

# This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 12:2026 Week: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 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	25	26	27 Creative Fun Application Deadline	28
29	30	31 Portal closes for year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance	1	2	CMDG Applications Close 15/4/2026	NS Leaner Fund Applications Close 01/05/2026

20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April: The National Conversation on Education: The First Five Years and School-Age Childcare – Consultations with City and County Childcare Committees. Kerry date: 20/04/2026. Details below.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements for 2024/25 Programme Year



All Partner Services who received Core Funding during the 24/25 Programme

Year are required to engage an accountant to submit a full Trial Balance for Year

3 of Core Funding. The [CFCRRS portal](#) opened on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February and will close **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**. Supporting documents are available [here](#).

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## NCS, ECCE & CCSP over Easter 2026



Just a reminder to check NCS, ECCE & CCSP calendars to reflect closures over the upcoming Easter period. For further information on service calendars, please see the guidance available on the Early Years Hive [here](#). Changes cannot be made to service calendar opening hours or claim hours once a return for that week has been submitted on the Early Years Hive.

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## Nurturing Skills Learner Fund 2026/27



Applications for the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) for the academic year 2026/2027 is open. Applications should be submitted via the NSLF student portal. Send a request to [NSLF@pobal.ie](mailto:NSLF@pobal.ie) to register on the NSLF student portal. The portal will close for applications on 1 May 2026 at 5 pm. A recording of the recent webinar is [here](#)

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## The National Conversation on Education: The First Five Years and School-Age Childcare – Consultations with City and County Childcare Committees



*Have Your Say in the Future of Early Learning and School-Age Childcare.*

As part of the National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare the Department is holding a series of local consultation events taking place nationwide from 20–30 April 2026. These consultations are being organised and delivered by the 30 City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs). Please see link below.

[The National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare – Fill in form](#)

Each consultation will run for approximately 1.5-2 hours giving all participants the opportunity to contribute. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Whether you're a parent, an early year's educator, a school age childcare practitioner, a childminder, a service provider, or someone with an interest in the future of early learning and care and school age childcare- we want to hear from you.

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## NeuroKind: Supporting Every Child

Kerry County Childcare Committee are delighted to announce that we are facilitating the following seminar: **NeuroKind: Supporting Every Child**



This seminar will take place on Saturday, 18th April 2026 in The Rose Hotel, Tralee.

We invite early years and school aged educators and Childminders to join us for this engaging and informative session focused on fostering neuro-inclusive, supportive environments for all children.

## Event Summary

Ciara Watson and Stef McSherry will be delivering three exciting and impactful workshops:

- Supporting Neurodivergent Children in Your Setting - Ciara Watson
- Building Positive Partnerships with Parents: Approaching Concerns – Ciara Watson
- Mindfulness, Emotions & Regulation Interactive Workshop - Stef McSherry

These sessions are designed to inspire, support, and empower early years and school-age practitioners with practical, real-world tools they can use immediately in their settings.

**For full event details please see the attached brochure.**

To ensure fair access, each service may book up to 3 participants.

However, you will have the option to request additional staff to be placed on a waiting list, and we will allocate extra spaces if they become available.

**Booking link below:**

[Kerry County Childcare Committee: NeuroKind: Supporting Every Child. 18th April 2026 – Fill in form](#)

The brochure features a green and yellow color scheme. At the top left is the Childcare Committee County Kerry logo. The main title is 'NEUROKIND: SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD'. Below this, it states: 'Kerry County Childcare Committee invites early years and school aged educators to join us for this engaging and informative session focused on fostering neuro-inclusive, supportive environments for all children.' The event details are listed in a yellow box: 'April 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026', '9.30am – 5.00pm', 'The Rose Hotel, Tralee', and 'Lunch and Refreshments provided'. A circular photo shows three children sitting on the ground. Below the event details, there are two sections: 'Our Workshops:' with a bulleted list of the three workshops, and 'Our Speakers:' featuring photos and logos for Ciara Watson (Autism Supports) and Stef McSherry (IndeRama, IRISH Fairy Tails). At the bottom, a green banner reads 'Places are limited so early booking is advised'.

## Creative Fun Initiative

Kerry County Childcare Committee and Kerry LCYP are inviting six ECCE service providers in Kerry (one ECCE session per service) to participate in a new pilot initiative, “Creative Fun.” The six services will be an even mixture of Community and Private providers.



This pilot programme is grounded in the principles of child-led participation and delivered through a series of creative, play-based workshops. It aims to strengthen and enhance child participation and educators' confidence and skills in the creative arts.

If your service is interested in taking part, you can access the application form here: [Creative Fun Application Form – Fill in form](#)

Please complete the application form with as much detail as possible. Selection will be based on:

- your service's current level of child participation,
- experience in delivering creative arts projects
- relevant training or CPD previously undertaken.

In the event of being oversubscribed after the selection criteria has been met, we will use a random selection process to decide the six successful services.

Successful services must be able to commit to accommodating six, two-hour workshops in their ECCE session, and an initial meeting with facilitators of programme.

**Application Deadline: Today 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

*If you have any questions regarding the Creative Fun Programme, please contact Rachel:*

[rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com) / 066 7181582

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## Communicating with Confidence as a Professional Childminder - Webinar

The poster is for a webinar titled "COMMUNICATING WITH CONFIDENCE AS A PROFESSIONAL CHILDMINDER". It features a circular portrait of Maureen McCowen, a Presentation Skills Specialist at Soft Skill Success. The event is on the 9th of April (Thursday) from 19:30 PM to 20:30 PM, held online via Zoom. There are limited spaces available. Contact information includes the phone number 0877885114 and the email amy@kerrycountychildcare.com. The Childcare Committee logo is in the top left. At the bottom right, it says "Supporting Childminders in communicating clearly and confidently with Parents 10:12".



For further information and to book a place contact [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com) / 087 7885114

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## Childminding Development Grant 2026

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



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

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## **Kerry County Childcare Committee**

We invite you to visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our [Facebook](#) page or updates and relevant content .

**Kind regards**

**Kerry County Childcare Committee**