



Newsletter

Fingal County Childcare Committee

JULY 2021

Volume 35 Number 35

In This Issue

- *FCCC Staff Contact Details*
- *PIP/HIVE Announcements*
- *ECCE/CCSP Optional Extras 2021/22*
- *ECCE/CCSP Fees lists 2021/22*
- *FAR*
- *Early Years e-bulletin*
- *Covid-19 Impact Support Payment*
- *Summer Stars*
- *AIM Website*
- *Tusla Updates*
- *HSE -2 dedicated helplines for childcare services.*
- *Tusla & First 5 Information for parents*
- *Aistear update & consultation.*
- *Childminding Section*
- *First 5*
- *Child Protection COSAINT LEANAÍ - NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME*

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

○ **Colette Redmond, Office Administrator**

Ph: 087- 7844805 or email colette@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **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

○ **Jacinta Cooke, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas**

Ph: 087-7722228 or email jacinta@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Eimear Furlong, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas**

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

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

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

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

Ph: 087 9053890 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

- *Barnardos Resources and Training Webinars*

- *Service Closures*
- *FCCC Website*

FCCC – UPCOMING TRAINING August

Starting Primary School Webinar for Parents with Dr Mary O’Kane

Your child is starting ‘big school’ in September, this means new experiences, new friends, and a whole new identity as a Junior Infant. How should you best prepare your child for this major transition in their lives? In this session, Dr Mary O’Kane offers some down to earth and practical advice on the best ways to support your child for this big change in their lives. This will help them achieve everything they are capable of in school.

Topic: Starting Primary School

Date: Tuesday 17th August

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: On-line via Microsoft Teams

Booking is essential for this Webinar on the 17th August. To book your place now please click on the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/starting-primary-school-webinar-for-parents-with-dr-mary-okane-17th-aug-tickets-165250273015>

Topic: Starting Primary School

Date: Thursday 19th August

Time: 7pm-9pm

Venue: On-line via Microsoft Teams

Booking is essential for this Webinar on the 19th August. To book your place now please click on the following

link <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/starting-primary-school-webinar-for-parents-with-dr-mary-okane-19th-aug-tickets-165251011223>

Topic: Sharing Sensitive News

Date: Tuesday 24th August 2021

Time: 6-8pm

Venue: On-line via Microsoft Teams

Fingal County Childcare Committee are delighted to be working with Ann Halligan again on a number of workshops for Early Years Practitioners. Ann has been working in Early Childhood Care and Education since 1995 as a practitioner, Childcare Manager and Trainer. She currently owns and manages her own Preschool Curious Minds in Castlebar, Co Mayo

Early Childcare educators who work with young children are often in a good position to notice delays in development or other at-risk indicators, and many educators find expressing their concerns to a parent or caregiver difficult and this has been further complicated by Covid 19 restrictions. However, we have a duty of care to the children to inform parents about these concerns so that positive next steps can be taken. This workshop will support you to reflect on the importance of having good relationships with parents and provide you with some new strategies to consider when sharing sensitive news with parents.

Please note: There is a maximum of 30 places per session (1 place per service). Booking is essential via Eventbrite click on following link to register your place <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sharing-sensitive-news-information-session-with-ann-halligan-tickets-165875934385>

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to give FCCC a call on (01) 4851727 or email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Rules for the 2021/2022 ECCE

We are writing to you today to inform you that the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Rules for the 2021/2022 ECCE programme year are now available

<http://fingalcountychildcare.ie/index.php/childcare-documents/91-aim-rules-for-programme-year-2021-2021/file>

The AIM Rules are a useful resource for both parents and for the early learning and care sector. If you are a pre-school provider we encourage you to familiarise yourself with the rules and also bring them to the attention of your staff.

As indicated in the ECCE contract, pre-school services that avail of AIM are obliged to comply with the AIM Rules. When necessary the rules will be updated occasionally to reflect developments in the sector. Providers will be notified of any such updates.

Early Years Communications Team
Early Years Division

MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT – Early Years Sectoral e-Bulletin June Edition

Grandfathering Declaration for the Early Learning and Care Sector

A limited extension to the Grandfathering Declaration has been announced for practitioners who agree to undertake a relevant qualification during the period of the extension.

Practitioners interested in obtaining an extension to their Grandfathering Declaration must contact their local City/County Childcare Committee (CCC) at the earliest opportunity. The CCC will be the relevant contact point for approval of extensions and for providing supports and advice. For those who do not wish to avail of this extension, the original terms of the Grandfathering Declaration will continue to apply.

Update of Aistear by the NCCA

Aistear will be updated by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) over the next three years. A series of online consultations are already underway. If you would like to participate in the consultation process, please follow the links below.

