which are carried out on or after **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**. There are no changes to the CAPA process, requirements, or timeframes. A new CAPA guidance document accompanies the form and the CAPA form and guidance document can be found on the [Early Years Inspectorate website](#).

New from Tusla - inspection notebook template

[https://www.tusla.ie/.../EYI-RIN12.1\\_Early\\_Years\\_Services...](https://www.tusla.ie/.../EYI-RIN12.1_Early_Years_Services...)



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](#)



## For Parents



### Mulhuddart Buggy Walk Club

No need to book in advance

Come and join Empower's  
**Buggy Walk Club,**

you'll have the opportunity to get active and meet other local parents/carers. Join us with your baby/toddler for a local walk followed by a chat and a cuppa at  
**Mulhuddart Community Centre.**

- Starting:** Wednesday, 29th May
- Where:** Meet at Mulhuddart Community Centre
- When:** Wednesdays at 9.30am

If you have any questions please contact **Maria Gomez** on **087 232 3932** or by email **mariagomez@empower.ie**



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027.



## 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!



**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, Micúmáis, Lámháiritheochta 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, Micúmáis, Lámháiritheochta agus Oige  
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>



### ECCE - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

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

[FAQ](#)

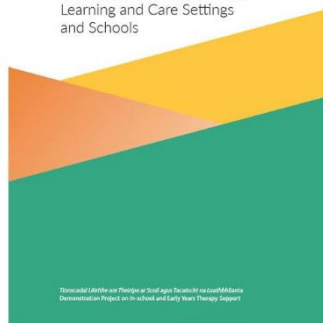


## **Supporting Parents - A New Website from DCEDIY/Ag Tacú le Tuismitheoirí - Suíomh Gréasáin Nua ó DCEDIY**

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**

**DCEDIY-Supporting Parents  
Website**

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

### 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](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

Please see below links to relevant information:

- [Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE](#)
- [Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings \(2012\)](#)
- General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid 19](#)

**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.**