



Volume 1 Issue 40

Welcome to our weekly bulletin.

These are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements and new resources for the week 16th – 20th 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

Always Children First: Child Safeguarding Awareness Training for Organisations

Fingal County Childcare Committee is delighted to announce that we are delivering Always Children First: Child Safeguarding Awareness Training for Organisations.

Please note, places will initially be allocated to the DLP, Deputy DLP and mandated persons within services.

********* It is a requirement that any provider wishing to participate in Always Children First: Child Safeguarding Awareness Training for Organisations must complete the Children First E-Learning Programme.

To get the most from the Foundation training it is recommended that participants complete the E-Learning programme as close to the training date as possible (within the last 12months). FCCC will require proof of completion of the Children First E-Learning Programme prior to participation on the training. *********

| Venue | Date | Time | Cost |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Fingal County Childcare Committee CLG Digital Office Centre Balheary Industrial Park Balheary Road Swords Co. Dublin K67 E5A0 | Tuesday 7 th November 2023 | 10am – 5.00pm | €10.00 per person |

Please note if a service books a place, and the staff member does not avail of the training, this will be noted and your service will not be offered training in the next round of child safeguarding awareness training, **one place per service.**

To book a place email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie for an application form

Deadlines / Important Dates:

Today 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.

1st – 10th November 2023

The next Review & Confirm will open on 1st November 2023 and close on 10th November.

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Updating Aistear Phase 2 Consultation ends

For your information

Budget 2024 – Press Release

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/d422b-minister-ogorman-secures-1bn-investment-in-early-learning-and-childcare/>

FAQS to the budget were sent in an email from the DCEDIY on Thursday 12th October 2023



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



Fee Table 2023/2024- Checks

Review of Fee Tables

To assist FCCC Development Officers continue the review & approval process of the ECCE element of service's Fee Table's via the HIVE in the final quarter of the year, please check that you have not received an email from your relevant Development Officer advising you of amendments that must be made in line with the ECCE Rules of the Programme 2023/24. If you have received an email, once you have edited your Fee Table, please email back your Development Officer advising them that the changes have been made and they will review the amended document on the HIVE and approve if it meets the rules of the ECCE programme.

All services whose Fee Tables have been reviewed & approved will receive a confirmation email from their Development Officer.

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 Stateme



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



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Hive Notification 11th October 2023

Dear Service Provider

You are invited to attend a training session on the ECCE & CCSP Compliance Processes 2023/2024.

This training has been scheduled for the following dates.

- Monday 23/10/2023 @ 10:00am
- Monday 23/10/2023 @ 2:30pm

Please find the GoTo Webinar Registration links below to register for a training session.

ECCE & CCSP Compliance Processes SP2

23/10/2023 from 10:00am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2785146950457907803>

ECCE & CCSP Compliance Processes SP3

23/10/2023 from 2:30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2330592350860919894>

Please note the compliance resources to support ECCE & CCSP compliance i.e. the Compliance Checklists, Service Provider Guides and Post Inspection Rectification Actions documents are currently being finalised and will be uploaded in advance of the training session.

In summary, the PowerPoint Presentation will cover the following ECCE & CCSP related topics:

- Updates
- What is involved in the compliance process.
- Recurring categories of non-compliance

We encourage you to attend a webinar in advance of compliance inspections commencing on these programmes. A recording of one of the sessions will be published on the Early Years Hive along with a copy of the presentation once all sessions are completed.

Regards, The Pobal Compliance Team



**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/

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

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 Tusla'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**.



Little Book at Bedtime:

A free bedtime storybook and library card wallet is available at the library for all children of 4 years and under, to pick up and keep. This exciting initiative aims to engage all parents of young children to read stories with them at bedtime. Parents and their children can pop into their local library to pick up their free bedtime story book and join the library. Bedtime story books are available in English and Irish.

[Little Book at Bedtime press release](#)



Hub na nÓg: Expression of Interest to participate in an online Focus Group on children and young people's participation in decision-making.

Hub na nÓg is the centre of excellence and co-ordination on children and young people's participation in decision-making, established and led by the Participation Unit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Hub na nÓg's role is to support Government Departments, State Agencies and non-government organisations to give children and young people a voice in decision-making with a particular focus on those that are seldom-heard.

Hub na nÓg is currently developing guidance materials for practitioners and other adult decision-makers on methodologies and mechanisms for consulting with children aged 0-5 years, as part of DCEDIY's commitment in the First 5 Strategy.

Hub na nÓg and the DCEDIY are seeking to establish an **online focus group of Early Years Educators**. The focus group will seek the opinions of people working directly with children about the development of a resource or toolkit for participation in decision making in an Early Years setting. DCEDIY and Hub na nÓg are inviting you to register your interest in being part of a focus group of Early Years Educators.

The group will be invited to meet online on two to three occasions to discuss the layout of the toolkit, the approach, language use and case studies and methods proposed from an Early Years Educators perspective. This is to ensure that the Toolkit is developed with the upmost functionality for the intended purpose.

The hope is to run the first of these focus groups the week of the 30th of October 2023. The aim is to have one to two more focus groups after this. Focus groups will run for 1hr30mins and will be scheduled at times when educators indicate they are most available.

8-12 Early Years Educators will be selected who express their interest in participating through the google form. Unfortunately, not everyone who expresses interest will have the opportunity to participate. Participants will be selected to reflect geographic representation and a range of Early Years Setting types.

Please click on this link to sign up for the online focus group meetings - [Online Focus Group](#)



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



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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.



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



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Mheathemh, Léargas/Insight agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2026

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



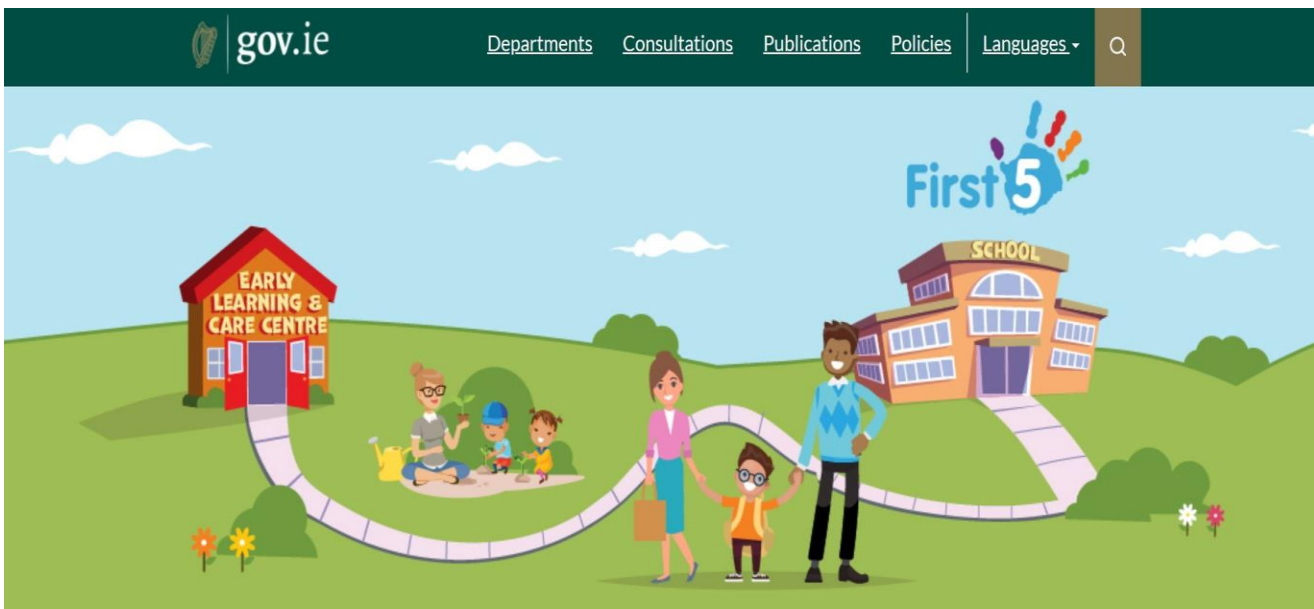
For Parents

<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



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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.



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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