

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 26: 2026 29th June – 3rd July 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 29th June – 3rd July 2026



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

06th July 2026 **Aim Level 1 application 26/27 process opens for existing graduates**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AIM Level 1 Application Process 2026/27 opens for existing graduates



AIM Level 1 applications for existing graduates will open on the Early Years Hive on Monday, 06 July 2026 at 10am. The AIM Level 1 application supports the increased ECCE capitation, funded by DCDE in recognition of the leadership and mentoring role which is delivered by the Inclusion Co-ordinator during the 2026/2027 pre-school year. Please note AIM Level 1 is an annual application process.



New graduates (i.e. graduating in October 2026) can apply when final exam results have been notified by Mary Immaculate College (expected September 2026)

Application guidelines can be found [here](#)

Aim Level 4 & 7 Preliminary Decisions



This year the level of support allocated to a child is determined following submission of their AIM Level 4 application and a further review of the child's needs by Better Start. From early July; service providers will receive a preliminary decision for the following:

- all AIM Level 4 applications reviewed by Better Start to date, and
- applications where a child is eligible for a second or third year of AIM Level 7 support.

When the redesigned and simplified AIM Level 7 application form is available on the Early Years Hive, all service providers will need to submit the new application for all children availing of AIM Level 7 support for the 2026/2027 programme call. Guidance materials on the support levels

awarded, along with common practical examples are available on The Early Years Hive [here](#).

Guidance on submitting an AIM Level 4 application can be found [here](#).

NCS Subsidies

A gentle reminder that NCS subsidies can only be paid once a CHICK has been registered and the parent/guardian has confirmed that all details are correct via the parent portal.



For payments to flow, all claim weeks for a child must be confirmed. Please review any unconfirmed claims for your service and request parental confirmation from applicants where necessary.

Update to Scheme rules

Please note clause 4.13 of the NCS 2026 Funding Agreement, “The Scheme Administrator may, at any time during the Term, establish an administrative process to cancel Unconfirmed Claims. The administrative process will provide for the cancellation of a Registered Claim which has not been confirmed by the Qualifying Applicant within 3 months of the expiry of the CHICK.”

If you have any questions, contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC). Simply raise a request the Early Years Hive by selecting the relevant programme and request type from the dropdown menu.

Programme Readiness for Core Funding 2026/2027

The application for Core Funding 2026/2027 is now available on the Early Years Hive. All retrospective Update Due Dates(s) for the 2025/2026 Core Funding programme year must be actioned before beginning a new Core Funding 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

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](#).

Happy Talk

We know that children learn best when they are having fun, and this month's Happy Talk calendar is full of activities that combine language and movement. Try out the calendar games (**Please see attached and below**) 'Waiting for GO!' and 'Catch the Dragon's Tail' - to practice listening to action instructions, body part vocabulary and position words.

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Happy Talk

Language Activity - Language & Movement

Let's Keep Moving!
In June we learned that language and movement activities are a great pairing.

Catch the Dragons Tail!
This traditional Chinese game is great fun for the playground. You will need a large group of children - at least 10, but the more the merrier!

Help the children to form a line with their hands on each other's shoulders. The first in line is the dragon's head and the last in line is the dragon's tail. The child who is playing the dragon's head has to try and catch the tail by maneuvering the line around so that he can tag the last player. All the children in the middle do their best to stop the dragon's head from catching the tail. Here's the tricky part - you can't let the line break!

When the head catches the tail, the tail player takes the front position and becomes the new dragon's head. All the other players move back one position and so in time everyone gets a turn. During this game talk about body parts vocabulary (e.g. shoulders, hands, head, tail) and position words (e.g. in front, at the back, next to, beside, around).

Waiting for GO!
Use lots of actions words in this game. Show the children that they must wait to hear "go" before they complete the action. You can make this easier or harder for the children by making the time longer/shorter between the instruction and saying "go!" "Jump with two legs... (wait)... go!", "Wave your hands... GO!", "Laugh out loud... Go!", "Blow a kiss... go!"

What's Going On?
For small babies, pair their natural actions with an action word. In this simple game you ask your baby "What's going on?" and then YOU answer the questions. For example, when bathing your baby, comment on what your baby is doing as it happens "you're splashing", "you're kicking your legs", "you're pouring all the water out". It is good for your baby to hear words describe what they are doing when they are doing it, and babies love it when someone talks to them!

July 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

For further information visit www.htk.co.uk/happytalk

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Happy Talk

July 2023

Rhyme Time Voices and Games

Let's grow another rhyme!
Can you come up with more things that happen on a bus?
The stop bell on the bus goes ding, ding, ding!
The passengers on the bus say 'Thank you very much!'
The driver on the bus says 'You're welcome!'
Mummies on the bus say 'I love you!'
The Daddies on the bus go tickle, tickle, tickle!
The babies on the bus say 'Heel Heel Hee!'
Mummies on the bus say 'Be careful now!'
Grannies on the bus say 'Here's a treat!'
Friends on the bus say 'You can sit here!'

What else happens on a bus?

Looking with Fresh Eyes Mindful Moment

Take 3 deep breathes to prepare our brain for noticing... Ask everyone to spend one minute silently looking around the room. The goal is to find things in the room that they've never noticed. Maybe there are some big things like a poster or a picture, or just little details like cracks in the ceiling or an interesting pattern on the door. After the minute is up ask the kids to share the most interesting new things they noticed. Next time, take three deep breathes and see can you all notice more things.

Rhyme The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round, all day long!

National Parents Council (Parent Survey) to share with parents

New childminding regulations have been introduced to bring all paid childminding services under a national registration system. At present, there is a transition period in place, which means childminders can choose whether to register with Tusla. From 29th September 2027, all childminders providing paid childcare in their own home for children under 15 will be required to register. We would love to hear your thoughts and experiences, what has worked well for you and what has not. Your voice matters, and your feedback will play a key role in shaping a more effective and inclusive consultation process. Please use the link below to access the survey

[Childminding Regulations & Registration- fill out form](#)

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