

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 18:2026 Week: 4th – 8th May 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 4th May – 8th May 2026

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

| MAY 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1 Review and Confirm Window Opens | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Bank Holiday | 5 Annual Early Years Sector Profile Opens @ 2pm on EYP HIVE | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 LINC Applications Close | 13 | 14 Review & Confirm Window Closes | NS Learner Fund Applications Deadline Extension | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Annual Early Years Sector Profile Closes @ 3pm | 27 | 28 | 29 National CPD mapping exercise | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

NOTES

- Review and Confirm Window 1st-14th May 2026
- Annual Early Years Sector Profile. 5th - 26th May 2026
- Healthy Lunchbox Leaflets available for collection - contact: 066 7181 582 eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com



Follow us on
[Instagram](#)

and [Facebook](#)



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 until Tuesday 26 May 2026. 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.



Nurturing Skills Learner Fund

The application deadline for the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund

(NSLF) for the 2026/2027 academic year has been extended to Friday 15th May. Applications are submitted on the NSLF portal. To request a link to register contact NSLF@pobal.ie



Core Funding Review & Confirm

The May Review and Confirm window is open from 1st May 2026 until 14th May 2026. If your service requires support, 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



Student Fast Track Assessment

The DCDE have announced a *temporary* student fast track assessment application process for students enrolled in a recognized level 6, 7 or 8 early years programme to support services to maintain staff capacity over the summer months. The process will open between 6th May 2026 to 1st September 2026. Please see attached document for information on how to apply.



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

Trauma Awareness Training

Barnardos will hold Trauma Awareness in Early Learning and Care training online on 19th 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](#).



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, 12th May at 2pm.**

[LINC Programme](#)

[LINC Programme Brochure 2026/27](#)

[LINC online information sessions](#)



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 to arrange collection.

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



National CPD Mapping Exercise

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE), in partnership with Crowe Ireland, is undertaking a National Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Mapping Exercise to identify existing CPD opportunities across the Early Learning and Care (ELC), School-Age Childcare (SAC) and Childminding sectors. The survey is open to everyone working in ELC, SAC & childminding and can be accessed here: [DCDE CPD Mapping Exercise - Educators Survey](#) It is available to submit from May 7th to May 29th. Please circulate amongst all staff. All feedback is welcome.



AIM Level 4&5 2026 2027 programme year

The AIM Level 4 and 5 application process for the 2026/2027 programme call is now open. Please see guidance on hive for further information

Sustain the Spark



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



Kind regards

Kerry County Childcare Committee