

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 7: 2026 Week: 16th-20th February 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 16th – 20th February 2026

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 2026



Key Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Childminding Development Grant - Applications Open. Closes 15/4/2026	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 P&T Grant Application Deadline: **Today**	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Portal opens for year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance	28 Closes 31/03/2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Barnardos Webinar – Understanding Young Childrens Behaviour in Early Learning and Care



Kerry CCC together with Barnardos are excited to offer this free online Webinar to ELC Educators, SAC practitioners and Childminders in Kerry.



Date: 3rd March 2026

Time: 18.30pm – 20.30pm

Venue: Online

Bookings: eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com (*include full name and email address of those interested in registering*)

**ONLINE
WEBINAR**

**Kerry County Childcare
Committee
together with Barnardos**

are excited to offer this 2 hour
webinar to Early Years
Educators, School Aged
Childcare Practitioners and
Childminders in Kerry

3 MARCH 2026

6.30PM – 8.30PM

REGISTER NOW

066 7181582

elish@kerrycountychildcare.com

Childcare
Committee
Kerry County

Understanding Young Children's Behaviour in Early Learning & Care

Overview

This workshop is suitable for those working in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare, interested in learning more about supporting children's social and emotional wellbeing. This may also be of interest to Childminders.

The aim of this workshop is to support early years educators in considering the factors that influence children's behaviour and to see behaviour as communication. Understanding children's behaviour is key to supporting young children's social and emotional wellbeing. This is an area of practice that early years educators strive to understand and implement quality practices to support children in their care.

Outcomes

Following the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe why it is important to understand young children's behaviour
- List factors that influence young children's behaviour
- Recognise children's behaviour as communication
- Identify strategies to support the social and emotional well-being of children

Because childhood lasts a lifetime

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

Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements for 2024/25 Programme Year



All Partner Services who received Core Funding during the 2024/25 Programme Year are required to engage an accountant to submit a full Trial Balance for Year 3 of Core Funding. The [CFCRRS portal](#) will open from **Friday 27th February 2026** and will close on 31/03/2026. Supporting documents are available [here](#).

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund



Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSFL) is expected to open for applications in Mid-March 2026. NSLF aims to support ELC educators to pursue a Level 7 or Level 8 approved childcare qualification. The eligibility criteria are stated on the attached document.

Exploring and Understanding the Updated Aistear Webinar

The National *Síolta Aistear* Initiative, in partnership with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and early years educators working in practice are hosting a national webinar series called: *Exploring and Understanding the Updated Aistear: A National Webinar Series*.



The first webinar of the series will be held online on **Tuesday, February 24th, from 7 - 8 30pm**. It is open to all early year's educators. Please register your interest in this webinar at this link - [Bringing Aistear's image of the baby, toddler and young child to life in practice](#)

Online AIM Information Sessions – Parents and Providers

The Better Start AIM team are hosting two online AIM information sessions, one for Providers and one for Parents. Details for both are outlined below. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to any parents that you know who might be interested and, if possible, share the attached poster on your Social Media.

AIM Information Sessions for Providers

Date: Tuesday 24/03/2026 Time: 19.00 - 20.00

Bookings: elish@kerrycountychildcare.com

AIM Information Sessions for Parents

Date: Wednesday 25/03/2026 Time: 19.00 - 20.00

Bookings: info@kerrycountychildcare.com or phone on 066 7181582



The poster features the AIM logo (ACCESS INCLUSION MODEL) and the Childcare Committee logo (Cuideann Leanaí / Othair). The main text asks if the child is attending preschool or starting the free ECCE programme in September 2026, and if there are concerns about development or interactions. It explains that the AIM is designed to help all children get the most out of their preschool years. Below this is an illustration of a 'BABY LEARNING & CARE CENTRE' with a sign that says 'The Access and Inclusion Model Learning and playing together'. The illustration shows a person in a wheelchair, a woman, and several children playing in a park-like setting. At the bottom, it states the AIM Team will host an on-line information session for parents interested in finding out more about the AIM programme, including information on AIM Plus (term time and non term time) will also be provided. The date is Wednesday, 25th March 2026, from 7.00pm - 8pm. Bookings are to be made with Kerry CCC on 066 7181582 or info@kerrycountychildcare.com.

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

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

Childminding Development Grant 2026

On 9th February, Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Disability & Equality, announced the opening of the [2026 Childminding](#)

[Development Grant](#). The grant application window is from **Wednesday, 11th February to Wednesday, 15th April 2026**.

For further information about the Childminding Development Grant 2026, including the application form, contact Amy: 087 7885114 / amy@kerrycountychildcare.com



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

Integrated and Playful STEM Webinar

This webinar is suitable for teachers and SNAs of **preschool, Junior and Senior Infant classes**. It looks at how we can integrate STEM into our preschool and primary school curriculum through play-based activities while also achieving key learning outcomes.

Dates: Thursday 26th February 2026

Time: 7-8.30 pm

Facilitator: Paula Walsh

If you are interested in attending the webinar, please register [here](#).

The First Five Years and School-Age Childcare Consultation Survey

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, today launched a new 12 question survey for parents, early years educators, providers and other stakeholders as part of the National Conversation on Education. The survey seeks views on priorities for early learning and care, school-age childcare and childminding. The online survey can be accessed [here](#).



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

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