

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 24th – 28th March 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 24th– 28th March 2025.

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

28th March 2025

Deadline for Parent & Toddler Group Grant application *Today*

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

7th April 2025

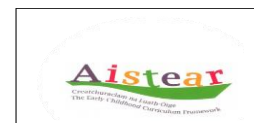
EOI to attend Aistear National conference

1st May 2025

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund application process closes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

National Aistear Conference



DCEDIY will host a national Aistear Conference on May 24th, 2025, from 10am to 4pm at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre. This National Early Years Conference will provide a forum for educators, policy makers, academics, students and support organisations to collaboratively explore the updates, new concepts and key messages within the updated Aistear. In partnership with DCEDIY, Kerry County Childcare Committee is pleased to offer the following opportunity to Early Years Educators and Childminders in the county.

1. Entrance tickets to the event, which will include lunch and a conference bag containing a copy of the updated Aistear and other resources.
2. Transportation to the event.
3. A certificate of attendance, which will support your service's QIPP 2025.

Please note, that places are limited to 10, and random selection will apply.

If you are interested in attending the conference, please email info@kerrycountychildcare.com

including the following information:

- Your name
- The name of your service
- Your role
- Your email address

Online AIM Information Sessions – Parents and Providers

Kerry County Childcare Committee together with the Better Start AIM team are hosting two online AIM information sessions, one for Providers and one for Parents. Details for both are outlined below. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to any parents that you know who might be interested and, if possible, share the attached poster on your Social Media.

AIM Information Sessions for Providers

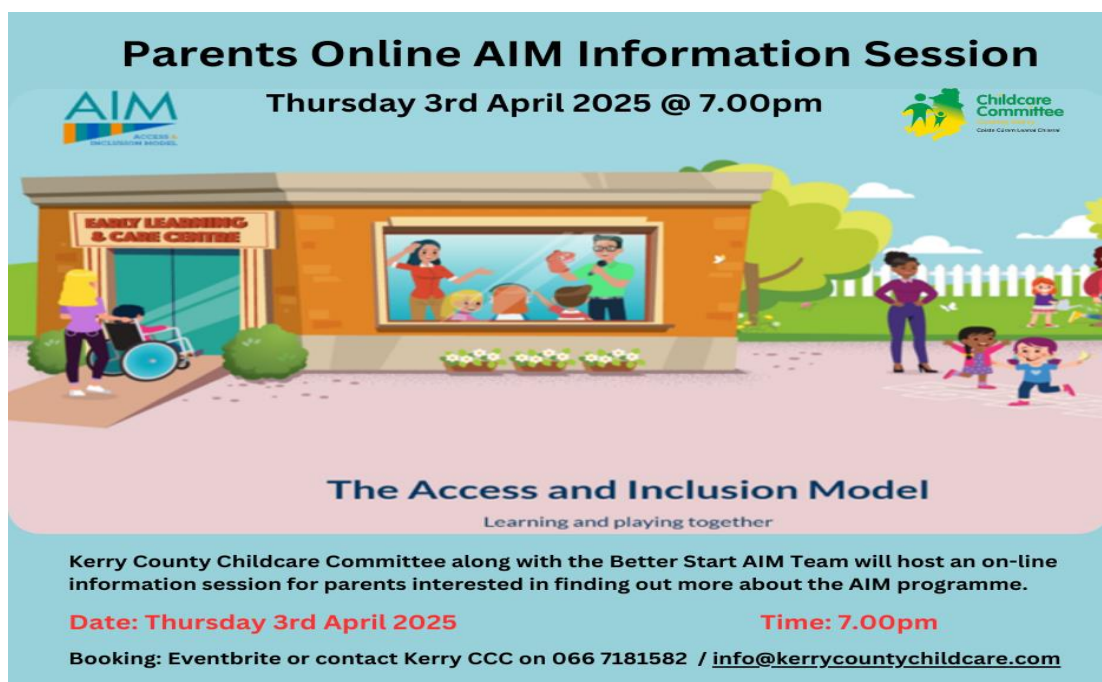
Thursday 3rd April 2025 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Booking: eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com

AIM Information Sessions for Parents

Thursday 3rd April 2025 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Booking: Eventbrite or info@kerrycountychildcare.com or phone on 066 7181582



Parents Online AIM Information Session
Thursday 3rd April 2025 @ 7.00pm

AIM ACCESS & INCLUSION MODEL

Childcare Committee County Kerry

EARLY LEARNING & CARE CENTRE

The Access and Inclusion Model
Learning and playing together

Kerry County Childcare Committee along with the Better Start AIM Team will host an on-line information session for parents interested in finding out more about the AIM programme.

Date: Thursday 3rd April 2025 **Time: 7.00pm**

Booking: Eventbrite or contact Kerry CCC on 066 7181582 / info@kerrycountychildcare.com

The poster features a central illustration of an 'EARLY LEARNING & CARE CENTRE' building. A person in a wheelchair is being assisted by another person at the entrance. A large window shows a group of children and adults interacting. Outside, a woman stands with two children playing on a path. The background includes trees and a white picket fence. Logos for AIM and Childcare Committee County Kerry are in the top corners.

Parent and Toddler Group Grant



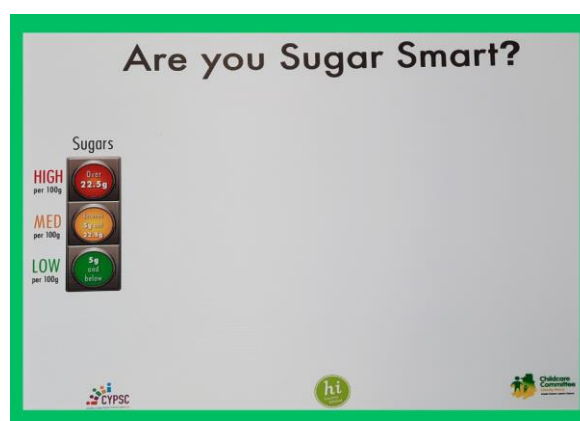
Applications are currently being accepted for the Parent & Toddler Group Grant 2025. The grant is available to existing not-for-profit groups who provide informal support to all families and involve the participation of parents/guardians in the community. The closing date for applications is 28th March 2025. For further information or to request an application form, contact pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com / 066 7181582

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

A final reminder that 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.

Sugar Smart Boards - Are you Sugar Smart?

We have a *limited* number of Sugar Smart Activity Boards (see picture below) available for services. Boards are 80cm by 60cm in diameter and made from pp corrugated board. They can be collected from our office in Tralee (unfortunately due to their size we are unable to post them out). If you are interested please contact eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com to organise a pick up time.



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**.

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.

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.

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

Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page



Missing a Bulletin and need to check some information? All editions can be accessed on our website - [Weekly Bulletins](#)

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