

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 5: 2026 Week: 2nd – 6th February 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 2nd – 6th February 2026

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 th February 2026 | EOI CLIL/FCÁT |
| 14 th February 2026 | Core Funding Review & Confirm Closes |
| 20 th February 2026 | Completed Parent & Toddler Group applications |
| 27 th February 2026 | Portal opens for submission of year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance |

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Core Funding Review & Confirm



The February Review and Confirm window is now open until 14 February

2026. If your service requires support, additional resources are available under the [Core Funding Documents](#) and [Help and Support](#) sections on the Early Years Hive.

For further support with Review and Confirm please contact Pamela on: 066 7181582 / pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements for 2024/25 Programme Year



Any service provider in receipt of a Core Funding grant during the 2024/25

Programme Year is required to engage an accountant to submit a full Trial Balance for Year 3 of Core Funding. This is in line with the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2024/25.

These financial reports provide a tangible foundation for the analysis of the cost drivers within the sector, providing evidence-based financial data to support the development of future policy. The portal will open from Friday 27th February www.cfcrrs.ie

An FAQ is available [here](#)

Core Funding allocations can be sourced on hive by following the steps in the below link;

<https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/How-to-extract-your-allocation-information-for-Year-3-Financial>Returns-Technical-Guide.pdf>

Updated Aistear Workshop



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 26th February 6.30pm – 9.00pm.

We appreciate that some people will be coming straight from work, sandwiches and 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.

Bookings: eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com

Quality and Regulatory Framework



The QRF has been updated to reflect recent developments in policy and practice. The key changes are outlined on page 4.

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/EYI-GDE12.7_TUSLA_QRF_FDC_and_PT_.pdf

Quality and Regulatory Framework

- The **Early Years Inspectorate's Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF)** is designed to support registered early years services by clearly setting out the core regulatory requirements. It brings together evidence-based national and international research, along with best practice in early years care and education.
- The QRF aims to assist registered providers and all those working in early years services to achieve compliance with the regulations and to enhance the safety, quality, and overall experience of care for children attending these services.
- The **framework has been updated** to reflect recent developments in policy and practice. A summary of the latest changes can be found on page 4 of the document.



QIPP Report Template 2025/26 is Open for Completion



The Core Funding Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan (QIPP) Report Template 2025/26 is now open on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements Reporting System Portal <https://www.cfcrrs.ie/>

The PAU (Primary Authorised User) or QAU (Quality Authorised User) can begin to document and save any progress that has been made toward achieving the actions as outlined in their QIP Plan. To do so log into the CFCRRS portal, open the QIP Plan submitted at the start of the programme year, begin to answer the reporting questions and save the document as you go.

The deadline for completion of the 2025/26 QIPP Report is **Friday 31 July 2026**.

For additional support please contact Rachel: 066 7181582 / rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com

Parent & Toddler Group Grants 2026



Parent & Toddler Group Grants 2026 applications are open until Friday 20th February 2026. The closing date for receipt of complete applications from Parent & Toddler groups is Friday 20th February 2026. For a Grant Application Form please contact us on 066 7181582 or email pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

Expression of Interest now open for CLIL/FCÁT 2026



Early Learning and Care settings can apply to Better Start to take part in introducing Irish as part of the daily routine through the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) / Foghlaim Chomhtháite Ábhar agus Teanga (FCÁT) programme. This approach supports children to encounter Irish naturally through meaningful everyday experiences — including routines, stories, play, exploration, and social interaction. To register your interest: [Click here](#) before 6 February 2026
For more information contact: professionaldevelopment@betterstart.ie

Let's Talk Early Years: Minister Foley launches The National Conversation on Education – the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare



An Roinn Leanaí, Michuma agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, today launched an online survey for parents, early years educators, providers, and other stakeholders as part of The National Conversation on Education. The 12-question survey will explore the key priorities for early learning

and care, school age childcare and childminding, what should change or stay the same, and how to make these settings better for babies, young children, and young people. The online survey will examine the role of early learning and care and school-age childcare in the education system as part of the wider National Conversation on Education working in tandem with the current Department of Education and Youth survey that focuses on schools. The online survey launched today and can be accessed [here](#)

Free Job Vacancy Advertising on our Website



<https://www.kerrycountychildcare.com/local-jobs-board-for-kerry/>

If you would like to post an advert please contact 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