

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 15th - 19th September 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 15th - 19th September 2025.

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

30 th September 2025	QIPP Report final deadline
17 th October 2025	Deadline for the Learner Fund Bursary for Graduates and Childminders

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Embracing the Outdoors in the Updated Aistear



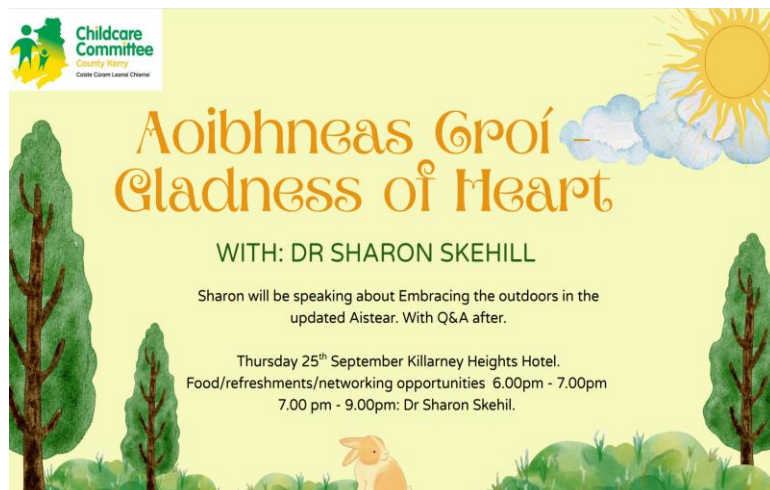
Last chance to book our free seminar with:

Dr. Sharon Skehill on the topic of “Embracing the Outdoors in the Updated Aistear”.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday 25th 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.

If you, or any of your staff team are interested in attending, please email eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com.



AIM Level 7 Funding



To ensure that Access and Inclusion (AIM) supports are in place for eligible children for the 2025/26 programme call, providers are asked to please submit AIM Level 4 and Level 7 applications as early as possible. Please note, to receive payment for AIM Standard supports, a child must have an active ECCE registration in that service.

To receive payment for AIM additional hours (AIM Plus/ AIM Non-term) a child must have:

- An approved AIM Standard application in the setting they are attending for ECCE and an active ECCE registration.
- An approved AIM Plus/Non-term application in the setting they are attending for hours outside of ECCE and a confirmed NCS claim in place.

Where a child is availing of AIM Plus/Non-term in a different service to AIM Standard, please contact the child's parents/legal guardians/carers to ensure an ECCE registration has been submitted in the setting the child is attending for ECCE.

Funding queries in relation to the AIM programme should be made to the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) by raising a Request using the following categories:

- Programme: AIM Level 7
- Request type: Funding
- Request type detail: (select the relevant option)

AIM Level 1 application process for services with new LINC graduates is now open



The AIM Level 1 application process has now opened on Early Years Hive for services with new graduates of the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) programme. A 'new graduate' refers to any person graduating in October 2025.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible. Applications received by 5pm on Thursday 23 October 2025 will be awarded the additional capitation from the Inclusion Co-ordinator's employment start date relevant to the 2025/2026 programme year.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as any applications received after this date will not be backdated.

Applications must be submitted via the Early Years Hive. Applicant guidelines can be found [here](#). Prior to submitting the AIM Level 1 application, service providers must ensure that they have completed their ECCE programme readiness steps and activated the ECCE Funding Agreement. Queries in relation to the AIM Level 1 application process - contact the Early Years Provider Centre by raising a [Request](#) on the Hive using the following categories:

- Programme: AIM Level 1
- Request type: Application
- Request type detail: How To

Update on this week's ECCE Programme payment



Please note that this Friday's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) payment, scheduled for 19th September 2025, will be calculated based on approved registrations up to 10th October 2025, less any preliminary payment already issued. The balance of the payment, relating to the week ending 17th October 2025, will be processed on Monday 22nd September 2025.

Public consultation on the regulation of school-age childcare

Minister Foley recently launched the Public Consultation on the Regulation of School Age Childcare and Early Learning and Care Services. This consultation is an opportunity for parents, school-age childcare practitioners, providers and other stakeholders to shape the legislation that supports the regulation of school-age childcare services. Further information on the public consultation can be accessed [here](#). The full press release can be accessed [here](#).



2025 Learner Fund Graduates and Childminder Bursary



The Learner Fund Bursary opened for applications for Graduates and Childminders on 15th September 2025.

This year, changes to eligibility and selection criteria of the Learner Fund Bursary have been introduced to align the scheme rules with those of the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF). The Learner Fund Bursary amount for 2025 will remain set at €1,000 however, where the demand for Learner Fund exceeds funding allocations, successful applicants will be selected based on the new eligibility and selections criteria. The rules have been amended to reflect an alignment with the NSLF scheme in relation to the eligibility criteria (and the selection criteria in case of excess demand).

Please see attached the application forms for graduates and childminders. For more information, including the rules for the above schemes, please visit the following page on the new Nurturing Skills website: [Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2025 | Nurturing Skills](#). Completed applications for the 2025 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary must be received by Kerry County Childcare Committee by **5pm on Friday, 17 October 2025**.

QIPP Report Template 2024/2025

The final deadline for completing the QIPP end of year report is Tuesday 30th September 2025.

Services who have not yet submitted their report can so do so via www.cfcrrs.ie.

A guidance video is available [here](#).

Contact Racel: rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com for further information and support.



Staff Funding Additional Contribution

This new funding allocation will be released if and when the new Employment Regulation Orders (ERO) are agreed. Further details will be released when the new EROs are agreed.



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](#).

National Beep Beep Day

National Beep Beep Day will take place on Friday 10th October 2025. Services can download resources and order RSA Beep Beep Day Packs [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.

Kind Regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee