

## The ECCE Scheme and Qualifications:

### Note from the OMCYA (April 2011)

This message is from the OMCYA regarding childcare services, who, at the beginning of the ECCE scheme, enter the scheme, stating that their Pre-School Leader met the 'interim' qualification terms, that is, they did not hold a Major Award at FETAC Level 5 in Childcare, but met the OMCYA's criteria at the time. Please read more by clicking on the link

*“ The ECCE programme requires, as a minimum, that Pre-School Leaders hold an early childhood qualification equivalent to a FETAC accredited Major Award at level 5. In the period January 2010 to August 2012, under an 'Interim Measure', this requirement is being deemed to be met where a Pre-School Leader has achieved a certification for an award in ECCE that includes significant content covering the core knowledge areas, child development, early learning, health and welfare and has at least 2 years experience of working in a position of responsibility with children in the 0-6 age. However it is expected that during this interim period, Preschool Leaders will achieve the Major Award at level 5 in childcare/early childhood education or equivalent or higher.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that a major award will be required for the contractual period September 2012 - August 2014 and that evidence that this is the case must be provided to this Section [OMCYA] by July 2012 in order to enter in an ECCE contract for that period.*

*To assist Pre-School Leaders who are currently working in ECCE participating services to meet this requirement for a major award at level 5, Early Childhood Ireland Ltd. (formerly the NCNA and IPPA) will very shortly be commencing on-line accredited training in a number of the elective component awards at FETAC Level 5.*

*As the intention is to facilitate Pre-School Leaders in this category to meet the requirements of the ECCE programme by July 2012, the training initiative is being supported by this Department through a subsidy of €50 per component award resulting in a cost for students of €125 for each component required. It is expected that up to 400 students, taking up to 4 component awards each, will benefit from the training subsidy and applications should be made as soon as possible to Early Childhood Ireland Ltd.*

*Application forms can be obtained at [www.nca.ie](http://www.nca.ie) or [www.ippa.ie](http://www.ippa.ie) or by telephoning 01 4601138 ext 2.*

*[The OMCYA] asks you to bring this letter and the training course details to the attention of Pre-School Leaders holding interim awards and currently working in your service. As the courses will commence very soon and subsidised places are limited, applications should be made as soon as possible but not later than 11 May 2011.*