

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 07th April – 11th April 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 7th April – 11th April 2025.

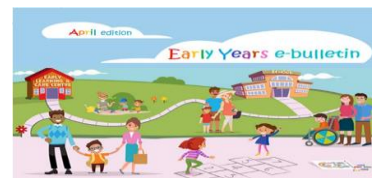
DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

1st May 2025

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund application process closes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

April Early Years e-Bulletin



You can access this month's Early Years Sectorial e-Bulletin through the link below. The e-Bulletin includes updates from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, the Department of Education Inspectorate, Pobal and Tusla. [Early Years Sectorial e-Bulletin April 2025 edition](#)

Happy Talk

Please see below, and attached, a copy of this month's Happy Talk Calendar Newsletter which focuses on the area of Pretend Play.

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Happy Talk

Language Activity - Let's Pretend

Pretending and Pretend Play is a very important skill. It prepares us for life in lots of ways. When we pretend we use our imagination, tell stories, solve problems, predict what might happen, and learn to live beyond the present moment; all great skills for life.

In Pretend Play children use objects (props), actions or ideas to build stories and act out roles. For example, using a brush to play 'horsey', or using an empty cardboard box as a 'pirate ship'. Or, pretending there is a horse right here, or just pretending the couch is 'pirate ship'. It doesn't matter if we use objects or not; using your imagination is key!

When young children use their imaginations in play, they are more creative, perform better at school, and develop a strong 'problem solving' approach to learning. Pretend play has benefits for a child's social development, language development, emotional development, physical development, and thinking skills! Wow! In that case... let's get pretending!

IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE!
- Albert Einstein


Here are just some examples of Pretend play:

- Dressing up (doctor, princess, superheroes)
- Playing shop (shop keeper, customer, building a shop)
- Parent play (baby dolls, puppies and kitten in bath, nappies & bottles)
- Food play (In the kitchen, tea parties, baking a cake, restaurant)
- Taking on a Role: Builder (tools, workbench), Baker, Shop keeper, Pirate, Witch, Puppy, Giraffe, Tiger, Monkey!
- Other Worlds (working farm, going to space, building a computer)
- New Experiences (going to the dentist, going to big school, a day out)
- Solving Problems (I feel sick, I'm hungry, I lost my doll, the car broke)

April 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

For further information visit: www.hsc.ie/happytalk



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Happy Talk

April 2025

Alien Mindful Moment
Prepare a bag or box with a variety of known items / toys, that children are familiar with. Use objects that have a variety of appearance, function, texture (e.g. plastic cup, block, metal fork, teddy, bottle of water).

You may want to give each child an object, or if the group is small use one or two objects, that are passed around.

And so...
Sitting in a circle with the children, invite them to imagine that they are an alien, and to pretend they've never seen the thing we will look at before.

Invite the children to take an object from a box and examine it as if they've never seen it before.

Imagine you are looking at this item for the first time:
"Wow! What is this red thing? It is hard, and I can't put my hand in it. I can't figure out what it might be for! It has a handle and I can hold it like this..."

Invite the children to pretend and do the same!

What does it look like?
Look at each small piece of the object, holding it very close. Describe it as best you can.

What does it feel like?
Feel each part of the object using your fingers, hand, even your face. Describe it as best you can.





Rhyme Time Voices & Games

Let's Pretend using Jack and Jill:

- Pretend to be Jack and Jill walking up the hill, and then what happens? ... poor Jack!
- Pretend to be the paramedic, nurse or doctor who treats Jack's wounds after his fall! "Neel Nawl!"
- Pretend to be Jack and Jill's Mam or Dad, and pretend you are getting a phone call after their accident.

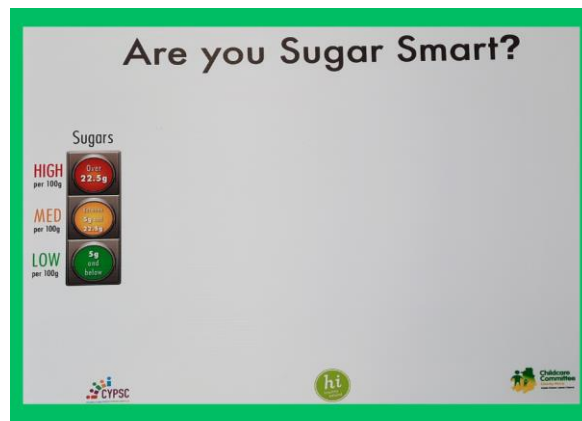
We can pretend play this way with most rhymes;

- Sept: Pretend to be all the animals you find down the river (see lyrics on first pages of calendar)
- Oct: Pretend to be the old man in bed! Or as above, the nurse or doctor who treats his head. "Bumped his head! Ouch!"
- Nov: Pretend to be a spider or a big egg who falls and cracks!
- Dec: Can you be a reindeer? Use your hands as antlers, and shake your bum to see if you have a tail!
- Jan: Give the Duke his hat and salute him! Go marching up that hill!
- Feb: Giddy Up Horses! You can trot all the way around and all the way home!
- Mar: Use all the actions to get ready for bed.

Rhyme
Jack and Jill

Sugar Smart Boards - Are you Sugar Smart?

We have a number of Sugar Smart Activity Boards (see picture below) still 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 info@kerrycountychildcare.com to organise a pick up time.



Nurturing Skills Learner Fund 2025 /2026

The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) is now open to applicants for the academic year 2025/2026. NSLF will cover 90% of the course fees for successful applicants. Information on the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund can be found [here](#). Applicants must 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**.

Pobal Updates

NCS: Service calendar and returns



If your service is closed over the Easter period, this closure must be marked on the NCS calendar. You must note whether it is a subsidised (paid) closure or not.

Changes cannot be made to service calendar opening hours or claim hours once a return for that week has been submitted on HIVE.

For more information, please see '*How to add a closure*' on the [NCS Service Calendar](#) section of Help & Support. If you require further assistance, please raise a [Service Request](#)

NCS: Updated bridging payments

A 'bridging payment' is available to service providers during periods of subsidised closure, if they are unavailable to submit their weekly NCS return, for example over Easter.

For guidance on returns, as well as updated guidance on bridging payments, please see the [NCS Attendance Returns Guide](#).

ECCE: Service calendar



Providers in contract for the ECCE programme are reminded that changes to service calendars must be first approved by County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and parents must be given 20 working days' notice in writing of any change to the service's calendar. Copies of such notices must be kept on file for compliance purposes. For further information on service calendars, please contact your local CCC or refer to the [ECCE Service Calendar](#) section of Help & Support. If you require further assistance, please raise a [Service Request](#)

Pre- Registration Training for Childminders

Kerry County Childcare Committee are offering an online Pre-Registration Training for Childminders. (see details below)

This is a mandatory training programme for childminders who wish to register with Tusla. This training will support you to understand the new childminding regulations and will provide you with all the information required to register with Tusla. This is a FREE training course and takes approx. 7 hours to complete. There is no assessment, and you will be issued a certificate upon completion. There is no expiry date for this training certificate.

The aim of the training programme is to help you:

- Understand the new childminding regulations
- Apply the regulations to your childminding practice
- Understand the Tusla registration process for childminders
- Understand the documentation required to register with Tusla
- Access supports and resources

To register please contact Amy on amy@kerrycountychildcare.com



PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS

Childcare Committee County Kerry
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí Teo

Online

Information on:

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

TRAINING DATES

TUESDAY JUNE 10TH 2025
7PM TO 9PM

SATURDAY JUNE 14TH 2025
9AM TO 1:30PM

THIS TRAINING IS A REQUIREMENT FOR TUSLA REGISTRATION

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

Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page

Have you visited our [Providers Information section](#)? Updates and information posted regularly. 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