

# This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 19:2026 Week: 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 11<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026



## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	****NSLF applications**** closing today
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Annual Early Years Sector Profile Closes
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2pm	Applications for the Leadership for Inclusion Programme Extended Deadline
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	National CPD mapping exercise (please see below)

## 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Nurturing Skills Learner Fund



The application deadline for the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) for the 2026/2027 academic year has been extended to today Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Applications are submitted on the NSLF portal. To request a link to register contact [NSLF@pobal.ie](mailto:NSLF@pobal.ie)

### LINC 2026/2027 Programme (Closing date extended until Tuesday 26 May @ 2pm)



There is still time to apply for this fully funded 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. ***In-person Saturday classes in Tralee for the 2026 / 2027 programme.***



Please see <https://lincprogramme.ie/> for further details.

## National CPD Mapping Exercise

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE), in partnership with Crowe Ireland, is undertaking a 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 until 29<sup>th</sup> May. **Please circulate amongst all staff.** All feedback is welcome.



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchuma agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

## Student Fast Track Assessment

The DCDE 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 is now open.

Students can access the application [Form](#) here. Once completed the application form should be submitted to [EYQualifications@dcde.gov.ie](mailto:EYQualifications@dcde.gov.ie)



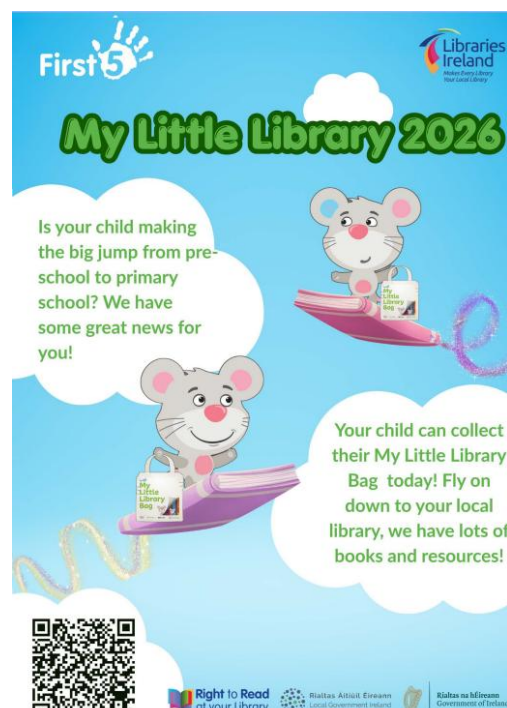
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Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

## My Little Library 2026

Minister Foley has announced the launch of My Little Library 2026.

The book bags for every child finishing pre-school and starting primary school in September are being delivered to libraries.

Please see links to invitations in [English](#) and [Irish](#), [QR codes](#) to send to parents on WhatsApp and a [poster](#) for your service.



## Trauma Awareness Training

Barnardo's will hold Trauma Awareness in Early Learning and Care training online on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Further information about the training or to book [here](#).



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## Healthy Lunchboxes

We have a limited number of copies still available for services to pick up.

You can contact Eilish on 066 7181582 or email

[eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com) to arrange collection.



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## Playful Parenting Webinar

(for Infant Mental Health Awareness Week)

Playful Parenting with Dr Joanna Fortune, Psychotherapist, Author & Clinical Consultant

Monday 8 June @ 10am. Please scan the QR code to register.



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## The Power of Connection Webinar

Barnardo's have organised a webinar The Power of Connection; How Key Person Relationships Support Participation, Inclusion and Engagement in ELC

& SAC on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 @ 7.00pm. For more information and to book your place please click [here](#).



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## Calling all men working in early childhood education and care settings in Ireland.

Have your say on your experiences so that we can better understand your needs. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes.

**\*\*Please read the information sheet attached before proceeding to the survey \*\***

**Fill out the survey here by scanning the QR code**



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## 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.

**Kind regards**

**Kerry County Childcare Committee**