

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 32: 10th – 14th August 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 10th – 14th July 2026



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

14th August 2026	Closing date for AIM non-term application for 2025/26 **Today**
17th August 2026	NCS 2026/2027 Programme year opens
18th August 2026	Release date for AIM Level 7 confirmation form
31st August 2026	Closing date for Core Funding August Review and Confirm Window

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Having Fun with Irish Rhymes – No Irish required!



Kerry CCC are excited to host this interactive workshop with Áine Ní Shúilleabháin author of Bróga Nua.

Would you like to improve your confidence using Irish, and introduce more Irish into your setting? We invite early years and school aged educators, and Childminders to join us to discover simple tips and practical examples of having fun with Irish.

Remember no Irish is required to participate in this workshop!

Workshop details

Date: 10th September 2026
Time: 18.30pm - 20.00pm
Location: Kerry County Childcare Committee Office V92 DA22

Bookings limited to 2 per service.

However, you have the option to request additional staff to be placed on a waiting list, and we will allocate extra spaces if they become available. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Each service will receive a resource pack upon completion of the workshop.

Bookings: Email: info@kerrycountychildcare.com or contact Eilish on 066 7181582

Having Fun with Irish Rhymes

Kerry CCC are excited to host this interactive workshop with Áine Ní Shúilleabháin author of Bróga Nua. Join us to discover simple tips and practical examples on having fun with Irish in your setting.

No Irish required!

Thursday 10th September 2026
6.30pm – 8.00pm.
Kerry County Childcare Office

Free to all ELC and SAC Educators and Childminders
Booking essential, limited spaces available

Bookings: info@kerrycountychildcare.com
066 71 81 582

Bróga Nua 1
Áine Ní Shúilleabháin

AIM Non-term Application for 2025/26

Services who have submitted an AIM L7 Standard Application for 25/26 and want to avail of non-term support for the summer period, are asked to submit any AIM non-term applications by today Friday 14th August 2026. Further information is available in the Announcement section of HIVE.



Core Funding August Review and Confirm Window

The August Review and Confirm window is open from 1st August to 31st August 2026. Please see the [Review and Confirm how to video](#) for more information.



New NCS Programme Year

The new National Childcare Scheme (NCS) programme year opens on 17th August 2026. The NCS 2026/2027 funding agreement needs to be activated before the current year's agreement ends on 16th August 2026. This is to ensure continued participation in the scheme. The funding agreement is available on the [All Programme Applications](#) page, and a guide on activating an NCS is available [here](#). Please note that failure to submit this funding agreement may result in a loss of funding. As noted in the NCS Policy Guidelines, funding cannot be backdated, so please submit this application as soon as possible.



AIM Level 7 Confirmation Form

The redesigned AIM Level 7 confirmation form will be available on the Early Years Hive from Tuesday **18th August 2026**. Service providers who have submitted an AIM Level 4 application and indicated that they wish to avail of AIM Level 7 supports for the 2026/2027 programme call, and who have received their notification for the preliminary support award, must submit this confirmation form to avail of the support. Where there are active ECCE and NCS registrations for a child, support for all registered hours will be awarded automatically following the submission of the AIM Level 7 confirmation form. Therefore, if a service provider does not require all supports awarded to a child (i.e. NCS hours), a request must be submitted on the Early Years Hive advising of this. More information is available in the announcement dated 13 August.



Application changes for year 4 Core Funding 2025-2026

A gentle reminder to all Partner Services that Core Funding Programme Year 4 (2025/2026) closes on 31st August 2026. **Partner Services will have until 4 pm on 30th September 2026** to submit Application Changes as required to ensure their application information is correct. Please see these [helpful Videos](#) on the Hive for further information on how to apply application changes and update due dates.



Fee Increase Assessment/Sustainability Review 2026

The Department has announced a new Fee Increase Assessment (FIA) process, known as the Sustainability Review 2026/2027. Eligible Partner Services will be contacted by their local CCC.

Eligible Partner Services charging very low fees may apply for approval to increase up to an approved level once they have been contacted by their CCC. Further information will be available shortly.

Early Years Documentary

A new documentary celebrating the impact of pre-school education in Ireland will be shown on Virgin Media at 12 pm on Saturday 29th August. The documentary is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the important work that takes place every day and the difference it makes in the lives of children and families.

Increase of NCS Thresholds and Multi Child Discount

NCS income assessed applicants received notification this week that their award has now been recalculated using the new Multi Child Discount (MCD) rates and NCS Thresholds. The increase means that families who did not previously qualify for an income assessed award may be eligible going forward. All income assessed claims have now been automatically updated with the new rate.

There will be no need for parents to confirm these claims again, however, if parents have not yet confirmed their claims, they will still be required to do so. In addition, service providers can identify all affected claims in a specially dedicated page on the [Early Years Hive](#).



Preliminary Payments for ECCE and CCSP Saver Programme

To support your planning for the 2026/2027 programme year, please review the information below on preliminary payments, payment schedules and key dates for the CCSP Saver Programme and ECCE.

Preliminary Payment CCSP: 7th & 14th August 2026

Preliminary Payment ECCE: 21st, 28th August & 4th September 2026

If you activate your funding agreement after these dates, you can still receive a preliminary payment. It will be included in a later payment run. Please ensure that your service calendar is up to date and correct in advance of the programme call start dates. Service calendars cannot be retrospectively amended on the Early Years Hive. Services will not receive more than one preliminary payment. Payments will be made to the existing bank account associated with the service/programme on the Early Years Hive.

Aistear in Practice

Aistear in Practice is a series of online mentoring sessions developed by Better Start to support reflection on practice linked to Aistear, with a focus on quality inclusive experiences for all children. Further information and link to register can be found [here](#).



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.



Happy Talk

Happy Talk calendar for August is below and attached.

The image displays a collection of educational materials for August 2026, centered around the 'Happy Talk' theme. It includes a calendar for the month, several activity cards, and photographs of children participating in activities.

Happy Talk August 2026

Language Activity: Let's Get Ready

In August we are getting ready for new... new adventures, new learning, new places to learn in. Try a new game to get you started.

A Moving Game: Beans

Whether it's with a large group, or just whoever is at home, invite everyone to walk around slowly and listen to the leader who will call out:

- Jumping Bean: Jump
- Runner Bean: Run / Run on the spot (depending)
- Baked Bean: Lie down until next Bean
- Jelly Bean: Wobble like jelly
- Chilly Bean: Shiver and shake
- Frozen Bean: Stand very still
- String Bean: Be as tall as possible
- French Bean: "Oooh la la!" "Bonjour"
- Back to Back Beans: Find a partner and sit back to back
- Flat Beans: Lie down
- Magic Beans: every one say "Abrakadabra" pretend to have wand

Learning new things can take time:

If this game is new you may want to start with just 2 or 3 types of beans and add a new type of bean to the mix each time you play!

Moving on to something new can be hard for small children but we can help them prepare for change. Starting preschool, starting big school or moving into the next class can be tricky! Here are a few tips!

Take a photo of the new school/teacher, print it and show it to your child

Use a calendar in August/September to show when it's time for pre-school or big school - mark each day, or move a sticker along it every day!

Talk about feelings - name them and acknowledge them; excited, nervous, happy

Involve your child in the preparation e.g. buying a new school uniform/pencil case and school bag.

Smiling for Smiles Mindful Moment

Invite the children to take a few deep breaths before we get started. Invite them to slowly turn the sides of their mouth up into a smile with each breath, a simple natural smile like when you see your friends. Notice the lips, how do they move and stretch? Does your smile change any other part of the face - the cheeks, the eyes, the eyelids, the ears, the tongue... breathe deeply and smile to everyone in the room...

The physical act of smiling, no matter how you feel, helps to make us feel good!

Robot Voice

Find your Robot Button on your arm. When you press it you are a Robot! Say your favourite rhyme as a robot and break the words up into parts e.g. In...cy...Win...cy Spi...der!

Marching / Clapping Rhymes & Songs

When you march or clap to the beat of the rhyme or song you are finding the rhythm! A great early literacy skill!

Silly rhyming words

Just like the first game, can you swap some of the rhyming words in your favourite rhyme to make it silly! Real words or made up words are all great! Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall! Humpty Dumpty had a great call! All the king's horses and all the kind den, Couldn't put Humpty Together a-pen!

Change the First Sound in Your Name

Change the first sound in your name. This game is silly and fun! Can you find some new silly names, that rhyme with your name, but have different first sounds? Nibbles might become Bibbles, Dribbles, Sibles, Mibbles!

But be careful Grown Ups. Names can change in words you don't want to practice e.g. Twitch might become... B... Whoops! Be careful!

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Childminders Online Webinar – Understanding Young Childrens Behaviour

The poster for the webinar features a green background with white and yellow text. It includes a photograph of a woman and two children sitting together. The text provides details about the webinar, including the date, time, and how to book.

FREE ONLINE WEBINAR

Understanding Young Children's Behaviour

The aim of this workshop is to support Childminders in understanding the factors that influence children's behaviour and to see behaviour as communication

WEBINAR DETAILS

Thursday 13th August 2026

18:30 - 20:30

Online

For more information: aoife.roche@clarechildcare.ie

HOW TO BOOK:

BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/19505703900>

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Childcare Committee

Let's talk childminding, make your voice heard!

Childminders play an important role in the lives of children and families across Ireland. New regulations introduced in 2024 are designed to reflect the home setting in which childminders work, while supporting quality and safeguarding children. The regulations are now being reviewed to get an understanding of how they are working in practice. Your voice matters.

Find out more about the review here <https://www.letstalkchildminding.ie/> and share your views by taking part in our survey here [Have your say](#)



**National Action Plan
for Childminding**
2021-2028

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.



**Childcare
Committee**
County Kerry
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí

Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee