

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2024

### DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Friday 11th October 2024

Deadline for return of Children and Young People's Plan Consultation submissions.

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 @ 5pm

AIM level 1 LINC Coordinator deadline for new graduates to receive funding backdated to the start of the programme year or the LINC Coordinators start date.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### National Child Safeguarding Programme - Mandated Persons Info Blast

Please see the Mandated Persons Info Blast below following the change to the Children First Act, brought about by the Childcare Amendment Act, 2024.



September 2024

#### NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME



for Early Learning &  
Childcare Services

Mandated persons are people who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm.

**The Childcare Amendment Act 2024 made the following changes to the Early Learning and Care/School aged childcare context:**

1. The list of mandated persons in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act, now refers to a broader term 'early years' service'
  - Childcare staff member employed in an early years' service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Childcare Act 1991
  - A person carrying on an early years' service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991
1. 2) Part VII A of the Childcare Act 1991 now defines an 'early years services as a service providing -
  - a pre-school service
  - a school age service
  - a childminding service

**THIS MEANS THAT CHILDCARE WORKERS IN PRESCHOOL SERVICES, SCHOOL AGED CHILDCARE SERVICES AND CHILDMINDERS SERVICES THAT ARE REGISTERED WITH TUSLA ARE MANDATED PERSONS.**

Mandated Persons have certain legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and these are;

- To report the harm of children above a defined threshold to Tusla
- To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report

Everyone has a responsibility to report child protection and welfare concerns under the Children First National Guidance. Under the Children First Act, mandated persons have an additional responsibility to report any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of being harmed. The National Child Safeguarding Programme have developed a poster which outlines [Child Safeguarding Roles in Early Years Services](#).

Further information on the roles and responsibilities of Mandated Persons can be found in chapter 3 of the [Children First National Guidance, 2017](#).

Tusla have developed a short video which explains the role and responsibilities of mandated persons. The video can be accessed [here](#).

To further support Mandated Persons understand their responsibilities, Tusla have also developed a [Mandated Person eLearning Programme](#) which provides information on, and understanding of, the role and responsibilities of mandated persons as outlined in the Children First Act 2015.

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## AIM Plus Payments

The first AIM Plus payments were processed this week for applications which are at Approved (Level 7 capitation allocated) or Approved (existing Level 7 capitation in place).



Applications which were submitted by 25 September 2024, once approved, will be backdated to the latest date of the following:

- The AIM standard funding start date.
- The date support commenced (employment of additional employee).
- The date the NCS confirmed claim commences.

At present, it is not possible to submit a review for AIM Plus or AIM Non-term applications. A further announcement will be issued once reviews are available on the Early Years Hive for AIM Plus and AIM Non-term applications.

Should you have any queries in relation to the AIM programme, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) by raising a [Request](#) on the Early Years Hive

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## Equal Start

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) announced the first group of early learning and childcare settings to receive a funding boost through the Equal Start scheme. Click here for the [press release](#) by Minister O'Gorman.

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## NCS Policy Guidelines Update

Some changes have been made to the policy guidelines to clarify existing rules for providers and parents. A summary of the changes is detailed in the announcement section on Hive.



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## AIM Level 1 (Linc Coordinator)

The AIM Level 1 application process has now opened on Early Years Hive for services with new graduates of the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) programme. A 'new graduate' refers to any person graduating in October 2024. Applications received by **5pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024** will be awarded the additional capitation from the Inclusion Co-Ordinator's employment start date relevant to the 2024/25 programme year. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as any applications received after this date will not be backdated. Applications must be submitted via the Early Years Hive. Applicant guidelines can be found [here](#).



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## Compliance Framework Guidance

The DCEDIY Compliance Framework Guidance document and FAQ can be accessed in English and Irish on the [Hive](#).

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## Fee Increase Assessment and Approval Process

To submit an expression of interest in the Fee Increase Assessment and Approval Process, Partner Services can contact [pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com). Applicant Guidelines can be found on the Hive> Resources> Programme Documents> Guidelines on Fee Management

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## Minister O’Gorman Publishes New Regulations For Childminding

Recently Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, announced the publication of the new Childminding Regulations, which came into effect last Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September. For further information please click [here](#).

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## Pre-Registration Training for Childminders

This training will support participants to understand the new childminding regulations and will provide all the information required to register with Tusla (see leaflet attached). This is a FREE training course and takes approximately 7 hours to complete. For further information please contact 066 718 1582 or email [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)



**PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS**



**Information on:**

- Being a childminder
- Understanding new childminding regulations
- Documents required for Tusla registration

**TRAINING DATES**

11TH OF NOVEMBER - ONLINE  
7-9PM (SESSION ONE)

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16TH OF NOVEMBER  
9.30AM - 3PM (SESSION TWO & THREE)  
VENUE - KERRY COUNTY CHILDCARE OFFICE

**THIS TRAINING IS FREE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**

Contact: Amy  
0677885114  
11444  
[amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)

## Happy Talk

Happy Talk for October is attached. The topic this month is Learning Language – Modelling

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### Happy Talk

#### Learning Language – Modelling

For the next few months we are going to learn (or relearn) some Happy Talk Skills. The first skill we're going to is: **Modelling!**

**Modelling is when you show a child how to say it the right way. Modelling is a skill for us: we do the hard work!**

When you model you show your child how to say a word they get wrong e.g. Child says: 'I runned.' You say, 'Yes! You ran!' a word they don't yet know e.g. Child says, 'I want the yake!' You say, 'You want the basket.' a word they say incorrectly e.g. Child says, 'Look at the tatt!' You say, 'Look at the cat!'

You can model for children of any age. For small babies we model how to use our faces and make sounds by getting face to face!

For babies we model how to use words, especially while we play, by saying words to match what they are doing.

For toddlers and pre-schoolers we model how to use lots of words and any tricky sounds, by saying it again and/or commenting on what they are doing.

For school-aged children we model how to use grammar and lots of new words, by using new words and grammar lots of times.

**Modelling is a skill for us! We do the hard work! When we model we**


- DON'T say: 'No, that's not how you say it!'
- DON'T say the wrong word again! We only model what we want to hear!
- DON'T ask the child to say the word again, only correctly! They'll probably just say it incorrectly again! Just, say it the right way!

October 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

30 Oct • Bank Holiday

For further information visit [www.hse.ie/happytalk](http://www.hse.ie/happytalk)



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### Happy Talk

#### October 2024

#### Rhyme

##### It's Raining, It's Pouring

Can you make some sounds that match each line of this rhyme?

Whoosh! The rain is pouring!  
"knooo! Zzzzz! Shhhhh!" Who is snoring?  
"Ouch! Owl!" And bumped his, what?  
"Oh no!" Poor thing, he couldn't get up in the morning!

**Rhyme Time Voices and Games**

##### Sounds in Rhymes

Rhymes help us introduce sounds and words to all children.

Babies can learn the sounds in our languages when they hear songs and rhymes. Sing and say rhymes in every language you know! Can you remember the rhymes from your childhood? Share these with your kids!

Toddlers learn new words when we sing and say rhymes with them. Sometimes they learn words they would not otherwise hear e.g. Snoring! Pail of water! (What's that?) The clock struck one? The water spout?!

Kids learn how to match sounds and words when they sing and say rhymes with us. These are skills that will help them learning to read and spell.

Did you know, kids who know and spend time singing and saying rhymes are better readers?!

We love rhymes in Happy Talk!  
We like to sing and say them every day!

#### Mindful Moment

##### 'How's the Weather?' Mindful Moment

Invite children to check their personal weather report. Let's give the weather report that best describes our feelings at the moment. Sunny, rainy, stormy, calm, windy, tsunami? Where in our body do we feel the rain? Where in our body do we feel the clouds? Where in our body do we feel the sunshine? This activity allows children to observe their present state without overly identifying with their emotions. They can't change the weather outside, and we can't always change our emotions or feelings either. And that is ok!





## Covid Case Advice

Please see below links to relevant information:

[Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE](#)

[Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings \(2012\)](#)

## Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page

We invite you to visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our Facebook page [here](#) for lots of updates and relevant information.