

Dear Early Childhood Care and Educator/Service Provider,

Please see below our bulletin for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sector in County Roscommon with relevant information for you regarding deadlines, training and updates.

As always, we welcome any feedback on our communication with you and if you need to have something clarified or discussed in more detail, then please contact a member of our staff team through email or on our main number at 094 9622540.

Please keep updated through our new website www.roscommonchildcare.ie and on our face book page at <https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare/> where we will continue to post relevant information for our sector as the central local information hub for the ECCE sector in County Roscommon.

We aim to as wide an audience as possible and would be grateful if you could distribute this to each member of your staff teams and place on your bulletin/information board for sharing of information. We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative and beneficial.

Kind Regards,

*Irene Cafferky, Manager and Roscommon CCC Staff Team Carmel, Sinead, Aine & Martina
Roscommon County Childcare Committee*

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UPCOMING DEADLINES OF IMPORTANCE

9th February 2018 – CCS December 2017 returns

The CCS December 2017 returns are now available for completion on Pobal Online. The deadline for submitting the completed return is **Friday 9th February 2018**.

If you have any questions or require assistance in completing the return, please contact your Support Officer.

If you do not submit the return by the deadline, your CCS payments may be affected.

9th March 2018 - Capital funding deadline

The Capital funding workshop that took place in the RCCC offices on Tuesday 6th February outlined the opening and closing dates for capital funding 2018. The opening date for online applications is February 12th and this window will close on March 9th. More information can be found on:

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=4578>

Capital Funding One-to-One Clinics

Roscommon CCCs one-to-one support clinic on February 21st is booked out. If you should require assistance with your application and you are not booked into this clinic, please contact Sinead or Áine on 094 96 22520 and we can arrange a time for your service.

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UPCOMING TRAINING

Roscommon CCC Training Calendar 2018

Roscommon CCC has updated and published its Spring/Summer training calendar for 2018. This calendar has been sent out to all services and includes a booking form for services to book their places in the training course of their choosing. It is important for services to send the booking form back to RCCC offices as soon as possible as places on some workshops are limited and in high demand. We also pleased to announce that you can book places on training courses via our Eventbrite page which is linked to our Facebook page.

Please contact us on 094 96 22540 or info@roscommonchildcare.ie to book and we will send a booking form to you.

Local Enterprise Office Roscommon– Data Protection Workshop

Local Enterprise Office Roscommon are running a FREE EU general data protection regulations training session.

Date: Thursday 8th March from

Time: 9.30 -1pm

Venue: Civic offices, Roscommon County Council.

If you would like to attend please book your place on the following link:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Roscommon/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/EU-General-Data-Protection-Regulations.html>



Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Programme



Information Session

Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

Date: 12th March 2018

Time: 5.30pm

Roscommon County Childcare Committee are delighted to host a Tutor from the Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Programme from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick at an information session. The purpose of the information session is to inform you of the structure of the LINC Programme, the entry requirements and other elements of relevance, as well as how you can

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apply to get a place on the programme for you or one of the other staff in your setting. There will be an opportunity for you to raise any questions that you may have in relation to the programme itself.

The application process for students interested in partaking in the LINC Programme for the 2018/2019 academic year will commence in mid-March 2018.

The Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years Programme (LINC), is a level 6 Special Purpose Award (Higher Education). The programme is designed to enhance inclusion of children with additional needs in early year's settings through the development of the role of Inclusion Co-Ordinator (INCO). The programme was introduced as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) in 2016. You may be aware that settings employing a LINC-qualified INCO are entitled to receive additional capitation as part of the ECCE programme. Further information on LINC is available at www.lincprogramme.ie

You and/or any interested staff are welcome to attend. Please reply to carmal.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie or phone 094 9622540 to book your place on this information session.

Policies, Procedures and Regulation Workshop – 20th February 

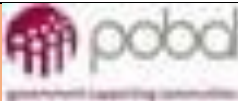
Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

Date: 20th February 2018

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Cost: € 10.

By attending the policies, procedures and regulations workshop participants will receive Roscommon CCC's sample policies and procedures guidelines incorporating all policies required under the revised preschool regulations 2016. Please call our office to book your place on 094 96 22540.

 **Pobal Compliance workshop– 22nd February**

Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

Date: 22nd February 2018

Time: 2-4pm

Pobal compliance workshop will talk you through a Pobal compliance visit and covers the paperwork required to be compliant with the Pobal compliance visit. Please contact our office on 094 96 22540 to book your place on this workshop.

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Data protection training will take place on **Tuesday 10th April 2018 from 6.30pm**. This training event will be conducted by Canavan and Byrne and a fee will be charged upon booking.