Online questionnaires: If you are working or involved in the field of education and would like to complete the online questionnaire, please click [here](#)

If you are a parent or guardian and would like to complete the online questionnaire, please click [here](#).

Written submissions: If you or your organisation would like to make a written submission, please use the written submission template available [here](#).

Consultation events: A series of online consultation seminars will take place throughout Autumn and Winter 2021.

If you would like to attend an online face-to-face consultation, please register your interest and you will be notified of the events.

PIP/HIVE Announcements

Invitation to Programme Readiness webinars on Thursday 5 August

Webinars on Programme Readiness will be held next week, on Thursday 5 August 2021.

These will cover NCS, ECCE, CCSP Savers Registrations and payments.

Please click on the relevant link and time to register your attendance.

****Note:** Please only register for one webinar as there is maximum capacity of 500 per session.

A recording will be made available on the Early Years Hive once the live sessions have been completed.

Webinar Link for each session can be found on PIP Announcements

Thurs 5 Aug 2021 10.00am – 11.30am

Thurs 5 Aug 2021 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Thurs 5 Aug 2021 6.30pm – 8.00pm

ECCE Optional Extras 2021/22 – 19th July

- The Department has carried out a review of the ECCE funding agreement for the 2021/2022 programme year. The Department has decided to revert to last year's rules on the matter of ECCE optional extras so that providers can charge for optional activities, including:
 - 'Gymboree' type events where outside providers deliver an educational or entertainment based activity;
 - and for baking where this is a regular part of the programme.

The amended ECCE rules for the 2021/2022 programme year will be available on the Department's website later this week.

It should be noted that the following conditions continue to apply in relation to optional extras

- Refusal of a Service Provider to follow the direction of the local County Childcare Committee (CCC) in relation to fees lists may result in sanctions being applied

- It is imperative that no child should feel excluded if they are not participating in the optional extra. Service Providers must take this into account and should consult Appendix 1 for further information. If the fees list for your service has already been approved by your CCC and you now wish to include optional extras, a new amended version of your fees list should be submitted to the CCC for approval.

Change to Service Ref. Number – 1st July

Dear Service Provider,

The code used to identify ELC and SAC services, formally known as the DCYA Ref. Number, has now changed to the **Service Ref. Number**.

Going forward, you will be asked for your Service Ref. Number when contacting the EYPC and you may have encountered this already.

This change has already automatically taken place on the Early Years Hive and will shortly be occurring on the PIP Portal. There is no action required from service providers except be aware of the new name.

AIM 2021/22 and EWSS – 25th June

As per the AIM Programme Rules, the wages of an employee may be supported through either EWSS or AIM Level 7 capitation, **but not both**. It is open to a service provider to decide whether EWSS or AIM Level 7 funding is most advantageous to them.

While EWSS has been extended until 31 December 2021 and current arrangements apply unchanged until the end of Quarter 3, the arrangements for Quarter 4 will not be announced until September.

Service providers that have a child with a disability attending the ECCE programme during the year 2021/22 and choose to opt for EWSS funding (instead of AIM Level 7 funding) are encouraged to complete an application for AIM Level 7 also, so that their application can be assessed well in advance. Completing the application for AIM Level 7 funding mitigates the risk of a gap in funding for providers who opt for EWSS, but who are likely to lose EWSS at some point during the programme year 2021/22.

Applying for AIM support now will also allow such services to benefit from educational advice and support under AIM Level 4 while in receipt of EWSS. Once approved for AIM Level 7 funding for 2021/22 programme, the provider must advise Pobal they are opting for EWSS instead and the AIM Level 7 will be withdrawn until such time as EWSS support ends.

Service providers who have a child that is eligible for a second-year extension for 21/22 and withdrew last year due to EWSS can apply for their second-year extension support now. However, where a service opts to continue with EWSS funding, AIM Level 7 funding will be allocated from 1st January 2022 (or whatever is the date on which EWSS ceases for that service).

Help and support

Should you have any queries in relation to the AIM, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre by raising a Request on Hive.

Playing Outside Grant 2021 – 17th June

The Department of Children Equality Diversity Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is pleased to announce that applications are **open** for the Playing Outside 2021.

Applications will be open from **June 18th – August 31st 2021**. Applications cannot be submitted outside this application window. All applications must be submitted on the HIVE.

There is €5.5 million in funding available under this grant to support childcare services to enhance their outdoor playing area, in line with current public health guidelines.

The **amount of grant** which is paid to each Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Service is **based on the number of individual children registered** in a service on one or more **DCEDIY programmes**

on the **3rd of May 2021**. The number of individual children registered will be taken from Early Years Portal and PIP systems hosted by Pobal.

To be eligible for funding, you must have had at least one registered child on one of the following schemes on the 3rd of May:

- National Childcare Scheme (NCS)
- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
- Community Childcare Subvention Programme Plus (CCSP)
- Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement (CSSR)
- Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement Transition (CSSR-T)
- Training and Employment Childcare (TEC)

-
Payment of the grant:

Payments to approved applicants will commence from Friday 25th June and will occur weekly thereafter. Applicants will be paid 100% of their grant allocation, and will receive their payment within 10 working days of submitting their application.

The amount of funding each service is allocated under The Playing Outside Grant 2021 is as follows:

Number of children registered on DECDIY Programmes	Grant Allocation €
1-49	€1,000
50-99	€2,000
100+	€2,500

Further information

For further information on the programme rules and how to apply for this grant please read the [Applicant Guidelines](#) (HERE).

For a Step by Step guide on how to complete the application on HIVE please read the [Technical Guidelines](#) (HERE).

If you require any further clarifications or information please raise a Service Request in HIVE using the following categories as appropriate:

POG (Playing Outside Grant)

Category

- Payment
- Application Form
- Program Clarification
- Technical Issue
- Review Eligibility

Subcategory

- General

Please note the Early Years Provider Centres Opening Hours are **9am to 5pm Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri** and **10am to 5pm Wed**.

CLOSING DATE : 31ST AUGUST 2021

You can also call on Telephone number **01 511 7222**.

2021-22 Programme Readiness

PIP/HIVE Announcement – 27/05/21 - Log onto this announcement on PIP/HIVE to access all the necessary links.

Dear Service Provider,

The first stage of Programme Readiness 2021-22 for ECCE, NCS and CCSP Saver programmes will be available for services on **28th May 2021**.

Please note that all important Programme Readiness dates will be added to the Early years Announcement Calendar (**found when logged onto the hive**) for your benefit.

The Primary Authorised User (PAU) for each service must complete the following tasks for their service:

- Confirm Organisation details
- Confirm Service provider details.
- Confirm PAU
- Confirm Portal users
- Confirm Bank account (ECCE and NCS only)
- Confirm TUSLA registration
- Create a 2021/22 Service calendar
- Create a 2021/22 Fees list
- Activate the Funding Agreement*

*For NCS and ECCE, services are required to create their 2021/22 service calendar and fees list before they can activate the NCS 2021 funding agreement.

Please see below for more information and guidance on these readiness tasks for each programme.

Please also see a link to the slides for the training webinar on the enhancements for this year's programme readiness and the recorded version of the webinar on the NCS hive.

ECCE

The programme rules for ECCE 2021/22 can be found on the hive.

ECCE is administered on the Early Years Hive portal and all Programme Readiness tasks must be completed on the Hive. You will find the following guides in the support section of the Hive for guidance.

- ECCE programme readiness tasks.
- Adding an ECCE services calendar.
- Adding an ECCE fees list.

Once you complete the above tasks, you are now ready to activate the funding agreement for ECCE 2021/22. The funding agreement is available under the programmes tab on the hive.

You can also find a guide and a training video on activating an ECCE funding agreement in the Help & Support section of the Hive.

Service Providers must be on-boarded on the Hive in order to complete these readiness tasks. If you are new to Hive and looking to on-board your service, please see the on-boarding page of the hive for more information.

NCS

The current Policy Guidelines for NCS can be found on the hive.

NCS is administered on the Early Years Hive portal and all Programme Readiness tasks must be completed on the Hive. Please see the below guides available in the Help & Support section of the Hive for guidance:

- NCS programme readiness tasks
- Adding an NCS service calendar
- Adding an NCS fees list

Once you complete the above tasks, you are now ready to activate the funding agreement for NCS 2021/22. The funding agreement is available under the programme tab. You can find a guide on activating an NCS funding agreement in the Help & Support section of the Hive.

Service Providers must be on-boarded on the Hive in order to complete these readiness tasks. If you are new to Hive and looking to on-board your service, please see the on boarding page of the hive for more information.

TEC Saver Programme

The TEC Saver Programme will merge with the CCSP Saver Programme, which is administered on PIP, at the end of the 2020/2021 programme year,

The remaining eligible TEC participants will be registered as CCSP (TEC Final Year) Savers under the 2021/2022 CCSP Saver Programme (16th August 2021 – 12th August 2022).

The eligibility criteria for these identified participants are the initial letters of eligibility (which were issued prior to the closure of TEC on the 14th of February 2020), and are post-dated beyond 13th August 2021 into the 2021/2022 programme year.

CCSP (TEC Final Year) Savers will automatically be approved for a Band A subsidy on their registration subject to the rules of the CCSP Saver Programme, for the remainder of the 2021/2022 programme year.

Please refer to the 2021/2022 CCSP Saver Programme rules and the associated suite of 'How to Guides' for further information.

