

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 3rd – 7th February 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 3rd – 7th February 2025.

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

14th February 2025

Review and Confirm window for Core Funding closes

20th February 2025

Kerry CCC/ Dr. Mary O' Kane Webinar

21st February 2025

LINC+ CPD Programme for LINC Graduates closes @ 4pm

28th February 2025

Submission of the Income and Expenditure Template for year 2 closes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Kerry CCC / Dr. Mary O Kane 'Promoting Positive Behaviour' Webinar

Only *Five*** Places remaining.**



Kerry CCC are excited to provide the opportunity for you to attend a free online webinar with *Dr Mary O'Kane on Supporting Positive Behaviour in ECCE Settings.*

The event will run on Thursday 20th February 7.00pm – 9.00pm online.

Priority for places on the Webinar is being given to Early Years Educators in Kerry.

Educators often cite challenging behaviour as one of the most stressful aspects of their role. We know that supporting children to develop self-regulation skills is very important in terms of supporting their social and emotional development.

In this Webinar, Mary focuses very much on explaining the impact of brain development on behaviour, supporting Educators to frame behaviour management in a positive way, while giving practical advice on how to support children with self-regulation skills in educational settings.

You will also have an opportunity to ask Dr Mary O’Kane questions around this topic.

If you, or any of your staff team are interested in attending, please email

eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com , only five places remain available.

Core Funding February Review and Confirm

The February Review and Confirm window is open between **1st February -14th February 2025**.



Core Funding supports and training materials can be found under the [Help and Support](#) section of the Early Years Hive.

LINC+ CPD Programme for LINC Graduates



The LINC+ CPD 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. **Please note: *Only Graduates of the Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC Programme) (2016-2024) can register for the LINC+ CPD Programme.*** Registration for the LINC+ CPD Programme for LINC Graduates is now open and will close on Friday, February 21st, 2025, at 4pm. Please use the following link for registration. <https://lincprogramme.ie/cpd-for-incos/>

The LINC+ CPD Programme can be included by all Participants under option 5 of their Core Funding Quality Action Plan

Reporting Requirements for Core Funding Year 2

The deadline for submitting the completed Income and Expenditure is 28th February 2025 for Year 2.



The CFCRRS portal is now open. To log in please enter your PAU e-mail address and password. If you require a new password, please select the request password on the top-left corner of the

screen. From the 4th of February a template with the pre-populated DCEDIY income figures for your service can be downloaded from the portal.

We recommend sharing your expenditure data and any other income figures (such as parental fee income) with your accountant as soon as possible so they can complete the submission.

For guidance and support click this [link](#) and look under Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 2 (2023/2024). If you have any further queries or requests, please email support@cfcrs.ie for clarification.

Core Funding Income & Expenditure Report (Year 2) Information Session

As outlined above the deadline for submission of the Income & Expenditure report for Core Funding Year 2 is Friday, 28th February 2025.

Kerry County Childcare will host an online information session on Wednesday, 12th February from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm for those who are new to Core Funding financial reporting this year, or if you need a refresher.

If you are interested in attending, please email eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com to book in and receive the link.

New Garda Vetting Procedures

Tusla will now provide the Garda Vetting Application Service for people who are Registered Providers of Early Years Services (including Childminders) or those applying for registration.



Who Can Apply through Tusla from February 2025?

Tusla will provide Garda Vetting for:

- Registered Providers of pre-school and school-age services
- Childminders
- Heads of Boards of Management (where the person is the Registered Provider)
- Quality assurance personnel acting on behalf of the chairperson

Who Cannot Apply through Tusla?

Tusla will not provide vetting for:

- Employees, volunteers, or cover personnel in childcare services

- Students on placement (must apply through their educational institution)

Vetting for these staff members must be obtained from [Early Childhood Ireland](#).

Applications must be submitted via the new [Tusla Garda Vetting Portal](#). Guidance materials will be available to support applicants.

To support Registered Providers and Childminders Tusla has created a dedicated [Garda Vetting section on their website](#), along with a Guidance Document and a [pathway infographic](#)

Additional information is available on the DCEDIY website here [Garda Vetting for the Early Learning and Care \(ELC\) and School Aged Childcare \(SAC\) sector](#)

CPD Online Webinar - LINC Team



The LINC Team is delighted to invite you to an insightful webinar exploring how

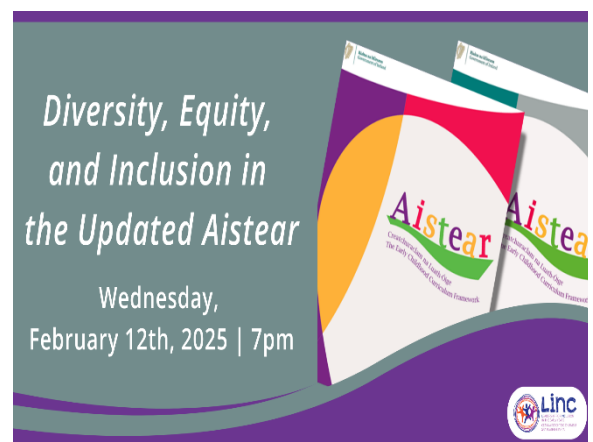
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are embedded in the updated Aistear framework on Wednesday, February 12th 2025 @ 7 PM. This webinar will highlight how these core principles shape **Aistear's vision, principles, and themes**, as well as the guidelines for good practice, offering valuable insights for curriculum planning in early childhood settings.

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Sharon Skehill**, Education Officer with the NCCA, and **Lorraine Farrell**, National Aistear Development Officer, as our guest speakers. Dr. Skehill will discuss how the updated framework fosters **inclusive and equitable learning environments** for all children. Lorraine Farrell will provide an overview of the updated **Aistear Síolta Practice Guide** and share practical strategies for implementation in early years settings.

Claire Butterly | National Coordinator | LINC Programme

Webinar Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, February 12th 2025
- **Time:** 7 PM
- **Location:** Online
- **Registration:** [Register Here](#)



Childminding Development Grant 2025

Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth recently announced the opening of the 2025 Childminding Development Grant.

The total budget of €500,000 reflects the high demand for the grant in previous years. It also reflects the Government's commitment to support childminders to prepare for registration with Tusla.

The Childminding Development Grant of up to €1,000 is open to all childminders, including those who are planning to open a childminding business in 2025. The grant aims to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service through the purchase of toys, childcare equipment, safety equipment, equipment to support inclusion and STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths), as well as IT equipment to assist childminders to engage with training and registration processes later in the year.

Applications for the Childminding Development Grant are made to Kerry County Childcare Committee. The grant application window is from 4th February 2025 to 4th April 2025.

For further information about the Childminding Development Grant or the National Action Plan for Childminding, visit www.gov.ie/childminding or contact Amy at Kerry County Childcare Committee on amy@kerrycountychildcare.com / 087 967 6603.

Kerry County Childcare are hosting an online drop in session on the 19th February 2025 from 19.15pm - 20.15pm to answer questions relating to the grant. To obtain the link for this event please contact

amy@kerrycountychildcare.com



National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028

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

Childcare Committee
Cuide Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí

Childminding Development Grant 2025

Have you any questions about the Childminding Development Grant?
Would you like to know if you are eligible to apply?
Need help with completing the application form?
Have some queries about what you can purchase?

If the answer is 'YES' please join us at our
On Line, Drop In Question and Answer Session for Childminders
on Wednesday 19th February 2025 between 19.15 and 20.15.
Drop in at any time to meet with Amy, our Childminding Development Officer who will answer all your queries.

To receive the link to this session please contact Amy on:
087 7885114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com

This Question and Answer Session is open to all existing and potential Childminders in Kerry

Kerry CCC Critical Incident Information Session

All Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan as part of your Safety Statement (outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services).

A guide has been developed from previous guidance on critical incidents planning, including the Critical Incident Plan Toolkit and the extensive work of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), to support ELC and SAC services to think about and plan for critical incidents and to have practical supports in place should it be necessary to respond to a critical incident.

We will deliver a short briefing session to outline the requirements and to consider the guidance. This will take place on Thursday 27th February at 6.30pm at the KCCC offices in Monavalley, Tralee.

If you would like to **attend, please email info@kerrycountychildcare.com with details of attendees no later than 20th February**. Please note places are limited so early booking is advised.

New School Age Services Regulatory Notice

Tusla have published a [regulatory notice](#) relating to the definition of enrolment in a School Age Service. The notice makes clear that the Early Years Inspectorate (EYI) considers a child enrolled in a school-age service if they are physically attending the service and, for primary students, registered on the Primary Online Database (POD). A two-week settling-in period before attendance starts is allowed with supporting records. This approach helps maintain appropriate care ratios and takes effect immediately.



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.

Covid Case Advice

Please see below links to relevant information: [Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE & Pre_School_ManagementInfectiousDisease.pdf](#)

General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid-19](#)

Kind Regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee