

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



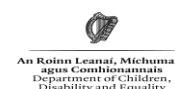
Issue 36: 31st August – 4th September 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 31st of August – 4th
September 2026



FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Fee Table and Parent Statement Approvals Process

2026/2027

The Fee Table & Parent Statement Approval Process has begun for 2026/27. Your Development Officer will be in contact with you once they have reviewed the fee table & parent statement for your service. This new process is more complex than approval processes we have completed in previous years. Every effort is being made to review fee tables and parent statements promptly, your patience will be greatly appreciated over the coming weeks and months. Further information on the approvals process can be found in the DCDE announcement, attached.

2026 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum

The 2026 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum takes place in Croke Park, Dublin on 17 November 2026. Further information on the forum and links to register your interest in attending can be found [here](#)

Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement

Partner Services have 21 days after submitting a Core Funding Application Module to activate the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2026 or the Application Module will be cancelled and will need to be re-submitted. Partner Services, who do not accept their Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2026, on or before 6 September, will not receive the full 52 weeks of allocations, as Core Funding allocations will be representative of an entitlement from the first Monday for the first allocation week of the programme year, or the Monday of the week the Funding Agreement is accepted, whichever is later. This also applies to Service Providers who are also eligible for Equal Start Staffing Supports for the start of the 26/27 Programme year.



NCS Compliance Inspections 2026/27

As the new NCS year begins, Pobal have confirmed that NCS on-site inspections will continue to take place. Pobal recommends collating a Compliance File which can be readily available to the Visiting Officer on arrival. Further information, links to compliance support documents and information in relation to upcoming online training on the NCS Compliance process 2026/27 can be found in the Announcement section of Hive.



Equal Start Bia Blasta

If you are an existing Bia Blasta service or are a new Bia Blasta service who has received an invite from DCDE to participate, please review the Announcement on Hive dated 31 August 2026 to check the next steps needed to ensure funding is allocated.

Journey Through the Early Years Hive training

Pobal are offering training for new Hive users or people who wish to refresh their Early Years Hive navigation skills. Links to register and details about the online training are available on the Announcement dated 3 September 2026.

Happy Talk Calendar

Please find attached a copy of the September Happy Talk Calendar.

AIM Level 7 Applications and Reviews for 2026/2027

As part of the move to the new simplified AIM Level 7 process, submitted AIM Level 7 confirmation forms will remain in a 'Pending' status on the Early Years Hive for now. Statuses will move to their next stage soon, and once a status is 'Confirmed', payments will start. No further action is required from you at this stage after submitting the Confirmation form.

The review function for 2026/2027 AIM Level 7 confirmation form will not be available on the Early Years Hive until October. Until then, all review requests should be submitted through the Requests sections of the Early Years Hive. Examples of child needs and service need review scenarios are available in the Frequently Asked Questions Guide available [here](#).

For more information, please refer to the Announcement dated 25 August.

Focus Group on review of the initial implementation of childminding regulations

DCDE is inviting childminders and parents to share their experiences and perspectives on the implementation of the new childminding regulations. Feedback gathered through these focus groups will help inform the ongoing review of the regulations and shape future developments in the childminding sector. This is an opportunity to discuss how the regulations are working in practice, the supports available to childminders, any challenges or barriers to registration and compliance, and suggestions for how the system could be

improved to better meet the needs of childminders, children and families. To have your say and join a focus group, [book your place now](#)



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](#)

Free online CPD Webinars

Kerry CCC and Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist Hayley Rice are excited to host two online webinars for ELC and SAC Educators.

Participants may book onto one or both webinars.

One form per participant

Details on the webinars are below:

Supporting Big Emotions - Online

Sept 4th, 2026

19.00 – 21.00

This practical session will explore what's happening beneath children's big emotions and how we can support regulation, connection and sensory needs.

Join the session and go away with:

- A clearer understanding of what's happening in the nervous system during big emotions
- Greater confidence in recognising regulation and dysregulation
- An understanding of how sensory needs can influence emotions and behaviour
- An introduction to the eight sensory systems and why they matter
- Practical sensory and movement-based strategies to support regulation
- Simple ways to create environments that help children feel safe, regulated and ready to engage

Understanding and Responding to Behaviour - Online

8th Oct 2026

19.00 – 21.00

The logo for the Childcare Committee County Kerry, featuring a green and yellow design with the text "Childcare Committee County Kerry" and "Caring, Clear, Connected".

CPD Webinars
for ELC, SAC Educators and Childminders

Join Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist Hayley Rice for two practical online webinars:

Supporting Big Emotions
Sept 24th 2026
19.00 – 21.00
This practical session will explore what's happening beneath children's big emotions and how we can support regulation, connection and sensory needs.

Understanding and Responding to Behaviour
8th Oct 2026
19.00 – 21.00
Explore how we can look beneath behaviour, respond rather than react, and support children with clear, relational and developmentally appropriate boundaries.

Bookings via MS Forms
Participants can book one or both webinars
Please specify webinar/s you are booking and ensure your email address is included to receive the links.

Explore how we can look beneath behaviour, respond rather than react, and support children with clear, relational and developmentally appropriate boundaries.

Join the session and go away with:

- A better understanding of what children may be communicating through their behaviour
- Practical tools for responding rather than reacting in challenging moments
- Greater confidence in setting and holding clear, appropriate boundaries
- Strategies for moving from punishment towards teaching and skill-building
- Relational approaches that balance connection with accountability
- Practical language and responses you can use in everyday situations

Bookings: [Hayley Rice Webinars – Fill in form](#)

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.



Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee