

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 27: 2026 6th – 10th July 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 6th – 10th July 2026



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

31st July 2026 QIPP end of year report

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Hot Weather Guidance



Tusla have provided guidance for keeping children safe and comfortable indoors and outdoors in all weathers.

You can access the guidance [here](#)

Keeping hydrated in hot weather

For information on keeping children hydrated in the hot weather visit: [Suitable drinks for children | Safefood](#)

ECCE Registrations 2026/2027 Programme Year



Registrations for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme 2026/2027 are now open on the Early Years Hive. The ECCE 2026/2027 programme will commence on Monday 24 August 2026. You can find guidance on how to register a child on ECCE on the ECCE Child Registration page under Resources on the Early Years Hive. If you are registering a child for ECCE 2026 who was registered in your service for ECCE 2025, please add an additional, separate registration for ECCE 2026 and do not cancel the ECCE 2025 registration.



Important: If you are registering a child who intends to avail of AIM Level 7 support, please select the correct ECCE AM/PM session they will attend. This information determines the AIM Level 7 capitation funding awarded to the service. Selecting the incorrect session may result in funding being allocated incorrectly or delayed.

QIPP End of Year Report

The deadline for submitting your QIPP end of year report is 31st July 2026.

The QIPP is completed and stored on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements

Reporting System: www.cfcrrs.ie



If you experience any technical issues, you can email support@cfcrrs.ie. or use the “contact us” tab at the top left of the home page.

If you need to reset the password, you can do this by accessing the home page, click on “Service Provider”, and a tab at the top left of the page will allow you to Reset Password, an email with instructions will be sent directly to the PAU email address.

For additional support please contact Rachel **from Monday 20th July 2026** on rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com

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, 06th 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](#).



Support Levels for AIM Level 7



This document explains what the Support Levels for AIM Level 7 mean and what service providers need to do based on common scenarios.

Support Levels

1. Individual ECCE / Shared NCS

The child needs individual support during the ECCE programme, and shared support for any additional hours availed of under NCS.



2. Shared ECCE / Shared NCS

The child needs shared support (up to a maximum of three children) during both the ECCE programme and any hours availed of under NCS.



3. Not approved

A status of not approved means no AIM Level 7 support has been awarded.

What you need to do?

AIM Level 4 application

Submit an AIM Level 4 application in partnership with child's parent/legal guardian/carer



AIM Level 7 support level

View the AIM L7 Support Level (Confirmed) column on AIM Level 4 application



AIM Level 7 application

Submit the redesigned AIM Level 7 application once available



Free Vacancy Advertising - Kerry CCC – Jobsboard



You can advertise your vacancies for free on our [Jobsboard](#).

E-mail Kathryn (kathryn@kerrycountychildccare.com) with the details and we will post the position for you. We can also design your advert if required.

We post regular links to the Jobsboard from our Facebook page (1.5K followers) and from our new Instagram account.

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 have been 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](#).

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

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.



Enjoy the sun!

Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee