

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 14th July - 18th July 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 14th July – 18th July 2025.

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

22 nd July 2025	AIM Level 1 applications open
31 st July 2025	QIPP Report Template recommended completion date

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AIM Level 1



Applications for existing graduates will open on 22 July for AIM Level 1.

Guidelines on submitting an application can be accessed [here](#).

QIPP Report Template 2024/2025

The deadline for completing the QIPP end of year report is Thursday, 31 July 2025 on www.cfcrrs.ie. A guidance video is available [here](#) or contact Rachel 066

7181582 rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com for support.



AIM Level Plus and Non-term applications

Please note, additional information is now required when submitting an AIM Level 7

Plus and/or Non-term application for the 2025/2026 programme call. New questions

have been added under the 'Session ratio questions' section. See the [AIM Hive Guides](#) for support

or contact Pamela on 066 7181582 / pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com.



NCS 2025/26 Funding Agreement

The new National Childcare Scheme (NCS) year begins on 18 August 2025. You must activate the NCS 2025/2026 funding agreement before the current agreement ends to ensure ongoing participation, as claims on NCS CHICKs will be registered across both programme years. Funding cannot be backdated, so please submit this application promptly. For further guidelines, visit [Early Years Hive](#) or contact Pamela on 066 7181582 / pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com for support.



Late-evening and Weekend School Age Childcare



Under the [2025/2026 Funding Agreement](#), school-age childcare provided after 7pm on working days and weekend school-age childcare will no longer qualify for NCS subsidies. Exceptions may be granted at the Department's discretion. Contact us on 066 7181582 for details.

Weather Guidance



The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate has issued comprehensive guidance for early years services to ensure children are kept safe and comfortable both indoors and outdoors in all weathers. The document is available [here](#). Be Summer Ready information is also available for schools, early learning and childcare, and the workplace [here](#).

Tusla Registration Renewal



All Early Years Services are required to renew registration every three years. The registration date can be found on the current Tusla certificate or checked on the [Early Years Register](#) or the [School Age Register](#). Please note the following key points:

- Applications must be submitted no later than 2 months before your current certification expires.
- Reregistration can be completed up to 6 months in advance of your expiry date.
- The process requires submission of in-date Garda Vetting for the Registered Provider and the Person in Charge (if different). Current timelines for vetting should be considered.

Failure to reregister in time will result in your removal from the register, and it is an offence to operate an unregistered service. Additional information on re-registration can be found [here](#).

Contact Kathryn (kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com) or Rachel (rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com) for support on 066 718 1582.

Updated Garda Vetting

There is a new Garda Vetting process in place for ELC/SAC services since 1st February 2025, and it can take over 2 months to complete. The following now applies:

- TUSLA manage Garda Vetting services for registered providers, including childminders, as well as Chairpersons of Boards of Management (where they are the registered provider) and board members who have access to children. Further information is available [here](#).
- Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) manage Garda Vetting services for all employees in ELC and SAC services. For more information, go to the [ECI website](#).
- Barnardos no longer provide vetting services.

If you have any queries on Garda Vetting please contact Kathryn

(kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com) or Rachel (rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com) for support on 066 718 1582.



Garda vetting for each staff member must be **renewed every three years**. It is a breach of regulation for staff to continue working with children where their vetting has expired.

Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2025

Applications for the Learner Fund Graduate Bursary and the

Learner Fund Childminder Bursary will be accepted from 15 September 2025 to 17 October 2025.

More details are available [here](#).

Happy Talk

The July Happy Talk calendar is attached (and below), with this month's focus on messy play.


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Happy Talk

Language Activity: Exploratory or messy play

Have you heard of exploratory or messy play?
It's exactly what it sounds like... play that includes exploring, and is often messy. The Summer time is a great time to take messy play outside!

Taking part in messy play provides children with opportunities to use their senses in a way that inspires curiosity and allows them to explore the world around them. Children learn through experimenting and discovering, and messy play encourages children to explore new textures. The only limit is your imagination!

Try out these "messy" activities with your child

Jelly
Add food colouring to jelly to make the colours of the rainbow

Add small toys to the jelly before it sets and children can be encouraged to dig them out (with fingers or spoons, or little trowels!)

Freeze the jelly in ice-cube trays and then slowly add water until it melts!

Pick up handfuls of jelly and make loud squeelching noises – see whose jelly makes the most noise!

Stretchy dough
Slowly add warm water to self-raising flour and mix to form a soft stretchy dough.

Work together – stretch it as far as you can into a long rope

Practise cutting skills with little scissors to make cakes

Drive tractors and trucks over the dough to make tracks


Use tools (saws, hammers, chisels) to make the dough into new shapes

Add colour to the dough to make sweets for a teddy bear's picnic

July 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	31			

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

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Happy Talk

July 2025





Rhyme Time Voices and Games

You Can Learn Words SO FAST!
When you play a game that lets you point to the word you are saying, you learn words so fast!

When you sing a rhyme and act out what is happening in the rhyme, you learn words so fast!

When you repeat the rhyme and sing / say it lots of times, you learn so fast!

When you play and have fun and joke around, you learn words so fast!

Rhyme Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Mindful Jar Mindful Moment

The Mindful Jar is fun to make together. Using a jar or a bottle, add a few squirts of baby shampoo and some glitter and top up with water and a drop of food colouring. Seal the container, gluing the lid shut and shake to mix in the shampoo. The more shampoo you use the longer it takes for the glitter to settle. If you are feeling ambitious, every child in the house or class could have their own mindful jar.

Use the jar in lots of ways:

Calming the Brain
The swirling glitter is very calming as it falls to the bottom of the bottle, for both kids and adults. If you're feeling agitated try it for yourself. Shake the bottle too. It feels just as good as watching the last few specks for glitter fall to the bottom of the bottle.

Learning About the Brain and Emotions
You can use a Mindful Jar as a tool to explain how the emotional brain works. When your emotions are rising up, the brain (the jar) floods with feelings (the glitter) and you can get stressed (shake the Mindful Jar). As you breathe, the stress leaves (the glitter settles to the bottom of the Mindful Jar) and you feel calmer making it easier to think again.

Time Out
Use the Mindful Jar to take a minute's break in the middle of a busy day. "Let's all take a break until the glitter in the Mindful Jar has calmed-down and settled and then we will start our activity again."



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 on 087 7885114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com or complete the Expression of Interests form [here](#).

PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS

Information on:

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



Online

TRAINING DATES

MONDAY AUGUST 11TH 2025
6.30PM TO 9.30PM
&
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13TH 2025
6.30PM TO 9.30PM
BOTH SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO COMPLETE COURSE

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



We invite you to visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our Facebook page [here](#) for lots of updates and relevant information.

Kind Regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee