



Newsletter

Fingal County Childcare Committee

January 2022

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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**
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- **Sarah McKenna, Regional Childminding Development Officer (CMDO)**
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- **Helen Campbell, Finance & Office Manager**
Ph: 087 104 5197 or email helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**
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- **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**
Ph: 087- 9217918 or email adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie

CHILDMINDING SECTION

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 Nicola McKernan on 087 6025263. Like our Facebook page to keep up to date with events and training specific to childminders.



Childminding

Are you a childminder or thinking of becoming a childminder in your own home?

Would you like information and/or support on:

- Running a childminding business
- Grants/funding available for childminders
- Tax exemption for childminders
- Training relevant to childminders
- National Action Plan for Childminding

Join our local network of childminders who support each other!

Who are we?

We are your local Childcare Committee. Why not contact us and talk to one of our team in confidence about supports available in your area.

FINGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
Contact: Nicola on 087 602 5263
nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

pobal
government supporting communities

National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028

Created by Cork City, Cork County, Kerry & Limerick CCCs

Upcoming Childminding Events

SAVE THE DATE!



Fingal Virtual Childminding Network

Are you a childminder or interested in becoming a childminder?

Fingal CCC invite you to attend a virtual network event to meet and chat with childminders in your area

(on Microsoft Teams)

Coffee Chat

Monday 7th February 2022
7-9pm

In 2022 the FCCC are planning to build on all the wonderful Childminding events from 2021 so keep an eye on FCCC Facebook page, website and your emails.

Digital Covid Packs

The Department has prepared a digital pack containing various resources and information on the prevention of COVID-19. These posters are in PDF format with the intention that you can email them to your parents or share through your own social media platforms to raise awareness.

The digital pack as well as further resources for childminders can be found at:
www.first5.gov.ie/guidance/child-minding

FCCC Jobs Board

There are currently a small number of Tusla registered childminders in Fingal and their contact details can be found [here](#). A list of childminders can also be found on the Childminding Ireland website which can be accessed [here](#). Fingal CCC have recently updated our website to provide parents with a mechanism to advertise their childminding needs with the aim of linking childminders and parents in the Fingal area. You can advertise your childminding needs by posting on the job section on our website, to access click [here](#).

LETTER & VIDEO FROM MINISTER RODERIC O’GORMAN RE NPHET RECOMMENDATIONS 21ST JANUARY

Dear Providers

I welcome the decisions today by Government to start easing restrictions based on the recommendations from NPHET. The recommendations do still place a huge importance on continued Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures, isolating if symptomatic, vaccination and booster programmes.

At the outset, I would like to take the opportunity to thank early learning and childcare providers and their staff for the commitment they have shown to children and families since the onset of Covid-19 and their ongoing efforts to effectively implement the IPC guidance, keeping the children in their care safe.

A number of provider representative bodies have asked for guidance from my Department on whether there are any changes for early learning and childcare services.

In the immediate term, the current position is that early learning and childcare services should continue to operate under the sectoral IPC guidance, with play-pods remaining a key feature.

This approach is in line with schools and is in effect until 28th February 2022. My officials will keep you updated if there is any change to this.

Also announced by Government today, the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) will revert to the standard rates from 1 February 2022 for most sectors of the economy, including ELC employers. This

funding, which amounts to €22 million per month in additional funding for the ELC sector, will continue to meet the full costs of implementing IPC guidance and, in particular, the operation of play-pods.

In addition to the EWSS, a suite of other Covid-19 supports remain in place for the ELC sector, including the antigen programme for early learning and childcare services and the grant to improve ventilation, which remains open to applications until 31st January 2022.

I will continue to engage regularly with the Covid-19 Sub-Group of the Early Learning and Childcare Stakeholder Forum and with public health experts and provide regular updates as necessary.

Roderic O’Gorman, TD
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

To view this video message please click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaHMA5q9vUI>

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



TUSLA EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE UPDATES

Covid Update

PCR or Antigen tests will suffice to report an incident in a service. A letter issued to all services on 10th January reminding services that as a registered provider you are legally required to notify the Early Years Inspectorate within three working days of becoming aware of a notifiable incident. The circumstances that require notification to Tusla are defined in legislation and the details are provided in the attached link. <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/notification-of-incidents-form>

At this time, given the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, it is important to further clarify that COVID-19 notifications are required when

1. there is a diagnosis of a pre-school child attending the service, an employee, unpaid worker, contractor, or other person working in the service.
2. if there are multiple cases present in your service one notification is sufficient and include details of associated cases on the form.
3. notifications are site specific.

