

# This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin




**Issue 14:2026 Week: 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

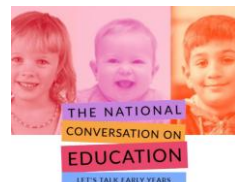
## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 2026							 <b>Childcare Committee</b> County Kerry Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí Teo
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1	2	3	4	<b>NOTES</b>  Only 10 spaces remaining for the NeuroKind seminar.  The National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare Consultation is now fully booked. We are taking names for the waiting list.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15 CMDG Applications Close 15/4/2026	16	17	18 Kerry CCC NeuroKind Seminar The Rose Hotel, Tralee	
19	20 The National Conversation on Education Consultation Fully Booked	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	NS Leaner Fund Applications Close 01/05/2026		

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### National Conversation on Education – Children’s Creative Spaces

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley is inviting children from Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services across the country to take part in Children’s Creative Spaces celebrating the theme “Where I learn and play” The aim is to give children the opportunity to express creativity, belonging, and their own experiences of their setting (*Early Years or School Age Childcare/Afterschool*) adding their voice as part of the [National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare](#).



### Timeline

**31 March – 30 April:** Educators/settings engage in art activities with the children in their service using guidance provided by DCDE.

**7 May:** Submit digital version of artwork to CCCs via [info@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:info@kerrycountychildcare.com)

**15 May – 31 May:** Keep an eye out for local galleries on our website and Facebook account.

Please note that artwork submitted to the Children’s Creative Spaces may be published on gov.ie, on CCC websites, in future government documents, in follow-up reports, and on social media accounts. By submitting artwork, it will be taken that consent has been obtained by services from children and parents for the Department of Children, Disability and Equality and the City and County Childcare Committees.

Please find attached a copy of the Educator Guide for more details.

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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<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. These consultations are being organised and delivered by the 30 City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs).

***Please note the Kerry consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 is fully booked – if you would like to be added to a waiting list please email: [elish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:elish@kerrycountychildcare.com).***

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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 closes for applications on 1 May 2026 at 5 pm. A recording of the recent webinar is [here](#).

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## **Annual Early Years Sector Profile Survey**

The 2025/26 survey is expected to be launched on the Early Years Hive at the beginning of May, and services will have three weeks to complete the survey.



Guidance documentation and training videos will be available on the Early Years Hive. In addition, Kerry County Childcare Committee is available to assist. While it is anticipated that all services will complete the survey, the completion of this year’s survey is mandatory for all existing Core Funding Partner Services.

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## NeuroKind: Supporting Every Child



**\*\* 10 spaces remaining\*\***

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.

**Booking link below:**

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

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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, including the application form, contact Amy: 087 7885114 /

[amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)



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## Linc Programme 2026 / 2027



Applications for the 2026/27 LINC Programme will open on **Monday, 13 April at 11am** and will close on **Tuesday, 12 May at 2pm**. The programme will commence in September 2026. The LINC Level 6 Programme brochure, which can be accessed [here](#).

The LINC Programme Team will be hosting an online information session specifically for managers on **Monday, April 20th at 7pm**. This session is designed for managers who would like to learn more about the LINC Programme and how participation can support their setting, their team, and the development of inclusive practice. During the session, we will provide an overview of the programme structure, the application process, and the role of the Inclusion Coordinator (INCO). To attend, managers are asked to register before 3pm on Monday, April 20th via this [link](#).

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Kind regards

Kerry County Childcare Committee