



Volume 1 Issue 38

Welcome to our weekly bulletin.

These are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements and new resources for the week 2nd – 6th October 2023.

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

○ **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

○ **Karen Comiskey- Development Officer (Core Funding Support Lead)**

Ph: 087 4705805 or email Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Aoife Ball, AIM Project Officer and Ukrainian Support contact.**

Ph: 087 3429757 Email: aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie

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

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

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

Ph: 087 104 5197 or email helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**

Ph: 087-7882688 or email linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie

○ **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**

Ph: 087- 9217918 or email adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie



As always FCCC are here to support and assist all ELC/SAC service providers & childminders within the Fingal area. However, due the large volume of incoming queries at present, our response time may be impacted. We kindly ask that you bear with us during this particularly busy time. If your query remains unanswered after consulting the resources on the early years hive - <https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/> please contact your relevant development officer(contact details below).Once you leave a voicemail/email detailing your query, your development officer will respond as soon as possible.

Your patience is very much appreciated as we deal with an increase of calls that comes with a new programme year.

- Mairead Tucker, Lead Development Officer Swords and Surrounding Areas Ph: 087 7477553 Email: mairead@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
- Aoife Ball, Aim/Ukraine support – Ph: 087 3429757 Email: aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie
- Karen Comisky, Core funding support - Ph: 087 4705805 or email Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

FCCC Training

Series of Talks for Early Years Providers, Childminders and Parents of Preschool Children



Dr Dorothy Armstrong (MSc PhD) is an Occupational Therapist who works with organisations to provide education and training about neurodiversity and the approaches and environmental changes that are necessary for inclusion in work, play and educational settings. Neurodivergence encompasses a wide range of differences including autism, intellectual disability, learning difficulties and ADHD. Dorothy has twenty years of clinical experience working with neurodivergent people.

Date	Online	Seminar Title	
Thursday 2nd November 7pm -8.15pm	Online via Zoom – Zoom invite will be sent a day before to all attendees.	Difficulty processing sensory information during early childhood - Feeling overwhelmed, overloaded & not being understood.	Please email info@fingal-countychildcare.ie to secure a place. Please advise if you are a Provider/Parent/Childminder
Thursday 16th November 7pm -8.15pm	Online via Zoom – Zoom invite will be sent a day before to all attendees.	Children who find it Difficult to concentrate and stay calm - Helping the child who struggles with getting their energy in the right place to participate fully in play and other learning activities.	Please email info@fingal-countychildcare.ie to secure a place. Please advise if you are a Provider/Parent/Childminder

Difficulty processing sensory information during early childhood - Feeling overwhelmed, overloaded & not being understood.

Some children have 'supersonic' senses. Noises seem louder than they do to others; clothes that other children have no problem wearing feel scratchy or sore; smells that others don't even notice make them sick or uncomfortable? Many children with additional needs can experience this type of sensory overload, it's an invisible phenomenon that others can find difficult to understand but it's very real! Other children aren't registering things enough through their senses and are constantly seeking the input they need e.g. fidgeting, jumping, running, and moving. This talk will help you recognise these sensory processing differences in children. You will learn strategies to help these children, along with how to make environmental changes that can make all the difference in that child's ability to engage, learn and play in your setting. This webinar is aimed at pre-school providers, childminders and parents who support early learners.

Children who find it Difficult to concentrate and stay calm - Helping the child who struggles with getting their energy in the right place to participate fully in play and other learning activities.

Some children have more difficulties than others matching their energy level to what is happening around them. You might notice that they have a lot of extra energy and find it hard to do activities that require them to sit in one place and concentrate, whilst others may seem too sleepy and lethargic to engage, and still others tend to become easily upset, worried or frustrated. Being able to match your energy level to what is happening around you is called self-regulation and children with additional needs can need extra support to help them in this area. This webinar is aimed at Pre-School Providers, Childminders and Parents who support early learners. You will learn how to facilitate children who have difficulties with self-regulation to participate more fully in play and other learning activities.

Sample of Testimonials from Dorothy's Talks:

"Dorothy made the information very easy to absorb and understand through a good mix of verbal communication, informative videos as well as practical tasks that helped solidify understanding."

"I found Dorothy to be clear and concise and made the topic relevant to early years. Video clips were used well throughout the course. I found sharing experiences and asking questions was very helpful in giving concrete real-world examples. Dorothy would also expand on users' experiences and provide advice."

"Dorothy's course was absolutely amazing! I learned so much and it has helped me so much in my setting. I found her so easy to listen to and so knowledgeable. I think every early year's worker should be offered this course and would hugely benefit from learning from Dorothy."

"I would look out for further zoom courses Dorothy was to do as I found she kept everyone interested and wasn't the same way of learning for the whole course as it was a variety of presentations, videos and others speaking."

Deadlines / Important Dates:

Friday 20th October 2023 (5pm)

Deadline for Partner Services to have uploaded their Core Funding Quality Action Plan (PDF document) to the 'My Service Profile' on the HIVE system for validation.

Friday 27th October 2023 (5pm)

Deadline to apply for new LINC graduate capitation backdated to the start of the programme year.

Wed 1st November 2023

The next Review & Confirm will open on 1st November 2023.

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Updating Aistear Phase 2 Consultation ends

For your information



Core Funding Quality Action Plan

By the 20th of October 2023 Partner Services will need to have uploaded their Core Funding Quality Action Plan (PDF document) to the 'My Service Profile' on the HIVE system for validation. Validation will take place in the November Review and Confirm window. Core Funding payments will be placed on hold until such a time as the process is completed. A copy of the completed plan will be automatically shared with the local City/County Childcare Committee. In addition, a copy of the Core Funding Quality Action Plan should be displayed in the service in a location that is accessible to parents. Please see below a link to the guidance for completing the Core Funding Quality Action Plan.

<https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/Guidance-for-Completing-the-Core-Funding-Quality-Action-Plan.pdf>

Please find the How to video on uploading the QAP 23: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrdPqt-illU>

Core Funding updates for the Programme Year 2023/2024

Review & confirm opens 1st November 2023

It is mandatory to complete the Review & Confirm otherwise payments will be placed on hold. Prior to this it is important that your Service Profile is up to date. You can only complete the Review & Confirm when the previous Core funding Application/ Application change is at Approved status.

If a Core Funding Application/Application Change has been referred back or is under appraisal, you will be unable to complete the Review & Confirm until your application has reached approved status.

Opt-out template for ECCE/NCS- Core Funding Services

Pobal have released a template for services who are signed up for Core Funding but have no ECCE/NCS registrations on HIVE because parents have chosen not to avail of ECCE/NCS. The template is used to show that the service offered ECCE/NCS, but parents opted out of availing of the funding programmes. Please refer to the announcement on HIVE which was published on 19th September, for access to the template and further information.

Support:

If your service requires support completing an application, additional resources are available on the [Core Funding Documents](#) page on the Early Years Hive. Your local CCC (County Childcare Committee) can also assist you in completing your Core Funding Application Module.

If you require any further assistance or clarification on your Core Funding Application Module, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre by raising a [Request](#) as follows:

Programme: Core Funding

Request Type: Application

Request Type Detail: Application

FCCC Core funding support

Alternatively, if you have any question or need support please contact: Karen Comiskey, Development Officer – Core Funding: Mobile: 0874705806 | Email: karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie



Reminder re ECCE registration deadline

We would like to remind providers that the latest an approved provider can register a child on the ECCE programme is 6 weeks after the child's start date. For example, a child that started on the ECCE programme on 28 August must be registered no later than this Friday 06 October.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth (DECDIY) reserves the right not to backdate funding on any late registrations (i.e., more than 6 weeks after the child's start date).

In cases of late registrations, proof of the child's start date and attendance must be submitted to the Scheme Administrator, or the registration will be declined.

Fee Table 2023/2024- Checks

Fingal County Childcare Committee have commenced the process of checking Fee Tables 2023/2024. Once you have submitted the Fee Table on the HIVE it will become available for us to review. We will liaise with you by email or phone to support and advise if amendments are required to meet the programme rules and fee management guidelines. We will be approving Fee Tables as quickly as possible, and once approved you will receive an email confirmation of approval to keep on file for Pobal compliance purposes. If changes are required, the Fee Table can be edited as and when the CCC refers back to you.

Please note when changes are submitted to the Fee Table the changes do not carry over to the Parent Statement therefore if changes are requested you will need to redo your Parent Statement and if they have already been sent to parents, they will need to be resent and resigned.

Note - If you have received an email from the development officer in your area in relation to your fees table and you have been asked to make any adjustments, we would ask that you let them know when the changes have been made in order for them to review & approve.

Useful Resources



How To Guide - Fee
Table - Final.pdf



How To Guide -
Online Parent Statement



AIM Level 1 LINC Application Process (AIM Level 1 is an annual application process)

AIM Level 1 applications for existing graduates opened on the Early Years Hive on Wednesday 16th August 2023.

AIM level 1 payments for 2023/2024 programme year.

Please note AIM Level 1 payments will be included in the ECCE payment on 15th September 2023.

AIM Level 7 Review Reminder

If your Service is availing of AIM Level 7 funding, any changes to a setting or child circumstances following approval of an AIM Level 7 application, must be notified to Pobal through the submission of the relevant review via the Early Years Hive. Information on the review types below can be found in the Help and Support section [here](#).

- Change of Circumstances
- Prolonged Absence
- Change to Implementation of Support
- Change to Use of Capitation

Should you have any queries in relation to AIM Level 7 reviews, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) by raising a Request on Hive as follows:

Request Programme: AIM Level 7

Request Type: Application

Request Type Detail: AIM L7 Review



NCS Compliance Inspections – 2023/24 Programme call

As the new NCS programme call 2023/2024 has commenced, NCS on-site inspections will continue. The compliance process will involve a series of standardised checks aimed at confirming adherence with programme rules, contract conditions and relevant legislation as set out by DCEDIY.

It is advised that services prepare for an unannounced compliance inspection by collating relevant information for review, e.g. in a Compliance File which can be made readily available to the Compliance Visit Officer on arrival.

This will ensure minimum disruption and speed up the compliance inspection. It is acknowledged that services file their records in different ways, which is acceptable, but it should be noted that records must be available to enable the Compliance Visit Officer to complete the compliance inspection in a reasonable timescale. In this regard the person in charge on-site must have access to the Compliance File/records. Please only maintain compliance related information in the Compliance Folder.

NB: NCS inspections require 12 months of records available and accessible for review.

With the commencement of the NCS 2023/24 inspection cycle, the Pobal Compliance team have updated the relevant NCS compliance support documents which are available on the Hive under the Resources section.




**Early Years Inspectorate
Contact Information
August 2023**

All Registration office Early Years Inspectorate telephone numbers are changing this month. New numbers are listed below

**Early Years Inspectorate Reception
061 440600**

**Pre-school new applications
061 440602**

**Change in Circumstance
061 440603**

**Registration Renewal
061 440604**

**School Age
061 440605**

**Feedback & Concerns
061 440607**

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

Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months



Tusla has introduced a new guidance document, which sets out the revised position of Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate on sleep provision for children under 24 months in early learning and care services. Please see attached.

There is also a webinar available for your convenience using the following link: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/>

Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months A reminder that we have published a new guidance document which sets out the revised position of Tulsa's Early Years Inspectorate on sleep provision for children under 24 months in early learning and care services.

You can access the document on our provider [resources page](#) of our website along with a range of other resources.

In addition to the guidance document itself we have published **two short webinars** which step through the document and provide information on what it means in practice.

You can access the webinars, along with the presentations, on the [webinars page](#) of our website. A reminder that we will commence inspecting against the guidance from **1st September 2023**.



Updating Aistear Phase 2 Consultations

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has begun Phase 2 of the consultation process to update *Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework*. You can view the Consultation Report from Phase 1 [here](#), while [this video](#) explains the proposed changes to Aistear.

Educators and other stakeholders are invited to share their views on the proposed Framework. This can be done via an online questionnaire, a written submission or by participating in an online focus group in the coming weeks. The consultation will run until Tuesday 14th November 2023.

This is an important opportunity to have your voice heard and to help inform the updating of Aistear, so it continues to have a positive influence on the learning and development of babies, toddlers and young children.

To access all consultation materials, please visit: [Updating Aistear Consultation](#)

Sustainability from the Start
Free Online Course on Sustainable Education
Co-funded by the European Union,
Featuring Children's Activities,
Launches for Early Childhood Educators this September.

OMEP Ireland in partnership with Kristianstad University, OMEP Europe, and edChild announce the launch of 'Sustainability from the Start'. This free online course, an ESD Curriculum for Early Childhood Education, will be exclusively available in the ECE Academy App.

According to UNESCO¹, 40% of teachers are confident teaching cognitive dimensions of climate change, but only 20% can explain well how to take actions. This, combined with the urgent need to address climate change and sustainable development, led to the development of 'Sustainability from the Start', empowering educators to play a crucial role in nurturing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

Key Features of the 'Sustainability from the Start' course:

- **Eight comprehensive, user-friendly modules** delving into various aspects of sustainable development.
- **Engaging activities** designed for educators and children to explore and learn together. The course includes '8 Friends' characters, seamlessly integrating sustainability concepts into teaching methods.
- **Insights drawn from leading researchers** in the field of sustainable development in early childhood education.

About the course:

The 'Sustainability from the Start' course will be available on September 1st, 2023, in the ECE Academy App (AppStore / Google Play), offered in multiple languages, catering to a diverse global audience and curricula. For more information about the 'Sustainability from the Start' course and the collaboration between OMEP Europe, edChild, and Kristianstad University, please visit www.edchild.com or email us at hello@edchild.com. Stay up-to-date with the latest news and developments by following us on <https://www.facebook.com/edChildECEAcademy>.

About Kristianstad University:

Kristianstad University is a renowned institution in the field of early childhood education, committed to advancing knowledge and fostering innovation in the educational landscape. Through research, collaboration, and academic excellence, Kristianstad University plays a vital role in shaping the future of early childhood education.

<https://www.hkr.se/en/>

Contact person: Marie Fridberg, marie.fridberg@hkr.se, +46 44-2503000

About OMEP:

OMEP is an international NGO of professionals and researchers, working in 70 countries for children aged 0–8 years. OMEP was established within the UN family in 1948 and advocates for the rights and well-being of children through early childhood education.

OMEP's mission is to ensure that children are at the center of educational practices, promoting children's rights and sustainable development. OMEP Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, and Sweden are partners in developing this course.

<https://omepworld.org/>

Contact person: Mary Moloney, mary.moloney@mic.ul.ie, + 353 61 204316

About edChild:

edChild is an award-winning Swedish EdTech company committed to transforming the learning experience for children and educators alike. Grounded in research-based practices, edChild designs innovative technology solutions that enhance educational outcomes, foster a love for learning, and empower educators with effective pedagogical tools. By focusing on the needs of educators, edChild aims to improve early childhood education for all children, promoting all children's development and learning, and a lifelong desire to learn.

www.edchild.com

Contact person: Sofia Zätterström, sofia@edchild.com, +46 72-8536314



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

For 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
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

Contact:
Nicola on 087 602 5263
nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhaltas na n-
Mac léinn, Léighleáiríochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

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

For Parents

<https://aim.gov.ie/lets-get-ready-campaign-2023/>

Parents - as your child's first and most important teacher, every day you are helping your child learn new information, skills, and ways of behaving.

There are three useful ways you can help children learn everything from basic self-care to more complicated social skills - instructions, step-by-step and modelling.