For general guidance on using PIP, please see the user guide on the PIP portal.

Support

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

Request Type: Programme Readiness 1

Request Type Detail: * Select the relevant category*

Early Years Team

ECCE/CCSP Optional Extras 2021/2022

ECCE Optional Extras 2021/22

The Department has carried out a review of the ECCE funding agreement for the 2021/2022 programme year. The Department has decided to revert to last year's rules on the matter of ECCE optional extras so that providers can charge for optional activities, including:

- 'Gymboree' type events where outside providers deliver an educational or entertainment based activity;
- and for baking where this is a regular part of the programme.

The amended ECCE rules for the 2021/2022 programme year will be available on the Department's website later this week.

It should be noted that the following conditions continue to apply in relation to optional extras

- Refusal of a Service Provider to follow the direction of the local County Childcare Committee (CCC) in relation to fees lists may result in sanctions being applied
- It is imperative that no child should feel excluded if they are not participating in the optional extra. Service Providers must take this into account and should consult Appendix 1 for further information.

If the fees list for your service has already been approved by your CCC and you now wish to include optional extras, a new amended version of your fees list should be submitted to the CCC for approval.

XXXXX ECCE Optional Extras Overview XXXXX

One of the core principles of ECCE is that it is free of charge to all parents. Therefore, the DCEDIY would prefer that services keep optional extras items for children attending ECCE to an absolute minimum and recommend that **Service Providers arrange for charged activities to occur outside the three hours of the ECCE programme.**

When completing your ECCE Fees list please be aware of the changes made to the Allowable optional extras, Appendix 1 Optional Extras Document, ECCE 2021-2022 Programme Rules document. Please note, for **CCSP Optional Extras**, services are asked to refer to the **ECCE Optional Extras 2021/2022** document for a list of allowable optional extras.

Any optional extras included on the Fees List that are not listed on the ECCE Optional Extras 2021/2022 document will not be approved by FCCC.

ECCE/CCSP Fees Lists

FCCC will be approving ECCE & CCSP Fees lists again for this programme year 2021/22. Your FCCC Development Officer will be in contact with you over the coming days requesting that you submit via email your Parents letter for review & approval.

Please consult the below documents prior to completing, especially the number of weeks per term you need to be operating for the ECCE Scheme.

Note – You need to log onto PIP to view the below documents.

<https://pip.pobal.ie/Shared%20Documents/ECCE%202021-22%20Programme%20Rules.pdf>

<https://pip.pobal.ie/Shared%20Documents/CCSP%20Saver%20Programme%20Rules%202021-22.pdf>

To view ECCE How to Guides, please log on to the HIVE:

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

N.B. It should be noted that the FCCC will be checking fees lists to ensure that they comply with the terms of the signed funding agreement and the rules for the ECCE & CCSP Saver Programmes.

In cases of non-compliance Service Providers will be given 4 weeks to rectify their fees list(s). If after this time the fees lists have not been updated as per the CCC's direction, Pobal will be notified for further follow up. Sanctions may be applied if fees lists are found to contravene any rules/the policy of the ECCE/CCSP Saver programme

Parent and Toddler Group Initiative Grant

Applications for funding under this scheme should only be made by Parent & Toddler Groups that are organised on a not for profit basis and involve the participation of parents in the community. Grants will normally range from €100 to €1,250. Existing groups can apply for a maximum grant of €800. New start up groups may apply for a maximum grant of up to €1250.

Funding will be available for:

- Toys, equipment and books for indoor and outdoor activities
- Storage for equipment
- Training for parents, e.g. paediatric first aid, committee skills, parenting courses
- Children's activities, e.g. arts and crafts, music
- Limited funding will be available towards insurance, rent or minor refurbishment, up to a maximum of 30% of total funding for existing services.
- Limited funding will be available towards insurance or rent, up to a maximum of 70% of total funding for new services.

The closing date has been extended to Friday 3rd September 2021

For further details on the Parent & Toddler Grant please contact Fingal County Childcare Committee on 01-4851727 or email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

FAR

This FAR reimbursement is an opportunity for you as a Tusla registered provider to access financial support to meet this regulatory requirement, you are entitled to it so we would strongly encourage you to avail of it.

[Please note there will be no extension by the DCEDIY to support funding beyond 31st October 2021.](#)

FAR regulatory requirement extension to November 2021

Please be informed that due to the ongoing pandemic, Tusla has provided an extension to FAR regulatory requirement for all registered Early Learning and Care (ELC), School Age Childcare (SAC) and Childminders (CM) providers.

Tusla will therefore align their regulatory activity with this extension and **only commence inspecting against this requirement from 1st November 2021**. At that time, Tusla will expect at least one person(s) to have successfully undertaken the First Aid Response (FAR) course to be available to children at all times in a service and will inspect services on that basis.

