

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 25: 2026 22nd – 26th June 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 22nd – 26th June 2026



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

26th June 2026 *TODAY* NSLF closes for continuing students

Weather Advisories

The DCDE issued a communication yesterday to all service providers following a meeting of the National Severe Weather & Flooding Coordination Group. They met to review and prepare for the weather conditions that are predicted for Ireland over the next two days. There are two separate weather-related risks that the public needs to consider over **the next 48 hours**:

1. The dangers associated with extreme high temperatures
2. The increased risks associated with heavy thunderstorms.

The full press release is available [here](#)



Programme Readiness for ECCE, NCS, and CCSP Saver

Programme 2026/2027

Programme Readiness for ECCE, NCS and the CCSP Saver Programme for the 2026/2027 programme year is available on the Early Years Hive.

For further support contact Pamela: pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com



Programme Readiness for Core Funding 2026/2027

The application for Core Funding 2026/2027 is on the Early Years Hive. Partner Services contracted for Core Funding 2025/2026 that have completed the May Review and Confirm and have an approved status can auto-populate their application using the information from the most recently approved 2025/26 Core Funding



application. All retrospective Update Due Dates(s) for the 2025/2026 Core Funding programme year must be actioned before beginning the new application.

Following submission, you will have 21-days to accept the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2026/2027. The Overview of the changes to Core Funding Year 5 can be found [here](#).

For further support contact Pamela: pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

ECCE Calendar 2026/2027

The 2026/2027 ECCE Calendar has been changed giving flexibility to ELC providers to facilitate their obligations under the terms of their ECCE funding agreements i.e. to provide 38 payable weeks/182 days over the 2026/2027 programme year. The updates to the minimum payable weeks in Term 1 and Term 3 are as follows:

Term 1: will now require 15 minimum payable weeks (previously 16)

Term 3: will now require 8 minimum payable weeks (previously 9).

For further information on ECCE Calendar rules, and guidance on how to submit your calendar please, click [here](#)

For further support contact Pamela: pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com



Nurturing Skills Learner Fund - Continuing Students 2026/27

The process for Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) Continuous Students to confirm eligibility for the coming academic year 2026/2027 will

close **today 26th June 2026 at 5pm**. It is the responsibility of the student to confirm their eligibility and failure to do so will result in NSLF funding being withdrawn. Once eligibility is confirmed, a new letter of Conditional Funding will be issued for the academic year 2026/2027. Resources from the recent training sessions held in May 2026 can be found in the resources section of the NSLF Student Portal and [here](#).



AIM level 5 Transfer of Ownership

The Transfer of Ownership process for the 2025 programme call remains open. All services with AIM Level 5 equipment supporting children who are expected to complete their ECCE eligibility at the end of the 2025/2026 programme year are strongly encouraged to complete the transfer of ownership process as soon as possible. Equipment provided under AIM Level 5 must not be removed from the pre-school setting until the transfer of ownership process has been fully completed. Further information can be found [here](#).



AIM level 7



As part of the AIM Level 7 redesign, the level of support allocated to a child is now determined following the submission of their AIM Level 4 application and the subsequent review of the child's needs by Better Start. AIM Level 4 application should be submitted as early as possible for any child intending to access AIM Level 7 supports for the 2026/2027 programme call. Preliminary decisions will be issued from early July.

Where a child has an existing AIM Level 7 application under the 2025/2026 programme call and remains eligible for an additional year of support, no action is required at this time. Service providers are asked not to withdraw these applications in advance of the 2026/2027 programme call and can expect preliminary decisions to be issued from early July. It is advised that AIM Level 7 Non-term applications for the current programme call are submitted as soon as possible.

Lets Get Ready 2026

Lets get ready has lots of useful information and animation videos for families on transitions to school. Information can be accessed [here](#).

My Little Library 2026

Reminder: The book bags are for children finishing pre-school and starting primary school in September and will be delivered to libraries.

The DCDE would appreciate if the invitations could be shared with parents. The links to are here in [English](#) and [Irish](#), and [QR codes](#).

Public Consultation on Review of Childminding regulations



Minister Foley has launched 'Let's Talk Childminding', the public consultation on the childminding regulations. This is an open call for submissions as part of the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028 and is open from 19th June – 20th July 2026.

Submissions can be made by email to Qualitydevelopment@DCDE.gov.ie

The consultation seeks to

- Evaluate how the regulations are operating in practice
- Assess whether the regulatory model is appropriate and proportionate
- Examine the effectiveness of supports available to childminders
- Identify barriers to registration and compliance.

Further information on the consultations is available [here](#)

Kerry County Childcare Committee – Jobs Page

You can advertise your vacancies for free on our [Jobsboard](#) – email Kathryn (kathryn@kerrycountychildccare.com) with the details and we will post the position for you.



We invite you to follow our 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