See First 5's tip sheet to help your child learn new skills: [Tipsheet](#)



Is your child transitioning from Preschool to Primary School in September?

The Let's Get Ready webpage has been updated for 2023. Let's Get Ready focuses on children's transitions to pre-school and school. It includes a reminder on My Little Library and useful information on the new free schoolbooks scheme for primary school children.

Visit: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/1e8a3-lets-get-ready/>



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Mulhuddart Breakfast and Buggy Walk Club

Come and join Empower's **Breakfast and Buggy Walk Club**, you'll have the opportunity to get active and meet other local parents/carers. Join us with your baby/toddler for a local walk followed by a light breakfast at the Mulhuddart Community Centre.

Starting: Wednesday, 4th October

Where: Meet at Mulhuddart Community Centre

When: Wednesdays, 9.30am to 11.30am

Duration: 10 weeks

If you are interested in being part of this programme, please contact **Maria Gomez** on **087 232 3932** or email **mgomez@empower.ie**



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Aims chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

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



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



MULHUDDART PARENT/ CARER AND CHILD GROUP

IT IS A SPACE FOR CHILDREN TO
PLAY, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER

The Mulhuddart Parent/Carer and Child Group meet every
Thursday morning during school term time in
Mulhuddart Community Centre from
10am to 12 noon

There is no need to book just turn up

If you would like to know more about the group you can con-
tact **Pauline Mangan** from Empower on
0874190777 or email **pmangan@empower.ie**

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



European Union
Investing in your Future
European Social Fund



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

FCCC Jobs Board

Fingal CCC have updated their website to include an interactive Jobs Board. This Jobs Board will support early childcare providers to advertise their recruitment needs and to provide parents with the opportunity to advertise needs with the aim of linking, early years, childminders, and parents in the Fingal area. The new FCCC Jobs Board facilitates the recruitment of staff into the ELC Sector in Fingal. To advertise a job simply [click here](#) . Employers with job vacancies can post a job by clicking on the link above and fill in the required fields. The jobs posted will go live immediately and will be visible on the site for 30 days and will then be archived.

Service Closures

We have been asked what the process is for services, if for whatever reason, you have decided not to reopen or closed within the current programme year. The steps are as follows:

- **Inform FCCC via email to info@fingalcountychildcare.ie**
- **Complete the Cessation of Services form for Tusla – click on the link below.**
http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Cessation_of_Service.pdf
- **Inform Pobal & make any necessary changes to registrations on the HIVE. - Service Closure** If an Approved Provider closes its ELC service, or ceases to provide a DCEDIY childcare programme, notice must be submitted in writing immediately to the local City/County Childcare Committee and the Data Management Team in the Scheme Administrator by raising a service request on the EY HIVE and selecting the Request Programme Type “User Account Management”, then selecting the Category “How to” and the Sub-Category “Closures. FCCC will link in with individual services once the notification has been received.

Facebook

If you are a Facebook user, or would like to set up a Facebook account, we would be most grateful if you could please ‘Like’ our Fingal County Childcare Committee Facebook page, and please feel free to ‘Share’ it too.

We will post regular updates for ELC/ SAC services and Childminders.

Our Facebook page can be found at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/fingalcountychildcare/>

Covid Case Advice

Covid case advice *new information*

Please find below links to information from the HPSC in relation to Covid-19 and information from the HSE for ELC and SAC providers on preventing the spread of Covid-19 and children returning to ELC and SAC settings.

We would be grateful if you can share this information with parents, guardians, and staff.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/news/title-23357-en.html> (updated 11th August 2023)

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/child-returning-to-school-or-childcare/>

In addition, please find link below to the Management of Infectious Diseases in Childcare Facilities guidance resource.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/lifestages/childcare/File,13444,en.pdf> Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings (2012)

For general Covid-19 queries you can contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday or visit the HSE website <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/>

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

Kind Regards,

Fingal County Childcare Committee