

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

Dear Colleagues

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

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

28th March 2025

- Deadline for Parent & Toddler Group Grant application

4th April 2025

- Deadline for Childminding Development Grant 2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NCCA Aistear

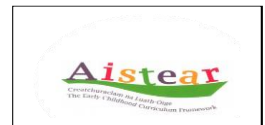
Updated Aistear for the ELC sector

Please see the [information](#) released on the updated *Aistear* Curriculum

Framework. There is information on key dates, resources and

information sessions for Early Years Educators, Family and Child Guides, ongoing supports, and

more. For more information, please click [Aistear 2024](#)



Parent and Toddler Group Grant 2025

Applications are currently being accepted for the Parent & Toddler Group Grant 2025.



The grant is available to existing not-for-profit groups who provide informal support to all families and involve the participation of parents/guardians in the community. The grant is also open to new Parent & Toddler Groups as well as Buggy Walking Groups.

For further information or to request an application form, contact

pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com / 066 7181582.

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund 2025 / 2026

Training will be held on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) Registrations, Employment Record and Student Applications training on 10 and 11 March 2025. Applications for the NSLF for the academic year 2025/2026 will open shortly. The training will cover the following:

- What is the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund
- Registering to the NSLF Portal
- Completing the Employment Record
- Student Applications
- Demonstration of the NSLF Portal

Eligibility

Those wishing to make an application must meet the following eligibility criteria for the NSLF:

- be working with children in a Tusla-registered Early Learning and Care (ELC) or School Age Childcare (SAC) service,
- the service in which the applicant is working in, must have a **current** signed Core Funding contract with DCEDIY.
- Applicants must have worked within an ELC or SAC service for the six months prior to their application.
- Applicants must have a current application/offer for 2025/26 entry to a Level 7/8 Degree course approved by the Qualification Advisory Board (QAB) that is eligible for NSLF.
- be a new entrant to an Approved Course for the academic year commencing 2025/2026 (Autumn 2025)
- not be an ELC educator or SAC practitioner currently undertaking the completion of an Approved Course or an equivalent degree; and
- not be an ELC educator or SAC practitioner who has already completed an Approved Course or equivalent degree.

- **For clarity purposes, at time of application an applicant must not hold (or be undertaking) an Approved Course at level 7 or level 8 in Early Learning and Care**

The links to the training webinars are available on hive.

Continuing Students (*existing students who successfully received NSLF funding for Academic Year 2024/2025 and wish to continue to receive funding for NSLF for Academic Year 2025/2026*)

Pobal will contact continuing students directly in early summer asking individuals to verify their continuing eligibility for NSLF. Once eligibility is confirmed a new letter of Conditional Funding will issue to the student for the academic year 2025/2026. *Training for continuing students will happen at a later stage and you will be notified.*

Childminding Development Grant 2025

The Childminding Development Grant 2025 is currently open for applications. All current childminders and childminders planning to open in 2025 are eligible to apply. The grant aims to enhance quality and safety in childminding services and allows for the purchasing of IT equipment to assist with training and registration processes later in the year. For further information or to receive an application form, contact: amy@kerrycountychildcare.com

For further information about the National Action Plan for Childminding, visit www.gov.ie/childminding

Kerry County Childcare Network Meetings

Please note that the Tralee Network Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18th March has been *postponed*. This is due to a clash with the NCCA Updated Aistear webinar which we realise many of you are interested in attending. (See details above). We apologise for any inconvenience.



The Network Meeting in Killarney is still scheduled as advertised in last weeks Bulletin. Please see details below:

Network meetings are a great opportunity to connect with professionals working in the ELC & SAC sector. We will be circulating the latest information, and have a guest speaker, Siobhan O'Brien from the Kerry Library. Siobhan will be discussing upcoming initiatives that may be of interest to the sector.

Killarney Network Meeting: Thursday 20th March 2025. 6.30 – 9.00pm. Dromhall Hotel.

All professionals working within the sector are welcome to attend. Booking is essential as places are limited. Food & Refreshments will be provided

If you would like to book a place, please email: info@kerrycountychildcare.com

Childminding Pre-Registration Training Course

Kerry County Childcare Committee are running Pre-Registration Training Courses for existing and potential childminders. If you are interested in attending the Pre-Registration Training Course on Saturday 22nd March 2025 in Killarney from 9am – 5pm, please email contact Amy on 087 788 5114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com to book your place

Pre-Registration training is a mandatory training programme for childminders who wish to register with Tusla. This training will support participants to understand the new childminding regulations and will provide all the information required to register with Tusla. This is a FREE course and takes approximately 7 hours to complete. There is no assessment, and participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. There is no expiry date on this certificate.

For further information contact Amy Pryal, Childminding Development Officer on 087 7885114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com



PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS



Childcare
Committee
County Kerry
Coláiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí Teo

Information on:

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

TRAINING DATE

DATE: SATURDAY 22ND OF MARCH 2025

**VENUE: THE BREHON HOTEL
KILLARNEY**

TIME: 9:30AM - 5PM

THIS TRAINING IS FREE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

For Bookings contact:
Amy on 0877885114
amy@kerrycountychildcare.com

Kerry CCC Critical Incident Planning Information Session

If you would be interested in attending a future session (date to be advised), which will take place online, please email info@kerrycountychildcare.com to be placed on our waiting list.

Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page



[Website Jobs Board](#) – Local Jobs Board for Kerry

If you would like to place an advert on our Jobs Board please email kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com.

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