

# This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



**Issue 17:2026** Week: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> May

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 27<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				NS Leaner Fund Applications Close 01/05/2026	1 Review and Confirm Window Opens	2
3	4 Bank Holiday	5 Annual Early Years Sector Profile Opens @ 2pm on EYP HIVE	6	7 Deadline for submission of art work for Childrens Creative Spaces	8	9
10	11	12 LINC Applications Close	13	14 Review & Confirm Window Closes	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Annual Early Years Sector Profile Closes @ 3pm	27	28	29	30
31						

**NOTES**

- Review and Confirm Window 1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Annual Early Years Sector Profile. 5<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Healthy Lunchbox Leaflets available for collection - contact: 066 7181 582 [elish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:elish@kerrycountychildcare.com)





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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Annual Early Years Sector Profile



The 2025/26 Annual Early Years Sector Profile (AEYSP) survey will be available on the EY Hive from Tuesday 05 May until Tuesday 26 May 2026. The AEYSP plays a central role in monitoring trends in the sector, informing policy development and assessing the impact of policy change. It is important that the Service Profile is up to date before completing the AEYSP survey. All services are encouraged to complete the survey. It is mandatory for all existing Core Funding Partner Services complete the survey within the open window. Guidance documentation and videos will be available on the EY Hive.

## AIM

Applications for AIM level 4 and 5 for the 2026/27 programme call will open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.



AIM Level 7 is currently undergoing a planned remodel, aimed to simplify the application process and reduce administration for services. Service providers are not required to submit an AIM Level 7 application for 2026/27 at this time. If a service provider wishes to avail of AIM Level 7 support for the upcoming programme call, this can be indicated through the AIM Level 4 application process when an Early Years Specialist makes contact. Where a child has an existing AIM Level 7 application for the 2025/26 programme call and is eligible for a further year of support, no action is required at this time. Further guidance will be shared in the coming weeks

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## Core Funding Review & Confirm

The May Review and Confirm window is open from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 until 14<sup>th</sup> May 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 additional support please contact Pamela: [pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com)



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## Trauma Awareness Training

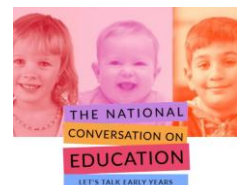
Barnardos will hold Trauma Awareness in Early Learning and Care training online on 19<sup>th</sup> May. The aim of the training is to build expertise and confidence among the Early Years professionals supporting children who have experiences of trauma. Including theoretical concepts of trauma awareness and examples of the practical application of these concepts in an ELC setting. Book your place or find out more [here](#).



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

Children from ELC and SAC services across the country are invited 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/After School) adding their voice as part of the [National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years and School-Age Childcare](#).



Please find further details in the Educator Guides – available to download [here](#).

**Pictures to be emailed to [elish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:elish@kerrycountychildcare.com) - deadline for submission extended to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

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## Building Blocks Extension Scheme Phase 2



An Roinn Leanai, Michuma agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

Further to last week's launch of the Building Blocks Extension Scheme Phase 2 please find below the link to the Communique on the DCDE's website providing further information on the scheme. Please note this link will be further updated in the coming weeks with additional information.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/building-blocks-extension-scheme-phase-2/>

If you have further queries please contact us: [info@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:info@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## LINC 2026/2027 Programme: Applications Now Open



Applications are now open for the 2026/2027 LINC Level 6 Programme. Through the LINC Programme, graduates gain Lead Educator/Room Leader status, participate in a DCDE fully funded programme and engage in a flexible blended model of delivery. Applications close Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.

[LINC Programme](#)

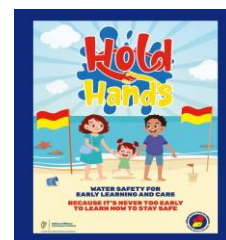
[LINC Programme Brochure 2026/27](#)

[LINC online information sessions](#)

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## Water Safety Ireland Hold Hands programme – Free Training Session

Water Safety Ireland are offering a free training session on delivering the Hold Hands programme. The session will take place online Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 12:30-13:15. Register [here](#).



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## Healthy Lunchboxes

The DCDE in conjunction with Safe Food has distributed “Healthy Lunchboxes” resources to all County & City Childcare Committees.

Kerry County Childcare Committee have a limited number of copies for services to pick up. You can contact Eilish on 066 7181582 or email [eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com) to arrange collection.

**Leaflets will be distributed on a first come first served basis.**



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## Parent Plus Early Years Training Programme

A new edition of the Parents Plus Early Years (PPEY) programme which will be launched on the 18th of June 2026. Free to attend 18<sup>th</sup> June 2-3pm. Register [here](#).

## Sustain the Spark

Childhood services week 2026 'Sustain the Spark' will run from the 11<sup>th</sup> May until the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026. NCN is offering free online webinars designed to support the continued professional development of educators across Ireland. A full list of events is available [here](#).



## Childminding Pre-Registration Training



Pre-Registration Training is offered to anyone interested in finding out more about childminding. The training is mandatory for childminders who wish to register with Tusla. The training is free and takes approximately 7 hours to complete. There is no assessment, and participants receive a certificate upon completion. Upcoming dates are: Online on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Both sessions must be attended to complete the training.

**PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS**

**Childcare Committee**  
County Kerry  
Comhairle Cúraim Leanaí, Contae Chiarraí

**Online**

**TRAINING DATES**

**TUESDAY MAY 12TH 2026**  
6.30PM TO 9.30PM  
&  
**THURSDAY MAY 14TH 2026**  
6.30PM TO 9.30PM  
**BOTH SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO COMPLETE COURSE**

**Information on:**

- Being a childminder
- Understanding new childminding regulations
- Documents required for Tusla registration

**THIS TRAINING IS A REQUIREMENT FOR TUSLA REGISTRATION**

**For Bookings contact:**  
Amy on 0877885114  
amy@kerrycountychildcare.com

If you are interested in attending, please contact Amy:

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

087 7885114

## Kerry County Childcare Committee

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

### Kerry CCC Instagram

Scan to follow our new Instagram page



Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend

Kind regards

Kerry County Childcare Committee