

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Dear Colleagues**

**These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

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### **DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2025:** QIPP Report final deadline

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

#### **Free Seminar “Embracing the Outdoors in the Updated Aistear” with Dr. Sharon Skehill**

Kerry CCC are excited to provide the opportunity for ELC and SAC Educators to attend a free seminar with Dr. Sharon Skehill on the topic of “Embracing the Outdoors in the Updated Aistear”.

#### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

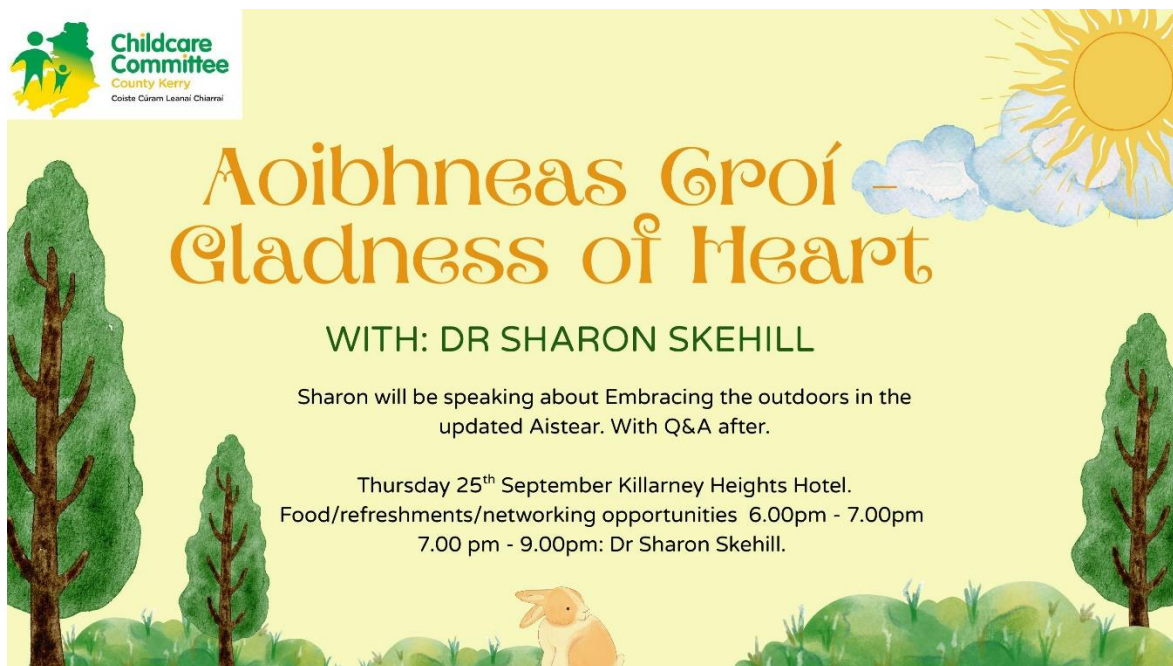
**Venue:** The Killarney Heights Hotel (V93 XKR4)

**Schedule:** 6.00pm – 7.00 pm: Registration, food, refreshments and networking opportunity.  
7.00pm – 9.00 pm: “Embracing the Outdoors in the Updated Aistear” Dr. Sharon Skehill including Q&A session.

Dr. Sharon Skehill is an Early Years Educator and Researcher at her full daycare outdoor service in Galway. She has been working with babies, toddlers and young children for over 20 years and is a passionate advocate for early childhood education and care. Sharon has been working with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) as an Education Officer updating Aistear, the early childhood curriculum framework, taking a lead role in the consultation, development and dissemination of the Framework.

We have attached a flyer for you to share with your staff team.

If you are interested in attending, please email [elish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:elish@kerrycountychildcare.com) and provide the name/s and email address for staff who wish to attend. Places are limited so please book before Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.




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## Online Parent Statement

An issue has been identified when printing the 2025/2026 Parent Statement for Partner Services, impacting the Fee Table information from a non-ECCE only Fee Table. This issue is under review, while we work on fixing the issue, please do not print the full Parent Statement.




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## Tusla Registration Renewal

All Early Years Services are required to renew registration every 3 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.
- 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](#).

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## Updated Garda Vetting

Services are reminded to check the expiration date of their Garda Vetting as soon as possible to allow time to apply for updated vetting prior to submission of TUSLA Registration Renewal applications. Out of date vetting will not be accepted. The Vetting process can take up to 2 months to complete which may affect registration renewal applications.

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## QIPP Report Template 2024/2025

The final deadline for completing the QIPP end of year report is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Services who have not yet submitted their report can so do so via [www.cfcrrs.ie](http://www.cfcrrs.ie). A guidance video is available [here](#).



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## NCS Compliance Session

Pobal are undertaking NCS Compliance sessions covering the following:



- What is a compliance inspection.
- Preparing for a compliance inspection.
- What's new for 2025/2026 programme call.
- The inspection process including the checks conducted, compliance report and rectification actions.

Please register in advance for the session using the link. Each session will cover the same material.

- [Session 1: Monday 15 September 2025 at 2:30pm to 3:30pm](#)
- [Session 2: Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 10:30am to 11:30am](#)
- [Session 3: Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 6:30pm to 7:30pm](#)

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## Retention of Pre-registration forms

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) have confirmed this week that the retention ECCE / CCSP Saver Programme Pre-registration forms is no longer a requirement for compliance purposes.



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## Bia Blasta

The Department for Children, Disability and Equality announced the launch of Bia Blasta (Delicious Food), the pre-school nutrition programme to provide daily lunches for pre-school children in disadvantaged areas. The full press release can be found [HERE](#). Bia Blasta is being provided to all Equal Start Tier 1 and Tier 2 designated services that provide ECCE, and to other ECCE sessional services with the highest concentrations of disadvantage, as identified by the Equal Start Identification Model. ECCE Programme services that have not been invited by email to participate in Bia Blasta, cannot apply to participate, at this time.

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## Children First Awareness Week

This year's Children First Awareness Week will take place 15 to 21 September with the core message "We Are Children First". The aim of Children First Awareness Week is to raise awareness of Children First and remind wider society, including organisations working with children and young people and the wider public, of our collective responsibility to keep them safe in our communities. The campaign supports the implementation of the *Children First Act 2015 and the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect children across all sectors of Irish society.

This year's campaign will focus on parents, guardians, and other responsible adults as the key target audience. The campaign messaging will aim to help parents and guardians to understand what they should expect from organisations working with children on safeguarding matters, including questions to ask on safeguarding policies, reporting procedures, and respectful, supportive engagement. It seeks to equip adults with the knowledge and confidence to ask appropriate questions of organisations about safeguarding matters.

### How You Can Support

- Check your setting policies and procedures are up to date and that parents are aware of them.
- Staff have completed relevant training –
  - o [Tusla's Always Children First eLearning Programme](#)
  - o [Tusla's Mandated Person eLearning Module](#)
  - o [Tusla's Designated Liaison Persons \(DLP\) eLearning Module Part A \(This training is not relevant to Childminders\)](#). Or contact your local City and County Childcare Committee.

- Support the social media campaign. If you see any social media posts helping raise awareness of Children First, please share with your team and parents.

## Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare including childminding resources

Further child safeguarding resources, including information on developing your Child Safeguarding Statement, policies and procedures can be found in the [Child Safeguarding Resource Document: Guidance for Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services in Ireland](#) and on the National Child Safeguarding Programme website <https://chidsafeguardingelc.ie/>

## National Beep Beep Day

National Beep Beep day will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025. In early September services will be able to order RSA Beep Beep Day packs through [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie).

## Childhood Cancer Ireland


More Precious Than Gold campaign running 22- 26 September, please see leaflet attached to register.

## Happy Talk Calendar September


Please see below and attached Happy Talk September calendar 2025.

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# Happy Talk



### How we Learn Language; Let's Happy Talk!




We have a huge mystery for you. How do children learn how to count? How do they figure it out? Where do they learn it? Numbers are complicated!!

Simple answer; from you! Every time you talk about or sing songs with numbers, every time you talk about how many things you need when shopping or on the shopping list, every time you give your child 2 or 5 or 10 minutes to play or tidy up; every single time you use numbers, your child is learning to count! You are **Modelling** and **Expanding** and maybe you didn't even know it! In Happy Talk we are going to use these two skills to help children learn to learn!

**Modelling** is when you help your child say new words, and help them with words that are tricky! You are **Modelling** every time you talk to your child, around your child, with your child. **Modelling** language for small children is one of the most important ways they learn to communicate.


**Expanding** language builds on the foundation of modelling. **Expanding** is when you help your child build on what they already know. When you show your child how to expand their language, and add to what they have to say, you are helping them learn to talk about new words, new ideas and new experiences.

Not only that, both **Modelling** and **Expanding** allow you to help your child when they make a mistake, or don't use all the words, or can't quite complete what they are trying to say! **Modelling** and **Expanding** help in positive ways, without it getting messy! Check out October to learn more about **Modelling**!




### September 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.hse.ie/happytalk](http://www.hse.ie/happytalk)





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# Happy Talk

September 2025

### Mindful Moment

#### Star Fish Breathing Mindful Moment




Invite the children to hold up one hand like a starfish (fingers spread wide), and to show you their pointing finger on the other hand.

Show them how to gently trace their pointing finger up and down each starfish finger, focusing on regular breathing at the same time. If you can, hold your breath for a few seconds at the top of each finger.

Start with your palm facing you, begin at the bottom of the thumb, and breath in deeply as you trace your pointing finger up the thumb; breathe out as you trace your pointing finger down the thumb.

Again, take another deep breath in as you trace your pointing finger up each finger, breathing out as you trace your pointing finger slowly down again.

Continue guiding the children to slowly trace up and down the remaining fingers with each deep breath. If you do both hands, by the time you are finish you will have taken 10 deep breaths, and had a lovely mindful moment.

### Welcome to Happy Talk Rhyme Time Voices and Games!

Songs and Rhymes Can Help You Learn to Learn!

Did you know? Playing with nursery rhymes supports early reading skills! Singing songs helps you learn new words, new ideas and new experiences! Songs and rhymes can help you learn about numbers and how to count!

By singing songs and saying rhymes that have numbers in them, you are teaching your child all about numbers, and how to count!

Songs and rhymes help us learn to learn! We use rhymes all the time in Happy Talk, we hope you will too!


### Rhyme

#### Potatoes!

One potato, two potatoes, three potatoes, four,  
Five potatoes, six potatoes, seven potatoes, more!

#### Five Green & Speckled Frogs

Five green & speckled frogs,  
Sat on a speckled log,  
Eating some most delicious bugs,  
Yum yum!  
One jumped into the pool,  
Where it was nice and cool,  
Then there were four  
green speckled frogs,  
Glug glug!



## Updated Aistear Workshop - \*Additional Session Added\*\*

Kerry CCC are holding a workshop on the updated Aistear framework.



This information packed session will explore the updated language, concepts, principles, guidance for good practice and learning goals in Aistear the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (2024).

This Session will take place in Kerry County Childcare offices on the following date: **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 6.30pm – 9.00pm.**

***We appreciate that some people will be coming straight from work, refreshments will be provided on arrival.***

### Booking Criteria:

- This training is open to Managers/Room leaders/Educators & Tusla registered Childminders in ELC settings.
- Booking is on a first come, first served basis.
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For bookings please email: [Eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:Eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## Training for Childminders



**National Action Plan  
for Childminding  
2021-2028**

### **Always Children First – Child Safeguarding Awareness for Childminders**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 6.30pm – 9.30 pm, Kerry CCC office

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm – 9.30pm, Kerry CCC office

***Both sessions must be attended to gain certification***

### **Basic First Aid for Childminders**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am – 4.30pm, Torc Hotel Killarney

For bookings contact Amy: [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## Jobs Board – Advertise your Vacancies

Advertise your vacancies for free on our website jobs Board



[Website Jobs Board](#) – Local Jobs Board for Kerry

Our Facebook page with over 1.4K followers posts regular links to our Jobs Board - If you would like to place an advert with us please email: [kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com)

We also offer a 'design you advert' service, prior to posting on our website - email [eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com) for further details.

**Kind Regards,**

**Kerry County Childcare Committee**