

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 9:2026 Week: 2nd– 6th March 2026

Dear Colleagues

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

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 2026

Key Dates



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Online AIM Information Session: Providers	25 Online AIM Information Session: Parents	26	27	28
29	30	31 Portal closes for year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance	1	2	3	4 CMDG Applications Close 15/4/2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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](#).

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 post on our Facebook page.

AIM Information Sessions for Providers

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

Bookings: eilish@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 (Coiste Cairen Leasaí / Children's Care Committee). The main title is 'Parents Online AIM Information Session'. Below the title, it asks if the child is attending preschool or due to start the free ECCE pre-school programme in September 2026, and if there are concerns about development/interactions. It states that the AIM is designed to help all children get the most out of their preschool years. The central illustration shows a building labeled 'EARLY LEARNING & CARE CENTRE' with a window showing a teacher and children. Outside, a woman pushes a child in a wheelchair, and other children are playing. Below the illustration, it says 'The Access and Inclusion Model Learning and playing together'. At the bottom, it provides the date 'Wednesday, 25th March 2026' from 7.00pm - 8pm, and booking information: 'Bookings Kerry CCC on 066 7181582 / info@kerrycountychildcare.com'.

AIM ACCESS INCLUSION MODEL

Childcare Committee
Coiste Cairen Leasaí / Children's Care Committee

Parents Online AIM Information Session

Is your child attending preschool or due to start the free ECCE pre-school programme in September 2026?

Do you have any concerns about their development/interactions and feel additional support in their pre-school might help?

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) is designed to help all children get the most out of their preschool years.

The Access and Inclusion Model
Learning and playing together

The AIM Team will host an on-line information session for parents interested in finding out more about the AIM programme. Information on AIM Plus (term time and non term time) will also be provided.

Wednesday, 25th March 2026 7.00pm - 8pm

Bookings Kerry CCC on 066 7181582 / info@kerrycountychildcare.com

QIPP Report Template 2025/26 is Open for Completion



The Core Funding QIPP Report Template 2025/26 is now open on the [CFCRRS Portal](#). 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

The Childminding Development Grant is open for applications until Wednesday, 15th April 2026.



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

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

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, Michuma agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Journey Through the HIVE training



For new or existing users who wish to refresh their navigation skills on the HIVE please click on the link below to register:

[Journey Through the Early Years Hive: Thursday 12 March at 10:30am to 11:30am](#)

Aim Level 5 Equipment – Transfer of Ownership



A transfer of ownership of the equipment when a child finishes their participation in the ECCE programme. This process opened on 04 March 2026.

Click here for a [How to guide](#) on how to complete the process or you can find the recorded [training webinar](#) here.

Happy Talk

Find attached and below the Happy Talk calendar for March, this month's topic is Face to Face.

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Happy Talk

Shaking Sillies Mindful Moment

Stand still like a statue, and breathe in and out.

'Shaking Sillies' are when different parts of your body, or your whole body, acts silly through shaking, moving, making funny actions, or funny dances, making silly faces.

Listen for when the 'Shaking Sillies' will visit in your body. We always take a deep breathe after finding the sillies in different places in our body. See can you find them!

First, the 'Shaking Sillies' will visit your arms. What silly moves can you make your arms do? Can you find the jiggles

in your arms, or be a robot, or wrap your arms around your body? Deep breath.

Next, the 'Shaking Sillies' will visit your face. What willy faces can you make? Can you look shocked, or stick our your tongue, or blink really fast? Deep breath.

Last, the 'Shaking Sillies' will visit your legs. What silly moves can you do with your legs? Can you march on the spot, spread your legs very wide, find jiggles in your legs? Deep breath.

Stand like a statue, and breathe in and out. Notice how your body feels after having the chance to be silly!

Rhyme Time Voices and Games:

Let's Get Personal!
Everybody loves some attention! Use Nursery Rhymes to include your child, and let them take turns, and play a part.

In Five Current Buns we can:
Use names of children / family in the rhyme:
'Along came Michael with a penny one day...'
Take turns saying every second line or, when you know it very well, every second word!
Ask the children what actions you could use for each part of the rhyme.

March 2026

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					

17 Mar - St. Patrick's Day

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

Happy Talk

March 2025

Language Activity - Baby Brains; Get Face to Face!

Just like when babies are encouraged to have Tummy Time every day, we say babies will benefit from Face to Face time every day too. Did you know 80% of a child's brain development happens by the time a child is 3 years old? It's important in these early years that we help children to develop their brains to their full potential. To do this, we must get Face to Face and talk to our children.

Of course, we know technology and screens are part of our daily lives, and so it is not realistic to cut out screens entirely but remember there is no substitute for Face-to-Face contact with your baby or child. One of the most precious gifts you can give your baby or child is to spend time Face to Face every day. Work Face to Face time into your routine.

Being Face to Face helps your child to...

- Know that you are paying attention and are interested in them
- Have shared fun and experiences
- Learn to focus on the same things as you
- See how you say different sounds and words!

Being Face to Face helps you...

- Notice what your child is looking at and interested in
- Observe your child's facial expressions - so you know when to keep going or when to change activities

How do I get face to face?

- Get down to your child's physical level (sit on the floor, hold your baby in front of your face, sit your baby facing you on your lap, lie on the floor facing your baby)
- Respond to your child's movements to maintain eye contact
- Hold your child's favourite toy by your cheek to encourage them to look at your eyes and mouth.

Rhyme Five Current Buns

Ideas:

- Use rattles, tickling games, peek-a-boo, and mirrors to encourage your baby to play, have fun and make sounds, with you. Puppets can be a good way to help your baby to hear and have a chance to make sounds.
- Hide a puppet behind your back and say 'Hello' as you show it to your baby. Say 'Bye-bye' as the puppet hides again.
- Make the puppet sing and play games such as 'Round and Round the Garden'
- Put the puppet to sleep, bring him for a walk, make him say a rhyme

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026

Seachtain na Gaeilge runs for 01 – 17 March. It's a great opportunity or child to spend time Face to Face every day. Work Face to Face time into your routine.

You will find some games you can download and useful phrases through the following link. [Games – Seachtain na Gaeilge](#)



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