Please see link below for further Tusla communications on this regulatory extension.

FAR reimbursement extension to 31st October

Due to Covid-19 pandemic public health restrictions, the practical training element of FAR courses were put on hold, as a result Tusla and the Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have agreed to extend the reimbursement timeframe to meet this regulatory requirement to **31st October 2021**.

To support services to meet their regulatory requirement the DCEDIY has extended and altered the FAR Reimbursement Fund which will fund one FAR first aid training place per registered ELC, SAC and CM, to a maximum of €225 per full course or €175 per refresher course.

Key Points to remember in completing a FAR Reimbursement Application to FCCC

- Please read the Reimbursement Application form for eligibility criteria and dates for application submittal and payment schedules - this can be requested from FCCC.
- Training must be completed by 31st October 2021
- Completed FAR Reimbursement application form must be accompanied by a PHECC accredited FAR certificate and a copy of training payment receipt

Timeframe for applications:

	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Application closing date (for payment in that quarter)	17 th September 2021	December 3rd 2021
Payment dates	24 th September 2021	10 th December 2021

Early Years sectoral e-bulletin

Early Years e-bulletin June edition, the e-bulletin includes updates from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Education, Pobal & Tusla.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d51c6-early-years-sectoral-e-bulletin-june-2021/>

Covid-19 Impact Support Payment

This scheme was launched on the 1st of March. The purpose of this funding is to assist services that make a loss/deficit in that month. This funding will be available throughout 2021 for eligible ELC and SAC services that require further financial assistance in addition to current support measures available and others that may be announced throughout the year. If you feel you may be eligible to apply, please contact the FCCC Development Officer for your area and they will guide you through the process.

Click on the link below for more details.

<https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/COVID-19-Impact-Support-Announcement>



Summer Stars National Reading Adventure 2021

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 14th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/ ebook is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free!

<https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/summer-stars/more-about-summer-stars>

Check out Summer in Fingal Libraries 2021 brochure (link below)

https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/b23400-fingal-libraries-summer-2021-brochure_0.pdf

AIM Website



DCEDIY are happy to share the re-design of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) website:

www.aim.gov.ie

The website was designed with accessibility in mind, with feedback from parents, providers, agencies and other departments. On the AIM website, parents and pre-school providers can access up to date information on the AIM programme, the supports offered and how to apply.



Tusla – EY Updates

 An infographic titled "eLearning, Webinars and Resources" with a teal border. It is divided into four main sections:

- Regulatory Practice Development Team:** Located in the top left, featuring a circular logo with "TUSLA" and the text "Regulatory Practice Development Team". Below it is a photo of a teacher and children in a classroom.
- QRF eLearning:** Located in the middle right, with the text "We are delighted to advise that the remaining two modules; Health, Welfare & Development of the Child and Conclusion are now available to all registered users of the system".
- EYI Q&A Document:** Located in the bottom right, with the text "The Q&A document has been fully revised and updated to reflect changes in policy and practice and to ensure it is aligned with the Quality & Regulatory Framework".
- Provider Resources:** Located in the bottom right, with the text "Our new Resources section includes" followed by a bulleted list of links: "Pedagogical principles of the Tusla Early Years Inspection process", "EYI Guide to Early Years Inspections", "Supporting Quality Early Years Provision Through Registration, Inspection and Enforcement", and "Guidance for providers of early years services operating outdoors".

 The bottom left of the infographic features a circular logo with "TUSLA" and "CHILDRENS SERVICES REGULATION" and the text "click on underlined text for hyperlinks".

- **Update to Tusla arrangements following HSE cyberattack**

Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Aged Care (SAC) childcare providers must be registered with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency as a prescribed early years service. A childcare provider who provides both early learning and care and school age childcare must have a valid Tusla registration for both service types.

We are aware that for some services your ability to verify registrations and complete certain processes with Tusla has been impacted by the recent attack on the HSE IT system.

For this reason the following arrangements have been put in place;

- Service Providers without a Tusla certificate can use other evidence of registration with Tusla to on-board and to sign funding agreements. E.g. Email confirmation of registration from Tusla.
- Service Providers not registered for either ELC or SAC with Tusla will not be permitted to on-board.
- Full time services with ELC Tusla certification whose service offering includes school aged childcare, but who have not yet been registered as an SAC provider will **as an exceptional and temporary measure** be allowed to sign funding agreements and to register children. Please note that proof of Tusla SAC registration will be requested later in the year once the current system issues are resolved. Any service

providers that cannot provide a certificate at this point will be required to deregister all school aged children from their services and funding will cease for these children on all schemes. Providers will be given 4 weeks notice of the requirement to de-register. Providers are strongly advised to pursue the registration process with Tusla to ensure this measure is not required.

- Service Providers that are registered with Tusla but have not yet received this confirmation or proof of registration due to the IT shutdown should contact the Early Years Provider Centre in Pobal on 01-5117222 or by raising a service request through the Early Years Hive and selecting the category "User Account Management" and the sub-category "Tusla".

New service providers or services that have gone through a change of circumstances can continue to apply to Tusla for registration, however as the Tusla portal is unavailable, a form will be made available on the Tusla website in the coming weeks. For re-registrations Tusla will contact providers directly and ask them to submit relevant documentation by post or email. **These services will be unable to on-board until the Tusla process is complete.**

- **HSE Cyber Attack**

Tusla wrote to all providers in relation to the cyber-attack. The memo includes information about notifiable incidents, SAC registrations and early years inspections. Please click the button below to read the memo.

Tusla's phone lines are operational. Contact information for the Early Years Inspectorate:



EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

CHILDRENS SERVICES REGULATION

www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/

**Early Years Inspectorate
Contact information -
May 2021**

All Tusla ICT systems have been disabled as a precaution in response to the cyber-attack on Friday 14 May 2021. Key telephone numbers are below

Notifiable Incidents
061 461706 or 061461711

Early Years Registration
061 461715

School Age Registration
061 461718

Change in Circumstances & Cessations
061 461726

Feedback & Concerns
061 461743 or 061461703

Inspections – West
091 775823

Inspections – DML
087 6873904

Inspections – South
087 9115333

Inspections – DNE
087 1784593

Tusla is updating its Early Years' Inspectorate website. New resources added recently include webinars with Q&A documents and eLearning coming soon.

For more information, please click on the link below.

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/>



Office of the Clinical Director of Health Protection, Health Service Executive

TO: All service providers

FROM: Dr Abigail Collins, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Dr Kevin Kelleher, Assistant National Director for Public Health and Child Health

RE: HSE public health update

DATE: 22nd July 2021

As I am sure you are aware, we are experiencing an increase in cases of Covid-19 nationally. The cases we are seeing are predominantly in the young adult population, as they are the groups who have had less opportunity for vaccination, and who are tending to meet, socialise and travel more. Covid-19 is still very transmissible and particularly so in many more social settings. You and your staff have done fantastic work responding to the pandemic and recommendations that the government and Public Health have made, and this has kept the number of cases and onward spread of infection as low as possible.

We would ask you to be particularly mindful over the next few weeks of the following:

1) Travel: *Travel restrictions have recently changed and up-to-date information is available on the gov.ie website (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-internationaltravel/#travelling-with-children>) and we recommend this is checked regularly for updated advice and guidance.*

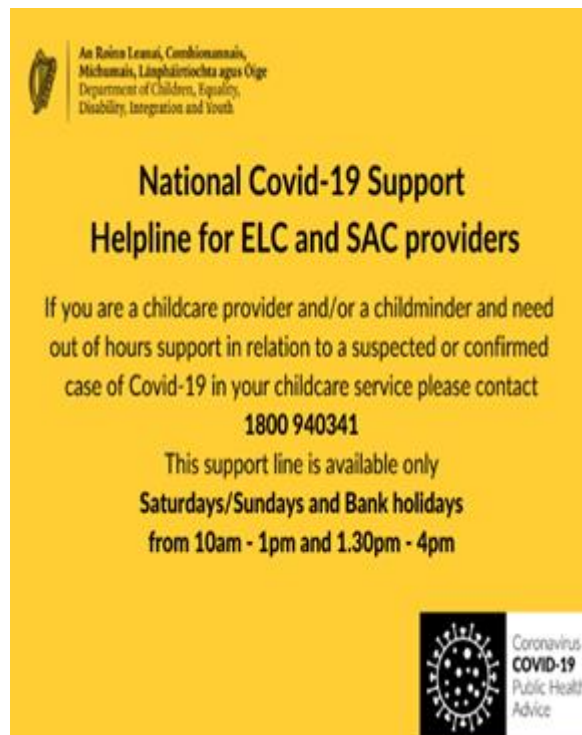
Currently for travel with children it states that 'Children between the ages of 12 and 17 will be required to have a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival to travel into the country, unless they have valid proof of vaccination or recovery. Children of any age, travelling with accompanying vaccinated or recovered adults will not be required to self-quarantine post arrival. However, where one accompanying adult needs to self-quarantine, then all children must also self-quarantine.' This therefore requires a conversation with parents/guardians to determine who can return straight to your facility, and who needs to self-quarantine. People should be mindful that rates of infection and opportunity for infection may be increased in certain holiday destinations and again, attention and exclusion of those with even mild symptoms, which could be Covid-19, should be implemented whilst undergoing testing.

2) Vaccination: All adults are recommended to receive Covid-19 vaccines. Vaccination is the best way we have of preventing hospital admissions and more serious end point of the disease. It also help protect all others in our community. Therefore, we strongly recommend that all staff are vaccinated as soon as they are able, and that this is supported and facilitated, as you are able, within in your facilities.

3) Symptoms: We have seen most spread of Covid-19 from people with symptoms. We would ask that you remain alert to the symptoms of staff and children within you facility. Any person with symptoms which could be consistent with Covid-19 should not attend facilities and attend for testing. This is very important for staff too, to minimise onward impact in your facilities. It is also very important to remind parents, that symptomatic children should not attend your facility, and neither should a child if a parent is undertaking testing because of symptoms themselves. We have seen people, often with fairly minor symptoms, attending facilities and which have had a significant onward impact. We would continue to ask for a precautionary approach to be taken.

4) Mitigation measures: As always, excluding symptomatic staff and students and the implementation of the recommended infection prevention and control measures all maximally help in the prevention of the onward spread of any Covid-19 that is identified in someone attending your facility. We strongly recommend that you adhere still to these measures, and enjoy outside play where possible; with sunsmart safety precautions implemented at this current point.

A recent webinar refreshed relevant advice and we would recommend that you watch this on the first five website <https://first5.gov.ie/guidance/public-health>.



Covid Case Support Helplines

There are two helplines available to services who have a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in their service.

1. The HSE have a helpline to advise service providers if they have been informed of a Covid-19 case in a child or a staff member. The number is 01 511 9777 It is open Monday –Friday 8.30 –4.30 and 10 –4.30 Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays.

2. For those services who need support on engaging with the relevant authorities due to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, there is an out of hours helpline. The number is 1800 940 341. The service will be available Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays from 10.00 –13.00 and 13.30 –16.00.



The HPSC updated quick guides show clearly when a child or adult should be isolating versus restricting their movements:

[Isolation quick guide Adults and children from their 13th birthday.pdf \(hpsc.ie\)](#) – Isolation quick guide for adults and children from their 13th birthday.

[Isolation quick guide under 13s.pdf \(hpsc.ie\)](#) - Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age



Tusla Parenting E-learning Course's

The new online course for parents' developed by the Tusla National Parenting Working group in collaboration with parents is called "Relationships are key". It provides parents with reassurance, guidance and expert advice and the course aims to support parents and all carers to form stronger and more positive relationships with their young children. Parents are invited to work through the course in their own time and at their own pace. They can pick and choose topics that are of interest to them or are more relevant to them at a particular time.

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/parenting-information/parenting-information-fsa>

Pre-school at Home

This Pre-school at Home Hub provides a range of activities to support and encourage children's interests and aims to keep them playing and learning at home.

Included here are a range of typical activities that happen at pre-school which have been adapted for children to do at home, at a time that suits them and their family.

Remember, when children are playing they are learning. When children are included in everyday household activities they are learning.

Early Learning and Care settings have been asked to connect with families to support the children in their setting during current restrictions. They may expand on the activities linked here based on the interests of their child, if families wish to engage.

Click on the link below to view the webpage:

<https://first5.gov.ie/parents/pre-school-at-home>

Let's Play Summer 2021

DCEDIY has produced a list of what's on offer around Ireland for families this summer.

Please click on the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8cf45-lets-play-summer-2021/>

Let's Get Ready

There are lots of new resources on Lets Get Ready 2021 for families on transitions to pre-school and primary school.

https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/1e8a3-lets-get-ready/?mc_cid=e0518158a8&mc_eid=d8ebf3db74



NCCA has initiated a project to update Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework and phase 1 of the consultation is now open.

Please click the buttons to read an introduction and additional information about the project and to participate in the survey for Early Years practitioners:

<https://ncca.ie/en/early-childhood/early-childhood-education-developments/updating-aistear/>

https://surveyhero.com/c/professional?fbclid=IwAR3S392Xh2xBx43niyBqiG-_8fQG-dQ3W6q9HDbN7zqbtTd8pRKXxsmkpaM

Childminding Section



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

The First 5 website contains a number of resources that have been developed to guide and assist childminders for the reopening and operation of their service(s) during COVID-19. There are also a number of useful resources, activities, videos in the pre-school at home hub which can be adapted to suit a childminding setting. For more information on First 5 click [here](#)

DCEDIY are constantly reviewing and updating the First5 website to ensure that the most up to date information is available to the Early Years & School Age sector <https://first5.gov.ie/guidance>

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 or Email: mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Jacinta Cooke, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas Ph: 087-7722228 or Email jacinta@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Eimear Furlong, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas 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



COSAINT LEANAÍ - NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME – EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

www.childsafeguardelc.ie

As you are all aware there is an embargo on training for the foundation level Children's First. If services are concerned that their certificate is out of date or will be over the coming weeks, a memo has been sent to all Early Years Inspectors informing them that in this present moment the certificates from the E-Learning

module will suffice. If it has been 3 years or more since an employee has completed the E-Learning, then they are advised to complete it again.

The new website <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/early-learning-care-services/> is a fantastic resource that we should be directing providers to for information and links to documents etc.

The National Child Safeguarding Programme: Early Learning and Care launched their website in October, please see below.

The National Child Safeguarding Programme: Early Learning and Care provides the only Tusla approved sector specific Child Safeguarding Programme in Ireland. Full of Early Learning and Care sector specific child safeguarding training and resources, which were developed in conjunction with Tusla, www.chilsafeguardingelc.ie is a 'one stop shop' for all Child Safeguarding resources for Early Learning and Care Services in Ireland.

The website can be found at www.chilsafeguardingelc.ie and on Twitter at @safeguardingelc.

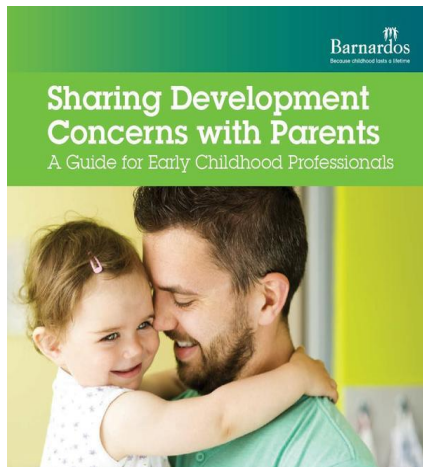
Children First Child Protection revision webinar

This webinar was developed to highlight the key elements of the face-to-face Always Children First Foundation training. Its purpose is to serve as an interim revision resource for Early Years practitioners.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH_7yLe1ZPI&feature=youtube

Barnardos Resources and Online Training Webinars

Sharing Development Concerns with Parents: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals



This resource offers guidance to early years professionals about how to approach difficult conversations with parents. Such conversations might relate to concerns you have about a possible developmental delay, a sensory or learning related issue, or a behavioural or emotional issue for a child.

The booklet also outlines how you can work together, if the parents wish, to plan steps for the family to get any emotional supports and practical help they might need.

For further information please see Barnardos Website

Ebook - ChildLinks (Issue 1, 2021): Nature-based Preschools

This issue of ChildLinks looks at nature-based preschools, where children spend most of their time engaged in free-play outdoors in a natural setting. This publication is free but it must be accessed through the below link.

https://shop.barnardos.ie/products/ebook-childlinks-issue-1-2021-nature-based-preschools?mc_cid=da249a451e&mc_eid=d8ebf3db74

Barnardos Training Webinars

For staff in Early Learning & Care Settings

An Introduction to Supervision in Early Learning and Care - 11th Aug

An Introduction to Creative Mindfulness Practices in Early Learning and Care - 16th Sept

An Introduction to Infant Mental Health in Early Learning and Care - 22nd Sept

Full details and to book places please refer to Barnardos website

An Introduction to Infant Mental Health

22nd September - 7.00-9.00pm - €15

The aim of this workshop is to introduce participants to the concepts of infant mental health and to consider ways to support children's social and emotional wellbeing using a relational framework.

Full details and to book places please refer to Barnardos website

Making the Most of Supervision - 3 day training webinar for Supervisors

15th, 16th September and 27th October 2021 - Fee: €454

The aim of this course is to generate a positive relationship between supervisor and supervisee focusing on quality practice and, through this, to inspire and motivate staff in their work.

Full details and to book places please refer to Barnardos website

Designated Liaison Person Webinar (held over two days)

The aim of this 2 part webinar is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to carry out the role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP) effectively and with competence.

- 19th/20th October
10am-1pm - Fee: €90
- 9th/10th November
10am-1pm - Fee: €90

Children First Training Webinars

This webinar takes place over 2 sessions from 10.00am-1.00pm on 10th and 11th August 2021. The aim of this webinar is to equip those who work with children with the skills and knowledge that are necessary to

deal with child protection issues in line with the Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).

- 10th/11th August 10am-1pm - Fee: €90
- 14th/15th September 10am-1pm - Fee: €90

To book a place please go to Barnardo website.

Service Closures

We have been asked what the process is for services, if for whatever reason, they have decided not to re-open in September 2021.

The steps are as follows:

- Inform FCCC via email to info@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Complete the Cessation of Services form for Tusla
- Inform Pobal & make any necessary changes to registrations on the HIVE.

FCCC will link in with individual services once the notification has been received.



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.

