



Newsletter

Fingal County Childcare Committee

March 2017

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We have had a number of queries from Early Years Practitioners relating to the following:

4 Weeks' Notice with Non-Payable week's in-between

This has been an issue for a lot of services. Pobal have confirmed that the system will auto calculate the payment requested until, based on the number of weeks additional payment entered and the services own calendar.

For example – If a parent has given notice week ending 24th March, there would be 2 notice weeks before the Easter break and 2 notice weeks after the Easter break. Most services are closed for 2 weeks over Easter therefore there would be 2 non-payable weeks. The child leaving the service would not be able to start under the ECCE scheme in a new service until 8th May.

ECCE Exemption Minimum Numbers

Minimum ECCE Enrolment Exemptions DCYA Procedures

In certain circumstances a service may receive an exemption from the minimum number of ECCE children required per session for an ECCE contract. As per the ECCE Funding Agreement:

“Participating service providers are expected to have a minimum enrolment of 8 children in their pre-school year. Subject to compliance with all other contractual requirements, exceptions will be considered in the case of:

- a. Service providers who have an enrolment of at least 8 children but, for good reason, only 3 or more are in their pre-school year and the remainder will be eligible for a pre-school year in the following year*
- b. Smaller service providers which are considered appropriate settings for delivery of the pre-school year but, for good reason, have an enrolment of not fewer than 5 children in their pre-school year*
- c. A service that has an ECCE Room that is full but due to Budget 2016 extension of ECCE now has children eligible for ECCE in a room which has an enrolment of not fewer than 5 children in their pre-school year (i.e. between 2½ and 6 years) - assuming ECCE staff qualification criteria is met.”*
- d. A Service has a minimum of 4 children in a childcare service, who are all eligible for the ECCE programme and is based in an area where no other ECCE provision is available to parents**

Note: The DCYA Childcare Programmes Information and FAQs document also includes the following for the 2016/17 Programme Call Only:

Under exceptional circumstances and for the 2016/17 Programme Call only, (such as in rural areas with no other ECCE provision available to parents), a minimum of 4 children in a childcare service, who are all age-eligible for the ECCE Programme, will be permitted as a temporary measure. These services will be expected to build up their numbers during the 2016/17 Programme Call to qualify under at least a, b, c or d above.

If you need to apply for an exemption please contact your FCCC Development Officer for assistance.

- **There are still places available for ‘Supporting Children’s Wellbeing’ Workshop**

This workshop is a learning experience based on the needs as identified by childcare settings in Fingal. However, this is not another session on Managing Behaviour, it is about understanding and responding to children’s wellbeing. Finally, it is important to note that this initiative is not a regulatory requirement but an opportunity to discuss ideas, develop strategies and hopefully enhance the overall wellbeing of children and staff in settings in Fingal.

DATES	TIME	VENUE
Thursday 6 th April, 2017 Limited Places Available	6.00 – 8.30pm	Draiocht, Blanchardstown Shopping Centre Blanchardstown Dublin 15
Thursday 4 th May, 2017 FULL	6.00 – 8.30pm	The Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co Dublin

To secure a place you must forward the attached booking form together with €10 cash or cheque made payable to Fingal Childcare Committee. Places are limited to 50, with 2 places per service and places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Depending on demand there may be further rollouts of this training. Please register your interest by emailing info@fingalcountychildcare.ie.

- **Early Years Capital 2017**

To support the sector, FCCC will be hosting 2 information sessions on the Early Years Capital 2017. These sessions will benefit owners/managers who will be responsible for completing the online application form.

Places are limited to 30, 1 place per service and places are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie for a booking form.

DATES	TIME	VENUE
Tuesday, 4 th April, 2017	6.30 – 7.30pm	The Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co Dublin
Wednesday, 12 th April, 2017	6.30 – 7.30pm	Draiocht, Blanchardstown Shopping Centre Blanchardstown Dublin 15