

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 17th – 21st March 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 17th– 21st 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

Parent and Toddler Group Grant



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. The closing date for applications is 28th March 2025. For further information or to request an application form, contact pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com or 066 7181582

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.

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 Tusla registration processes later in the year. For further information or to receive an application form, contact amy@kerrycountychildcare.com or 066 7181582

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.

Information on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund can be found [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.

Repeat of the Updated Aistear Framework Webinar

For those who missed it, the NCCA are providing another opportunity to attend a repeat webinar on the updated Aistear Framework on Thursday March 27th at 7pm. This session will explore the updated Framework by examining its Vision, Principles and Themes. It will also present the *Guidance for Good Practice* and highlight additional supports available. Early years educators will gain valuable insights to



enhance their understanding of these updates before official implementation of the updated *Aistear* in September 2025. Speakers will include:

- Donna Carolan, Acting Director, Curriculum and Assessment, NCCA
- Dr Sharon Skehill, Education Officer, NCCA
- Dr Mary Daly, Education Officer, NCCA
- Lorraine Farrell, National *Aistear* Development Officer, NCCA

To register for the event, please click on this [link](#)

EC STEM project – request for support

OUTSTE(A)M is an exciting STEM project which aims to provide high quality STEM education in Early Childhood Education & /care settings and primary schools using a play-based hands-on learning approach in the outdoors. OUTSTE(A)M are seeking educator opinions about their draft materials before they are released to the public. If you are interested in reviewing the materials then click on this [link](#) to complete the anonymous online questionnaire.

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 tomorrow **Saturday 22nd March 2025 in Tralee** please contact Amy Pryal, Childminding Development Officer on 087 7885114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com

***Please note: This training will now take place in our Offices in Tralee and not in Killarney as previously advertised.**

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****

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

Thank you to all who attended our Killarney Network Meeting.

The Tralee Meeting details are:

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



Free Membership of Barnardos Online Library

Barnardos are delighted to invite early years providers, school age childcare providers and childminders to register for free membership to their online library. Funded by Department of

Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Barnardos Library has a unique collection of online resources to support you in your work, whether you are developing and reviewing policies, researching best practice or engaging in continuing professional development. Benefits include access to:

- EBSCO Discovery Service
- Education Source Database
- Sociology Source Database
- A growing eBook collection
- Table of contents alerts from the Journal of Infant Mental Health
- A monthly members update of content that has been added to the online library collection

Contact Barnardos Library (resources@barnardos.ie) for more information, or register for free membership [HERE](#)

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