

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 10th – 14th March 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 10th– 14th March 2025.

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

28th March 2025

- Deadline for Parent & Toddler Group Grant application

31st March 2025 @12pm

- Final date for survey submission on Experiences of ELC's supporting Ukrainian families

4th April 2025

- Deadline for Childminding Development Grant 2025

1st May 2025

- Nurturing Skills Learner Fund application process closes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund 2025 2026

The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) is now open to applicants for the academic year 2025/2026. NSLF is continuing, as a pilot phase, and will support Early Years Educators working in a Partner Service to undertake approved ELC Level 7/ 8 courses while they continue to work within the sector. NSLF will cover 90% of the course fees for successful applicants.

You will find a Press Release from Minister Norma Foley announcing the opening of the NSLF and an information document detailing the Application Process and Timeline, Rules and Conditions, Eligibility Criteria, and Selection Criteria [here](#).

Applicants should contact NSLF@pobal.ie to request a link to register on the NSLF Student Portal, upload their employment details and complete the new application process. The application process closes on 1st May 2025.

Survey – ELC Services Experiences in Supporting Ukrainian Families Displaced by Conflict

Early Learning and Care (ELC) services across Ireland are invited to take part in a short survey exploring experiences in supporting Ukrainian families displaced by conflict. Your insights will help identify what has worked well, the challenges faced, and how we can better prepare for similar situations in the future.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will be handled with care. The final date for responses is 31st March at 12.00pm. Your input will help shape practical improvements that make a real difference for families and ELC services alike.

You can access the survey here: www.research.net/r/ELC25

We would really appreciate your time and thoughts.
Many thanks for your support.

Updated Aistear for the ELC sector



The Early Childhood team in NCCA is developing a series of blogs to share insights on the recently updated Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. The blogs will support educators, families, and other interested stakeholders in becoming familiar with the new and enhanced concepts of the updated Framework.

The first blog in the series focuses on the Principles of Aistear and illustrates the importance of the principles as the foundation for early learning and development for babies, toddlers and young children.

Other blogs to date look at the: The agentic educator in Aistear and Aistear and the Irish language. Future blogs will explore Aistear and the Outdoors; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Aistear; Aistear and the Arts; Emergent Literacy; Emergent numeracy; and STEM in the updated Framework. The blogs can be accessed at the following link: [Aistear blogs](#)

Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Training

Kerry CCC are delivering Diversity, Equality & Inclusion training.

For any staff in Services that haven't participated in the training, these dates may be of interest to you. If Services who have participated would like to send other staff members, you are welcome to do so. Childminders are also invited to this training. Places will be on a first come first served basis.



Training Dates:

Session 1 & 2: Saturday 12th April 2025; 10am – 4.30pm; Kerry CCC Office

Sessions 3: Tuesday 15th April 2025, 7.00-9.30pm ONLINE

Session 4: Tuesday 22nd April 2025, 6.30-9.30pm, Kerry CCC Office

****All 3 dates must be attended to receive certificate of attendance****

Diversity, equality, and inclusion are fundamental characteristics of quality early learning and care and school age-childcare provision. Many of you have selected this as part of your Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan (QIPP).

Programme Aim:

The aim of the training programme is to support educators to engage with the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Guidelines. The training aims to foster awareness about Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and to encourage and support those working in the sector to actively advocate for inclusion for all children and their families within the setting.

This training is designed to support and empower you to explore, understand and develop inclusive practices for the benefit of all children, and their families. The training is designed to complement the work of Síolta and Aistear and will offer practical examples of Inclusion in practice. In addition, the training will equip you with practical tools to develop your own Inclusion policy for your service.

Booking:

If you would like to book a place on the course above, please email

kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com or info@kerrycountychildcare.com. **There is no charge for this training.** Please feel free to contact Kathryn if you have any queries.

Larger services can avail of the option of Diversity, Equality & Inclusion training as a full staff team, or services can come together as a cluster group for training in their localities – please talk to Kathryn if you want to discuss this option.

****Each service will receive a DEI resource pack to support their work in this area****

Please note that if your Service has participated in this training in programme years 2022 to 2024 you will have already received this resource pack.

Kerry County Childcare Network Meetings

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. Tralee

Network Meeting: Tuesday 25th March 2025. 6.30 – 9.00pm. Kerry County Childcare Office.

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

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.

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

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
Cuide 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 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](#)

Happy St. Patricks Day

Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh



Kerry County Childcare Committee