

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 6: 2026 Week: 9th-13th February 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 9th – 13th 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	12	13	14 Core Funding Review and Confirm Closes
15	16	17	18	19	20 P&T Grant Application Deadline	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Portal opens for of year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance	28

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Core Funding Review & Confirm



The February Review and Confirm window closes tomorrow 14th 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

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*)

Please note: Places are limited to 5 per service but we are taking names for a waiting list.

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
eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com



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





Barnardos
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

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.

The portal will open from Friday 27th February www.cfcrrs.ie

Supporting documents are available [here](#).

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 working with babies, toddlers and young children. 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](#)

NCS, ECCE & CCSP Saver Programme February mid-term maintenance



As the February mid-term approaches, it may be necessary to make the following changes on your Early Years Hive:

- NCS: Service Calendar and Returns
- ECCE: Service Calendar
- CCSP Saver Programme: Amending Sessions (e.g. a child is moving from part-time to full-time)

If your service is closed for a full week and at least one of those days is designated as a subsidised closure, you will be given the option to request a bridging payment for the closed week(s) on the NCS return one week prior to the closure.

It is advised to make any necessary changes as soon as possible to ensure there are no issues when returns are submitted and payments processed.

More details can be found on Hive in the announcement dated 6th February 2026.

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

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



Childminding Development Grant 2026

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



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

[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

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 at the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jrYM1R3pTr2b9GDuBQ1RCQ

Ireland Reads 2026



Please find attached an invitation to Ireland Reads Day, which takes place on Saturday, 28th February 2026.

Tusla – Early Years Inspectorate Enforcement Powers

Early Years Inspectorate Enforcement Powers
The Inspectorate has published some additional information relating to the introduction of the new enforcement powers

[Additional information on the website about the new powers](#)

Enforcement Power	When to Use It
Improvement Notice A written notice to a provider to improve a service.	When a provider is not meeting the minimum standards of care.
Improvement Order A Court Order if the provider does not improve the service.	When a provider does not improve the service within a set period.
Immediate Action Notice A written notice to a provider to stop an activity immediately.	When a provider is putting children at risk of harm.
Immediate Action Order A Court Order if the provider does not stop the activity.	When a provider does not stop the activity immediately.
Temporary Prohibition Order A Court Order to stop a provider from providing services for a limited period.	When a provider is putting children at risk of harm and the provider does not improve the service.
Closure Order A Court Order if a Temporary Prohibition Order is not complied with.	When a provider is putting children at risk of harm and the provider does not improve the service.

A **guidance document** intended to provide information and guidance to Registered Providers of early years services (including childminders), and management and staff in early years services on Statutory Notices and Orders.

A **webinar** providing information and advice relation to the implementation of the new powers

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](#).



Happy Talk February

Please see the attached and below the Happy Talk Calendar for February 2026. This month's theme is: *It's Never Too Early to Start with Books*.

Happy Talk
February 2026

Burst the Clouds Mindful Moment
As you sit or lie down on the ground, look up towards the ceiling and imagine there are dark clouds filling up the 'sky'.
Take three slow breaths as we look up at the dark grey clouds. Imagine you are feeling grumpy, and feeling dark and grey like the clouds. Show us your grumpy face. Take three slow breaths as you feel grumpy.
Everyone feels grumpy sometimes. Now, imagine some light is beginning to shine through the dark clouds. Imagine, the light is coming through the cloud, and gently warming your face. Let the light make you smile! Take three slow breaths, and let the light grow until it bursts the cloud, and a rainbow of light shines through.

Rhyme Time Voices and Games. Get some voices & games going.
Try using these voices when you are learning a new rhyme:
Slow Motion / Fast Forward: Decrease and increase the speed you say the rhymes at. Use a 'pretend' remote control to go faster and slower.
Robot Voice: Find your 'Robot Button' on your arm. (It's there, we promise!) when you press it you will turn into a robot. Say the rhyme like a robot breaking each word into its parts.
Whisper: Make yourself as small as a mouse and whisper the rhyme.
Loud - Quiet - Loud: Moving your hands from up in the air to the ground go from loud to quiet to loud. Again, use your 'pretend' remote.

Rhyme Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick
Laughing. Say the rhyme while laughing, so much fun!
Silly voice. Invite the children to find their best silly voice to say the rhyme.
When you know the rhyme well try these games:
Rhymes and Rhythms: Say the rhyme to a beat, playing the 'drums' on your lap, or marching.
With someone else say the rhyme every second word.
Swap out the rhyming words and make new versions of the rhyme.

Happy Talk
Language Activity - It's Never Too Early to Start with Books

You can't go wrong with a book! Did you know you can join your local library for free on the day you are born! Or at least your parent can join on your behalf! And there are no late fees! Your library will even order in books in your language, or books you are interested in, and let you know when the book has arrived for you to collect! Libraries are brilliant!

At Happy Talk we cannot recommend books highly enough, this is why we love to meet Happy Talkers at the Library.

When we give babies a book they start learning about what a book is, how it works, and they learn from the very beginning that you encourage and support books in your home and family life.

When we give toddlers a book they learn new words, how to look and listen, and yes they even learn how to chew and throw!

When you give a child a book they learn about themselves and others, they learn how to tell good stories and how to communicate well.

Are you a Book Loving Family? Know this...
When you bring your child to the library you give them a companion and safe space for life. Libraries are open, welcoming, fun, educating, entertaining, and free! Read with your child, they will enjoy your undivided attention, and feel so happy, safe and relaxed. Visiting the library together is a fun, free family activity. You can stay all day, and take home lots of books. Make sure to get books for you too!

February 2026

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

1 Feb - St. Brigid's Day • 2 Feb - Bank Holiday

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

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