The COVID -19 notification form along with other information on how to manage COVID-19 in your service is available in the provided link [COVID-19Tusla - Child and Family Agency](#)

If you have any queries, please contact ey.registration@tusla.ie or contact Fingal County Childcare Committee for support.

Change in Circumstances

The “Change of Circumstances” is currently a paper exercise by printing off the Form from the Tusla website and submitting it to cic.eyi@tusla.ie. Tusla will soon move the “Change of Circumstances” form to an on-line process and service providers will be informed by Tusla when this occurs. Tusla must be notified of a change of circumstances 60 days prior to the change.

With effect from 1st January 2022 NEW Applicants must apply online through the Tusla site. These new applicants have 10 days to submit all documentation. Documents not submitted within the 10-day timeframe will be declared invalid. Submitting an application, with all documentation ratified by Tulsa Registration Office, could result in a new application being approved for “Fit for Purpose” within 5-10 working days.

It is recommended that new applicants refer to the Tusla **“Universal Design Guidelines, making Early Learning and Care Settings accessible to all.”** The guidelines apply to both new-build and retrofit projects and provide a flexible Universal Design framework to ensure that settings are accessible, understandable, and easy to use for all children, staff, families, and visitors. Tusla link to the Universal Guidelines is as follows: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/support-documentation/>

Additional information on the design and layout of rooms catering for children with additional needs i.e., Sensory Rooms can be found on the BETTER START website.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Tusla has sincere concern regarding the reliability of Child Safeguarding Statement and Policies and Procedures submitted by some early years and school age services. Following the Tusla review of these documents they were shown to be weak and referred to the providers for revision and re-submission.

Please see the information below regarding **Child Safeguarding Statement**

What is a Child Safeguarding Statement?

A written statement that specifies the service being provided and the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of the service is safe from ‘harm.’² It also includes an assessment of risk of ‘harm’ to a child while availing of your service and specifies the procedures in place to manage any identified risks. Your service should ensure that your Child Safeguarding Statement has due regard to the Children First: National Guidance and any other child protection guidelines issued by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, or any guidelines issued by Tusla concerning Child Safeguarding Statements under section 11(4) of the Children First Act 2015.

Who needs to have a Child Safeguarding Statement?

Organisations classed as providers of relevant services under the Children First Act 2015 are required to have Child Safeguarding Statements. This means you must have a Child Safeguarding Statement if:

⇒ Your organisation is within the categories of organisations classified as relevant services under the Act. (To establish if your organisation is a relevant service, see Schedule 1, Children First Act 2015).

and

⇒ You are deemed to be a provider of a relevant service. To qualify as a provider of a relevant service under the Act, the service provider must employ at least one other person, whether through contract, voluntary arrangement, or agreement, to undertake any work or activity on their behalf to provide that service.

Useful Links

<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/child-safeguarding-statement-compliance-unit-csscu/csscu-frequently-asked-questions/#1>

<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/organisations/what-is-a-child-safeguarding-statement/how-do-i-develop-a-child-safeguarding-statement/>

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Child_Safeguarding_-_

[A_Guide_for_Policy,_Procedure_and_Practice.pdf](#)

<https://childsafeguardingelc.ie/>

<https://childsafeguardingelc.ie/resources-publications/>

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/CSSCU_Webinar_March_2021.pdf

If you need support or advice with your services Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Please see below link from the National Child Safeguarding Programme Early Learning and Care website for the recently launched Child Safeguarding Resource Document.

<http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/resources-publications/>

Early Years Providers Resources

Providers are encouraged to access the Tusla websites frequently where there will be regular updates and information on webinars.

[Early Years Provider ResourcesTusla - Child and Family Agency](#)

Of particular interest to the sector will be Webinars on:

- Regulation 9. - Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 10. - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service
- Registration for New Services
- Re-Registration Process for Early Years
- Re-Registration for School Age Services

Tusla will inform all services when these are arranged.

Tusla registrations for the Early Years and School Age sectors will be published on the Tusla website a monthly basis

Information on the Quality Regulatory Framework e-Learning is available to participate in on the website

The programme consists of six modules

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Module 1 | Introduction |
| Module 2: | Governance |
| Module 3: | Health Welfare and Development of the Child |
| Module 4: | Safety |
| Module 5: | Premises and Facilities |
| Module 6: | Conclusion |

What to Expect from an Early Years Inspection

Tusla has produced a webinar and PowerPoint presentation for providers:

<https://youtu.be/FKwiLYw2Rms>

Early Years Inspectorate Questions and Answers Document

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

PIP/HIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCS Refresher webinars 26/01/2022

Dear Service Provider,

Following on from the NCS Refresher webinars last week, a recorded version of the webinar is now available under 'Recorded Webinars' on the Training Videos page of the early Years Hive.

You will also find a copy of the PowerPoint slides used for the webinar on this page.

This webinar covers the following topics:

Universal eligibility cut off and impact on ECCE

Rounding up hours

Parent confirmation of CHICKs

Renewal of a CHICK

Attendance tracker

Funding (Allocations, Settlements, bridging and key points)

Navigating resources

As advised on the webinars, we will collate a frequently asked questions document from the questions submitted on the webinars, which will issue shortly.

Regards,

The Early Years Team

AIM Level 1 Reminder 25/01/2022

Dear Service Provider,

Reminder: The application process for all qualified LINC Co-Ordinators remains open on the Early Years Hive.

Services who have not yet submitted an AIM Level 1 application and are encouraged to submit their application. Please note: applications will not be backdated, and funding will commence following the submission of the application on Hive and approval by Pobal.

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Early Years HIVE portal. Applicant guidelines can be found [here](#).

Should you have any queries in relation to the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) please contact the Early Years Provider Centre by raising a Request on HIVE as follows.

- Request Category: Application
- Request Type Detail: How To
- Request Programme: AIM Level 1

Regards,

The Early Years Team

**ECCE and CCSP Saver Programme Compliance Checklists and Guides 2021-2022
6/01/2022**

Dear Service Provider,

The below compliance guidance documents for ECCE are now available on the ECCE Documents section of Hive:

- ECCE Compliance Checklist 2021-2022
- ECCE Service Provider Guide 2021-2022

The below compliance guidance documents for CCSP Saver Programme are now available on PIP Resources under the CCSP heading:

- CCSP Savers Compliance Checklist 2021-2022
- CCSP Savers Service Provider Guide 2021-2022

Please note you can also find compliance documents for NCS on the NCS Documents section of Hive.

Regards,
Pobal Compliance Team

DCEDIY NOTE RE HPSC UPDATED VERSIONS 18/01/2022

Dear Providers

We are writing to you today to advise that the HPSC has published as of yesterday, 18 January 2022, updated versions of the following documents which will support you in the operation of your ELC/SAC setting:

Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20under%2013s.pdf>

Isolation quick guide - Adults and children from their 13 th birthday

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20Adults%20and%20children%20from%20their%2013th%20birthday.pdf>

FAQs for schools, early learning and childcare and school-age childcare managers or those hosting sports/social activities for children aged 3 months to less than 13 years, or in primary school

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/FAQs%20for%20changes%20to%20contact%20tracing%20for%20children.pdf>

Quick Guide for Schools/Childcare Facilities - Management of cases and close contacts of COVID-19

https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/Quick%20Guide%20for%20Schools_Childcare%20Facilities.pdf

Quick guide to Public Health advice for cases and contacts for non-variant of concern, including Omicron and Delta

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Crib%20sheet.pdf>

For future reference all updated documents are linked on the First 5 website <https://first5.gov.ie/guidance>

Clarification

Several providers have been in contact with the Department in relation to section 1 of the *Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age* and whether a child can return to Early Learning and Childcare after day 7. The HPSC have provided the following clarification to this query: Yes, the child can attend childcare after day 7, provided their symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final 2 days (48 hours) of the self-isolation period.

COVID-19 INFORMATION



Covid Out of Hours Contact Details



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

National Covid-19 Support Helpline for ELC and SAC providers

If you are a childcare provider and/or a childminder and need out of hours support in relation to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in your childcare service please contact

1800 940341

This support line is available only
Saturdays/Sundays and Bank holidays
from 10am - 1pm and 1.30pm - 4pm



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Please continue to visit the HPSC website for the most up to date guidance.

Health Protection Surveillance Centre



Health Protection Surveillance Centre
Lárionad Faire um Chosaint Sláinte

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/newupdatedguidance/>

NOTIFICATIONS/INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS

LINC+ PROGRAMME – CPD FOR INCO'S



About LINC+

The LINC+ Programme was launched in March 2021. It was created to enable graduates of the LINC Programme to benefit from regular professional support and development, through additional training, networking, and development of communities of practice. The programme is fully funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and is delivered completely online.

CPD Package Content and Aims

The LINC+ Programme consists of six packages, each of which are 10 hours in duration. The first package, Communities of Practice in Early Learning and Care was released in May 2021 and is the only package that all participants must complete. Once they have completed this package, they can choose what further packages they wish to engage with.

Leading Inclusive Early Learning and Care Settings: The Role of the Inclusion Coordinator was released in September 2021 and Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Development, will be released on January 24, 2022.

Further Information

Queries in relation to the LINC+ Programme should be emailed to lincspd@mic.ul.ie

Contribute to the new Aistear



Aistear The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework is being updated and you have an opportunity to contribute. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) are holding a consultation with

parents and ELC providers, including online consultation seminars, questionnaires for parents and ELC providers and the opportunity to make a written submission. A short video explaining the process and links to all the information you need are provided below.

- A short information video: [Aistear 2021 with ISL.mp4 on Vimeo](#)
- A [Link](#) to NCCA webpage for updating *Aistear*
- Links to the online questionnaire, one for [professionals](#) and one for [parents / guardians](#)
- A [Link](#) to a form to register an interest in attending a consultation event.



Early Childhood Ireland has an update on **Garda Vetting**. Please see <https://www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/garda-vetting-update-7-december-21/?fbclid=IwAR3utv42FBkteRvvhx5cTPhSI4dC5J3Y8ANoIKSkc7Rbi-PyWLPjkMAkwZQw>

Early Childhood Ireland's Early Years Employer Service (EYES) can be contacted Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, by phone on (01) 405 7103 or by email at eyes@earlychildhoodireland.ie. The EYES team is here to help with a range of issues related to the running of the Early Years and School Age service. If you have a query outside of these hours, please send us an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Service Closures

We have been asked what the process is for services, if for whatever reason, they have decided not to re-open or closed within the current programme year:

The steps are as follows:

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

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

Providers- Have you changed your email address or phone number?

You are required to contact FCCC Information Officer Gina Daly at info@fingalcountychildcare.ie if you have recently changed your email address or phone number.

Early Years Provider Centre

Details of the Early Years Provider Centre operating hours can be found here: <https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/contact-us/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ RESOURCES

Jobs Board on Fingal CCC website

Fingal CCC have recently updated their website to provide ELC & SAC services with a mechanism to advertise their staffing needs with the aim of linking services with available, qualified ELC/SAC employees. You can advertise your services needs by posting on the Jobs Board on our website, to access click [here](#).

Barnardos Library Membership



We have a special rate for early years providers and childminders. For only €10 per year, you can avail of library membership. Membership includes the following:

- Books posted out to members
- 10% discount on Barnardos publications
- Free e-copy of Barnardos journal *Childlinks*
- Monthly members update

Fill out your details here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfwYQEROMJdu8YSQ1z1mSjB9ZqsPkHaPegN63dNhPqI3yKg/viewform>

The last page of the linked form above will bring you to the online shop to pay for your membership.

Better Start Quality Practice Query



If you have a specific query about practice, your setting can contact Better Start for information and advice.

You might be interested in looking at promoting play, how to get the most out of your indoor or outdoor learning environment, seeking advice on partnership with parents, transitions, or other pillars of practice.

One of our team will respond to your practice queries, providing information, advice, and guidance to you based on Siolta and Aistear and government policy such as First 5.

One of our team will then contact you by phone or email to answer your query.

How to send a query request to Better Start: Email your query to quality@betterstart.ie

Include your DCEDIY service reference number and setting name in the subject line.

There is now a specific dropdown on the Hive for Better Start (AIM) where all AIM Better Start documents and information are kept. See Link <https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/downloads/downloads-bs/>

ELC & SAC services - have you collected your Little Library bag yet?



All ELC and SAC settings are entitled to a free First 5 Little Library book bag which can be collected at your local library. There are two versions available, depending on the age of the children in the ELC or SAC service.

Each bag contains 5 story books for children selected by the national library service. The bag also contains a service library card and a guide to that local library. The selected collection of books is also held in libraries to be loaned out to children and their families.

The Little Library initiative is to encourage a love of reading and is a collaboration between DCEDIY and Libraries Ireland.

PARENTS SECTION

Barnardos Training Event - Free Webinar Online Safety for Parents

As part of our Digital Offering, we are delivering webinars about online safety to parents. Delivered live by a Barnardos trainer, these free 45-minute parent webinars about online safety are taking place in January, February and March 2022.

Our objective is that parents leave these webinars feeling empowered; they will have an awareness of the risks online for children and practical tips that will help them keep their children safe and resilient online.

Dates: 26th Jan, 8th Feb, 17th Feb & 16th March, Time 19:30-20:15, Cost is Free

Book the event on Barnardos website

Tusla Parenting E-learning Courses



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>

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)



The goal of AIM is to create a more inclusive preschool environment so all children, regardless of ability, can benefit from quality early learning & care. The newly designed AIM website gives parents information on the AIM programme, supports offered, and how to apply.

The link below will bring you to the website for parents: <https://aim.gov.ie/parents>

Parent Support Centre

Details of the Parent Support Centre operating hours can be found here: <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/contact-us/>

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.



