

Dear ECCE Provider

The following is a response we received from Minister Francis Fitzgerald in response to the article in last week's Sunday Independent regarding the suggestion that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme may be abolished.

Roscommon County Childcare Committee want to thank the Minister for her response and commitment to the ECCE sector.

Happy New Year to you all

Regards
Irene Cafferky
Manager
Roscommon County Childcare Committee
094 9622540

From Minister Francis Fitzgerald

"Thanks for contacting me on this. I want to confirm to you that I consider that article (*in the Sunday Independent*) outrageous scare mongering.

As I have explained in my previous e-mail I have worked hard to protect funding for the free pre-school year.

The ECCE programme cost €153.5mil in 2010 and is expected to cost €166mil in 2011. I have ring-fenced money to cater for this need and am fully committed to protecting this scheme.

My full budget statement outlining how I have protected this spend is available at -

<http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?Docid=1725&CatID=11&mn=&StartDate=01+January+2011>

I would appreciate it if you could communicate this to other local providers".

Yours sincerely,

Frances

Minister Frances Fitzgerald T.D.

Department of Children & Youth Affairs
Mespil Road
Dublin 2

Ph: 01-457 7712