



Newsletter

Fingal County Childcare Committee

November 2020

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FAR update

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

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Childminding updates

- [Free Barnardos booklet](#)
- [How to become a childminder publication](#)
- [First 5 resources for childminders](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Information for parents

- [Barnardos webinar](#)
- [One family information](#)
- [Cosaint Leanaí information for parents](#)
- [FCCC Website](#)



Procedure for a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19

The DCYA has requested the FCCC to report any suspected or confirmed case of Covid 19 within services locally. If your childcare service has a suspected or confirmed case can you, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Click on the links below for the Covid-19 tip sheet and Tusla notification form (all confirmed cases must be notified to Tusla within 3 working days):

- <https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/files/download/ad8327d7f0d963c1.pdf>
- <https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/files/download/34aafd6eea430a67.pdf>

We would also like to remind all services that there is useful information on the First 5 website in relation to infection prevention and control guidance including what to do in the event of suspected symptoms or an outbreak of Covid 19 within a service.

- <https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/files/download/035ced0228b46a3d.pdf>
-

PIP Announcements

Savers Management Window – 02/11/2020

The Savers Management Window that was opened to allow service providers to create registrations for the 2020/2021 programmes for CCSP and TEC and to make necessary amendments to existing registrations for CCSP 2019 and TEC 2019 has now closed.

This window will open again on the **18th December 2020**.

Please see the Savers Management Windows for the 2020/2021 programme year below:

From	To
18 December 2020	11 January 2021
12 February 2021	8 March 2021
26 March 2021	19 April 2021
25 June 2021	13 August 2021

NCS: CHICKs/Awards ending on the Early Years Hive 09/11/20 & 16/11/20

Dear Service Provider,

November marks one year since the launch of NCS. As such, some 52-week CHICKs/awards on NCS will be ending soon.

To check the end date of your NCS registrations' CHICK/award, log into the Early Years Hive portal and follow these steps:

1. Go to the Registrations menu and select NCS Registrations
2. Check the 'Claim Until' date of your active registrations as an indication to when a CHICK may be ending (if you did not register all weeks on the CHICK/award, then there may be further weeks to claim)
3. Expand the yellow arrow on the registration you want to review and click on View
4. The 'Subsidy End Date' on this page tells you when a CHICK is ending (if there is more than one segment related to a CHICK, this will be the last date under subsidy end date)

To ensure that payment under NCS is not affected as a result of an expired CHICK, you are encouraged to contact the parents of any children with awards ending soon to discuss their continued childcare needs.

Parents will have received a notification on their applicant portal, please remind them of this and see if they need to apply for a new CHICK. This should be done as soon as possible.

In the case of Sponsor CHICKs: the Sponsor will need to complete a new referral, having assessed the continuing need. When Pobal receives a new referral, a new Sponsor CHICK will issue. The parent of the Sponsored child cannot renew the CHICK.

For further advice and support, please see the Resources section of the Hive or raise a request.

Parents can contact the Parent Support Centre at 01 906 8530.

NCS: Update to NCS Registrations Quick Guide Page on the Early Years Hive - 16 November 2020

Dear Service Provider,

Further to last Monday's announcement on the need to review NCS CHICKs/Awards on the Early Years Hive as they may be ending soon, we are happy to say that the NCS Registrations Quick Guide section of the Hive has been updated to assist you with this task.

Sign into your hive portal: Resources >Quick guides >NCS Quick guides >registrations

On this page, you can now find more detailed guidance on how to do the following for NCS:

- Register a child with a CHICK
- View your registrations: check when a claim is ending
- Amend a registration: edit a claim, add weeks to a claim, or end a claim

Please be aware that parents may have already received a notification on the applicant portal to let them know their award/CHICK has expired. You can check if the award/CHICK is soon to expire by looking at the subsidy end date on the Hive. Please see the new section 'Viewing child registrations' on NCS Registrations Quick Guide for guidance.

In some cases, there may be unclaimed weeks on the award/CHICK. You can add weeks to the claim by following the instructions found under 'Amending registrations' on NCS Registrations Quick Guide.

<https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/how-to-guides/how-to-guides-ncs/registrations/>

If you need further assistance on registrations, please raise a Service Request on the Hive.

2020/2021 Compliance Announcement - Desk-based Checks- 12th November 2020

On the direction of DCEDIY (formerly DCYA), the Pobal Compliance team are commencing compliance activity on programme funding currently administered to ELC and SAC services.

Compliance checks will be undertaken in respect of some or all of the following programmes:

- Community Childcare Subvention Plus Savers (CCSP including CCSU & CCSR)
- Training and Employment Childcare Savers (TEC)
- Free Pre-school Year in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme

For the 2020/2021 cycle, the ECCE programme is administered on the Hive on the Early Years Platform. The CCSP/CCSU/CCSR & TEC Saver programmes are administered through PIP. To assist in meeting compliance requirements, it is important that participating services on any of the above programmes familiarise themselves with the following:

- Relevant programme funding agreements and rules documents
- "How to" Guides and Quick Guides
- Information in PIP announcements and resources on PIP and the Hive.

Compliance approach during Covid-19 pandemic

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact the country, the compliance process has been temporarily revised to take account of the current public health situation and guidance available. As compliance activity recommences, the safety of children and ELC/SAC/Pobal staff in settings remains paramount.

Therefore, the following approach will apply to compliance activity until further notice:

- Onsite compliance visits to services will be postponed temporarily (However, Pobal reserve the right to conduct an on-site visit at its discretion, but in keeping with public health guidelines).
- Compliance desk-based checks will be undertaken by Pobal compliance staff to verify the accuracy of registrations on PIP and the Hive.
- For each service, a sample of PIP Portal or the Hive Registration IDs will be selected for review.
- Copies of original service attendance records will be reviewed as a priority.

To view the full announcement, including What services selected for compliance desk-based checks will need to do and What is involved in the Pobal compliance desk-based checks process, **see the full announcement on the PIP Portal – 12th November 2020.**

Compliance Guides for Service Providers- 18 November 2020

Dear Service Provider

The Compliance Guides for Service Providers are now available on the PIP Portal and the Hive. They have been separated into two different guides as follows:

- Compliance Guide for Service Providers for Saver Programmes (CCSP Savers programme including CCSU/CCSR and TEC Saver programmes)
- Compliance Guide for Service Providers for ECCE Programme

These two documents describe the standard compliance on-site visit process in relation to the CCSP/CCSU/CCSR and TEC Saver and ECCE programmes. Compliance checks are currently being conducted remotely, but as this is a temporary measure only, the guides reflect the on-site process. They will still be useful for the current process as similar checks are being conducted.

The guides also highlight key areas and programme rules that Service Providers should be aware of.

These Compliance Guides for Service Providers all include as Appendix 1 - the Compliance Checklist for Service Providers for the 2020/2021 cycle to assist services in collating the relevant information to meet compliance requirements.

In addition, Appendix 2 - Compliance Categorisations includes the compliance categories assigned for each programme reviewed at a visit i.e. Compliant, Minor non-compliant, Moderate non-compliant and Major non-compliant.

Further detail of the possible issues identified under each of the non-compliant categorisations per programme is also included in this Appendix.

Many thanks

The Compliance Team

Compliance Guide | Saver Programmes:

<https://pip.pobal.ie/Shared%20Documents/Compliance%20Guide%20for%20Service%20Providers%20for%20Saver%20Programmes%202020-2021.pdf>

Compliance Guide | ECCE:

<https://pip.pobal.ie/Shared%20Documents/Compliance%20Guide%20for%20Service%20Providers%20for%20ECCE%202020-2021.pdf>

Full announcement on the PIP Portal – 18th November 2020



INSTITUTE *of*
TECHNOLOGY

CARLOW

Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Cheatharlach

July Stimulus Funded Programmes

Carlow IT have received funding under the July Stimulus for a number of programmes which are funded at 90% by the HEA. Some of these programmes may be of interest to professionals in the Early Learning and Care sector

They are open for applications now; places are limited and all programmes will begin in January 2021 and will be delivered online.

Level 7 Certificate in Organisational Psychology and Behaviour - This course will introduce students to the discipline of organisational psychology. Students will learn to discuss and critique both traditional and contemporary psychological theories and perspectives combined with the key topics of organisational psychology. More info here: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning/parttime-courses-january20/certificate-in-organisational-psychology-and-behaviour.htm>

The cost for those in employment is €80

Level 7 Certificate in Applied Strategic Management - This course will develop participants' capability within the different elements of the Strategic Management Process. Participants explore the components of Strategic Analysis, Planning, Development, and Implementation within the context of functional and organisational strategy and also align culture and values within organisation development. More info here: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning/parttime-courses-january20/certificate-in-applied-strategic-management.htm>

The cost for those in employment is €80

Level 7 Certificate in Effective Leadership and Change Management – This course provides participants with knowledge and skills in leadership and management by developing leadership capability and competency in motivation, communication, culture and team developmental strategies. Students will discuss leadership and management through models and current thinking with the objective to enhance their personal leadership and management potential. More info here:

<https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning/parttime-courses-january20/certificate-in-effective-leadership-and-change-management.htm>

The cost for those in employment is €60

Level 6 Certificate in Health, Wellbeing and Nutrition - The aim of this programme is to highlight the importance of health, well-being and nutrition. Students will gain knowledge of holistic health and wellbeing, health Protection/ill health prevention, care of the older person and the importance of nutrition for holistic health & wellbeing. More info here: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning/parttime-courses-january20/certificate-in-health-wellbeing-and-nutrition.htm>

There is no cost for those in employment as this is FREE

We are open for applications now, which can be made here: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning/how-to-apply-evening-courses/part-time-courses-application-form.htm>

Springboard+ Funded Programmes

Level 8 Certificate in Data Protection – The aim of this programme is to provide a learning opportunity for compliance and/or other relevant professionals to develop the necessary intellectual capital to ensure that their organisations meet their current and future regulatory responsibilities in relation to data protection. More information here: <https://springboardcourses.ie/details/8764> The cost for those in employment is €75. As this is a Springboard+ programme, applications can be made for this programme here: <https://springboardcourses.ie/details/8764>

Places are limited and all programmes will begin in January 2021 and will be delivered online. For specific queries, please contact Julystimulus@itcarlow.ie or Springboard@itcarlow.ie

ICEP Complimentary webinar - Building resilience through connecting with nature in a time of crisis

ICEP would like to invite you to join us in a complimentary webinar on Thursday, 3rd of December at 4pm: "Building Resilience Through Connecting with Nature in a Time of Crisis." This will be delivered by Dr. Moya O'Brien, clinical psychologist, and co-founder of the Institute of Child Education & Psychology.

We underestimate the importance of connecting with nature in developing and maintaining our wellbeing and boosting our resilience. Never in our lives has this been more important than during the current pandemic. Interestingly the current COVID-19 crisis has allowed some time to stop and reflect on nature and spend time outdoors. This presentation will examine the relationship of resilience and nature connection in everyday life. The key psychological ingredients of resilience and the factors that foster resilience in nature will be outlined from the literature. Participants will reflect on their own connection to nature and the psychological impact of nature on their wellbeing.

Click below to register

<http://icepe.bmetrack.com/c/?u=B745334&e=118BBFF&c=4243C&t=0&l=2ABAE73&email=LIMHBJQSPAUNb8N%2BQByb3C6b3sufhH%2BxeYFrBHyBfck%3D&seq=4>



FIRST 5 Guidance during COVID-19

The Department has produced new posters for ELC & SAC practitioners:

- <https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/files/download/917f11fca1223d03.pdf>
- <https://first5.gov.ie/practitioners/reopening>



Did you know?

Better Start Universal Practice Support is available to ELC Service Providers

Contact us directly for short term, focused practice support, such as learning environments, transitions, inclusive practice and more.

To avail of this support or find out more, simply follow the steps below:

1. Email quality@betterstart.ie
2. Include your **DCYA reference number** and **setting name** in the subject line.
3. An **Early Years Specialist will get in touch with you** over the phone or by email to answer your query and discuss your settings support needs in greater detail.

If you have a query or a question on any aspect of practice within your service and you are unsure who to turn to. Why not avail of free professional advice and support from a BETTER START Early Years Specialist.

All you have to do is to follow steps 1,2 and 3 above and you will be contacted by a BETTER START Early Years Specialist who will offer you information, advice and support to alleviate your concerns.



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

Early Years eBulletin - November 2020

Below is the latest edition of the Early Years eBulletin, which includes updates from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Education and Skills, Pobal & Tusla. The following topics are featured:

- Operating during Covid-19 Level 5 Restrictions
- Revised rates for the EWSS
- Webinars and eLearning
- Continuous Professional Development

Please click on the link to read it:



November e
bulletin .pdf



National Child Safeguarding Programme: ELC

Visit the website: <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/>

The National Child Safeguarding Programme: ELC provides the only Tusla-approved Child Safeguarding Programme in Ireland. The Child Safeguarding website is a one stop shop for all child safeguarding resources for ELC services, with a variety of child protection resources and publications including the recently updated Child Safeguarding Statement and Information Sheet.

Always Children First Foundation level training is currently on hold due to public health guidance. In the meantime, all staff are asked to complete the Tusla eLearning programme. Please see the Training and Information tab on the website to access the eLearning and 30-minute revision programmes.

Garda Vetting Webinar

A Garda Vetting webinar is now available on the National Child Safeguarding Programme website. It can be found under the Early Learning and Care and School Aged Childcare section along with supporting information.

Please click on the link below to visit the website:

<http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/early-learning-care-services/?fbclid=IwAR11xWbyJ9ZUstrE3KMjalU2aEUFbBcieeIMl9fqPl6qgLtTg9YFuiVI7aDg>



Inspections in Early Years Services

Changes in their inspection process.

The Early Years Inspectorate will continue to notify the provider in advance of onsite inspection and give opportunity to submit required documentation prior to going onsite. However, the provider will no longer be informed of the date of onsite component of inspection.

You can read the letter by clicking the link below:

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Inspection_in_Early_Years_Services_08102020.pdf



Update on FAR Responder Recertification 12/11/2020

At a PHECC meeting on 12 November, it was announced “Due to the recent Government that staff who already have FAR certification which expires between March 2020 and March 2021 **can complete a 2 day FAR refresher course to maintain FAR certification.**

The deadline for the last round of FAR reimbursement applications for 2020 is – **11th December 2020** The First Aid Responder (FAR) Education and Training Standard established by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is recognised by Tusla as the first aid course for children that meets the regulatory requirement. In an early years setting the number of people required to be trained in first aid for children (FAR) and that are available for first aid response is based on the service’s risk assessments, including the size of the service and the hazards identified.

Currently where a service provides evidence that a person(s) is trained in First Aid for children and is available to children at all times the regulatory requirement is deemed to have been met by the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate.

Prior to the COVID -19 pandemic this was to continue to be acceptable until the 31st May 2020. The regulatory requirement was due to change from the 1st of June 2020.

The change required is that at least one-person(s) is to have had undertaken the FAR (First Aid Response) course delivered by a trainer approved by PHECC to be available to children at all times in a service.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Tusla and Dept of Children and Youth Affairs have agreed to extend the timeframe to meet this regulatory requirement to the end of February 2021.

In addition, for those staff that already have FAR certification which has now expired or is due to expire – their certificates will remain valid until courses are up and running again.

The DCYA had committed to providing a subsidy for the training of one staff member, per childcare service. This was supposed to have finished by the original deadline of 1 June 2020. In light of Tusla’s statement, the DCYA are extending the subsidy eligibility to the end of 2020.

Online training:

Owing to the current Covid-19 restrictions, PHECC have agreed that the theory part of the FAR training course can be delivered as an online component. PHECC have stipulated that the online theory training will be:

- For the short term only and will be limited to the duration of the current Covid-19 situation.
- Does not replace the whole course, is for FAR theory only.
- Full certification cannot come from this part of the training.
- Practical’s and assessment should be on hold until the current Covid-19 situation is over.
- The online session must be live, and the trainer must ensure that they can document that participants engaged fully.
- There will be a limit of participants to 8 as in the face-to-face course

- Such a significant departure from normal standards shall be limited to the duration of the current Covid-19 crisis.

Things to consider

Before undertaking online FAR theory training Childcare Providers should ensure the following:

- That the training is being offered by a PHECC Approved Training Institution listed [here](#)
- That the company offering the online training can provide an interim certificate/letter as proof of completion of online theory training
- That the company you choose to do the online training with will also be able to offer the practical part of the course as well as the assessment in a place and at a time that will suit you

There is **no obligation** to undertake online training, services can opt to wait until the face-to-face courses are being offered and undertake the training in the normal way. However, the subsidy will only be available until the end of 2020, see payment schedule.

	Quarter 4
Application closing date (for payment in that quarter)	11 th December
Payment dates	18 th December

Claiming the partial subsidy:

On completion of the online theory training, services can apply for a maximum of €150 which represents 2/3 of the total subsidy or 2/3 of what you paid for the course, whichever is the lesser by completing the attached application form and submitting along with a receipt and a certificate/letter confirming that the participant has undertaken the full online theory course. On completion of the practical part of the course, the provider can apply for the remaining €75 by submitting their certificate.

To obtain an application form please contact us on **(01) 4851727** or email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Chilminging Information & updates

FREE New eBook for childminders



The latest in Barnardos' new series of practice resources for childminders looking at children's behaviour is now available. This FREE resource aims to give you a better understanding of children's behaviour and what it is that a child may be trying to communicate through their behaviour, and outlines how you can respond to this behaviour in an understanding way.

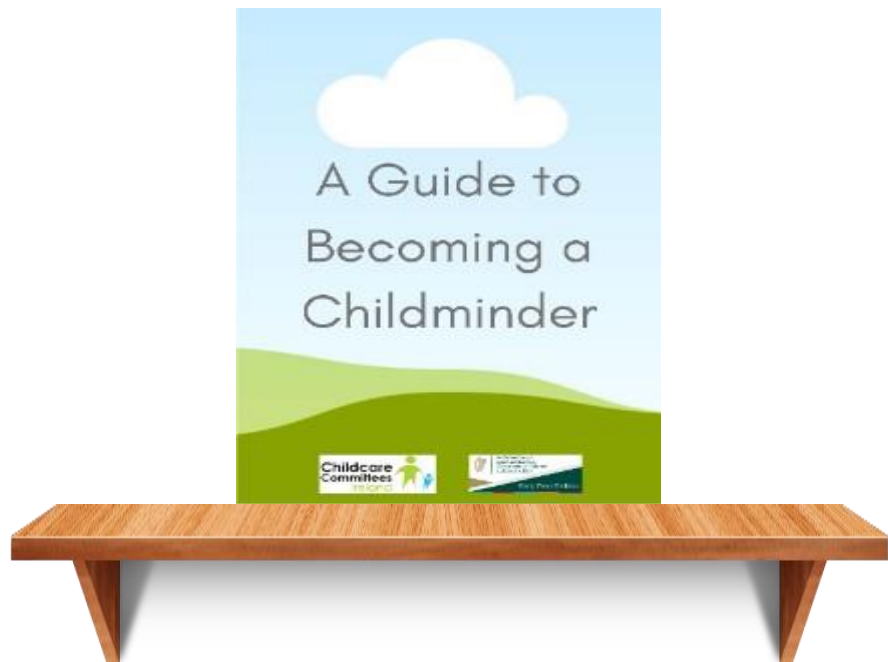
<https://shop.barnardos.ie/collections/for-professionals/products/guidance-for-childminders-understanding-childrens-behaviour>

A Guide to Becoming a Childminder

The Childminding Development Officers (CMDOs) provide support to the local City and County Childcare Committees to work with existing and potential childminders to deliver a high-quality early learning and care and/or school age service to meet the requirements of individual children, families and communities.

The **Childminding Information Pack** was developed by the team of (CMDOs) to assist the City/County Childcare Committees with support and information for Childminders. The information pack contains the most up to date information relevant to the childminding sector. The material in the pack has been adapted from resources previously developed and published by the 30 City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and Tusla. The information pack includes the following documents:

- **A Guide to Becoming a Childminder** – this resource is for potential or existing Childminders and introduces them to best practice guidelines in relation to childminding
- **Childminding Sample Policies & Procedures** – this resource includes Sample Policy and Procedure templates for Childminders
- **Childminding Sample Record Keeping Forms** – this resource includes Sample Record Keeping templates for Childminders
- **Childminding: Guidelines on Planning a Childminding Business in your own home** – this resource provides financial management guidance for Childminders.
- **Childminding Information for City/County Childcare Committees** – this resource is designed to assist the City/County Childcare Committees to support existing or potential Childminders interested in developing their childminding service



Download a copy of A Guide as follows:

<http://childcarecommittee.com/fccc/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/A-Guide-to-becoming-a-Childminder-V1-1.pdf>



There is a section on the first 5 website with tailored information for childminders. To access the recently updated section, click on the link below:

<https://first5.gov.ie/practitioners/reopening>



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍ CHONTAE FHINE GALL

The team at Fingal County Childcare Committee recognise that childminders play a central role in the provision of both early learning and care and school-age childcare in Fingal and are committed to supporting childminders. The Development team in Fingal CCC deliver professional development training, mentoring and information on quality practice.

If you are a childminder, thinking of becoming a childminder or require any support or advice in relation to your childminding service you can contact the development team at Fingal CCC by calling our main office on (01) 4851727 or the development officer in your area:

- Mairéad Tucker, Lead Development Officer Swords and Surrounding Areas Ph: 087 7477553
Email: mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Jacinta Cooke, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas Ph: 087-7722228
Email jacinta@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Nicola McKernan, Development Officer, Dublin 15, and Surrounding Areas Ph: 087 6025263
Email nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie

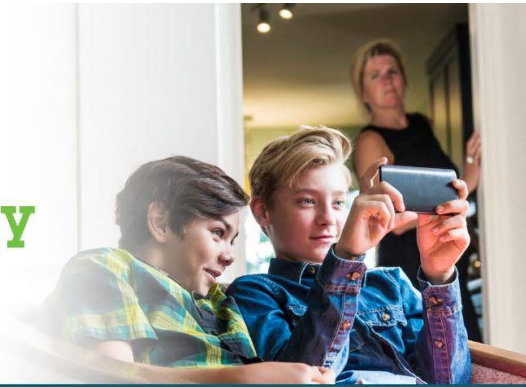


Information for parents

Please share the following information/resources with your parents



Online safety Webinar for Parents



Duration: 45 minutes
Group size: Up to 100
Costs: Free

Overview

Barnardos online safety webinars for parents are based on current research and best practice to promote online safety for children. We believe that open communication between children and adults and regular conversations about a child's online use are key to helping children stay safe online. We do not scare or sensationalise, our objective is that parents leave our webinar feeling empowered and have practical tips that will help their family stay safer and be happier on the internet.

Our workshop is suitable for parents with children of all ages and it is held live, on Zoom with an experience Barnardos trainer.

Topics covered are:

- How to talk to your child about online safety
- Parental controls
- Helpful websites
- Cyberbullying and how to help your child
- How to encourage digital wellbeing
- Sexting
- Strategies gaming and screen time

Learning outcomes

Parents will be able to:



Outline the key risks for children with being online



Implement practical solutions and tips to help their children stay safe online



Reflect on how they might help their children if they were cyberbullied/cyberbullying



Recognise ways to interact with their child's online world and day to day experiences



Identify helpful websites and research and signpost them to others



You can register for the next available parent webinar on our website at www.barnardos.ie/osp

RCN 20010027 | CHY 8015

Dates: 2 December & 8 December.

To reserve a place, please click the link below:

https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/training-events-courses?k&df&dt&c=42309&l&fbclid=IwAR2XInoTLIrJFS7E6v61kIW1pl0yHCQf-_G7vARkmASZgiZxVT-O6hmm26o



The helpline for people parenting alone, sharing parenting or separating.

You can also call askonefamily on 01 662 9212.

1890 numbers are lo-call from landlines. Call rates to 1890 numbers from mobile phones may vary. Check specific details with your mobile service provider.

www.onefamily.ie



One Family's helpline provides information on childcare, parenting and mediation, social welfare entitlements and finances, family law, housing and education. It also offers a listening service for people who need support parenting alone, co-parenting or separating.

For more details click the link below:

<https://onefamily.ie/information-service-helpline/>



The Child Safeguarding website has an Information for Parents section which includes parenting supports and an information leaflet on child safeguarding in ELC services.

<http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/information-for-parents/>



FINGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE – WEBSITE

FCCC website is updated daily with a broad range of information that is relevant to the early years and school age sectors in Fingal. Under LATEST NEWS you will find DCYA Updates, PIP Announcements, On-line Training, Information for parents and other topics that FCCC believes would be of interest to you, your staff, and your parents.

It is of particular importance is that providers regularly read and understand the most up to date FAQ's and PIP Announcements and if clarifications are required please contact FCCC at (01) 4851727 or contact a staff member from the list on Page 1 above.