Venue: RCCC Offices.

Time: 6.30-8.30pm

Date: 10th April 2018.

Trainers: Canavan and Byrne.

The training evening will give attendees a solid understanding of data protection and will give practical advice on how to implement good practice in for delivery of childcare services.

Key objectives will include:

- To understand data protection principles.
- Understand how data protection applies to the delivery of childcare services.
- To be able to avoid the common mistakes that put data at risk.

The content outlined in this workshop will benefit managers, support teams and anyone involved in designing or managing service delivery and implementing policy.

Please **contact our offices on 094 96 22540** to book your place on this training event as there is a limited number of places.



Child Safeguarding Statement – Briefing session in RCCC offices and Galway.

The Early Years Child Protection Programme are hosting a series of Regional Briefing Sessions on the **Children First Act, 2015** for Early Years Services.

This Briefing Session will look at:

- The implications of the Act for early years providers
- How to Develop a Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Session is for everyone involved in early years services but will be of particular interest to you if you are a:

- Service Manager
- Chairperson or member of a board of management
- Childminder (registered with Tusla)

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- Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection

RCCC are facilitating another briefing session on 'Developing your Child Safeguarding Statement'. This training is free and aimed at Owner/Managers or DLP's. The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations that are providers of 'relevant services' to prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement before 11th March 2018 (This will replace your old child protection policy). Roscommon CCC briefing session will support your service to develop and have your service's safeguarding statement in time of the deadline.

The venues for both RCCC's and the Galway sessions are outlined below:

Region	Date	Time	Venue	Call/Click to book
Roscommon	Wednesday 28 th February, 2018	18.30-20.00	RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co.Roscommon.	094 96 22540
Galway	Monday February, 19th	4.30pm – 6.00 pm	Clayton Hotel, Monivea Road, Galway	ps://www.eventbrite.ie/e/children-first-act-2015-briefing-session-for-early-years-services-galway-tickets-42711362836
		7.00pm – 8.30 pm		

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ECCE entry point September 2018

On behalf of service providers who raised concerns in relation to the one entry point for the ECCE Scheme September 2018. Roscommon County Childcare Committee have received the following response in relation to the budget changes. Please see below.

"The link below from the DCYA website details the full list of changes to the ECCE programme which were announced in the Budget."

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/earlyyears/20171012FAQsEarlyYearsBudget2018.pdf>

Census



2018 Census

Roscommon CCC will be conducting our 2018 county census for the local sector. Your service will receive it by email in word format in the coming week to complete. The document will be prepopulated for individual services and we would appreciate your cooperation on its completion.

Level 7 Early Childhood Studies Degree Programme



Portobello Institute in conjunction with London Metropolitan University (LMU) are running a Level 7 BA Early Childhood Studies Degree. This course is a blended learning option to upgrade current ECCE level 6 major award or equivalent to a Level 7 Degree within 10 months of study. This will allow eligibility to claim higher capitation from the DCYA.

The focus of the course is the up to date and cognisant of today's early years sector, as it studies play, development and learning in children from birth to six years old in a socio-cultural context and the implications of this for practice in early childhood settings. A range of local and international

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perspectives are taken including: children's rights, children's health and well-being, pedagogical and curriculum approaches, diversity and inclusion. The course therefore draws on a range of disciplines such as psychology, sociology and social policy, education and health. There is also a strong focus on the links between theory and practice and highly values the development of professional as well as academic skills and knowledge.

Assessments are practice based essay/projects and there are no written exams.

There will be three start dates throughout the year February, May and October.

For further information please follow the link provided: <http://www.portobelloinstitute.ie/childcare-courses/degree/ba-early-childhood-studies-level-7-blended-learning>



Update on First Aid Response (FAR)

We have had many enquiries from services regarding requirements on first aid training and have sought clarification from Túsla on your behalf. Túsla have clarified to Roscommon CCC that from **January 2019** FAR is the only first aid course that will be accepted by the pre-school inspector for the purposes of compliance. Only **one** FAR trained person is required to be on the premises at any time. Proportionally more will be required in bigger services. No specific figures were given for the bigger services. It would make sense to have one trained person per room.

“First Aid Response (FAR) The Early Years Inspectorate recognise the first aid training course: First Aid Response (FAR) developed by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and delivered by a training provider approved by PHECC as meeting the required standard for compliance with the revised regulation in early years registered services. PHECC is responsible for approving organisations to become PHECC recognised institutions to quality assure the delivery of the FAR training standard. It is important when accessing FAR training that the PHECC certified FAR Instructor is recognised by PHECC. The FAR offers appropriate training for individuals who require a first aid skill set for both adults and children. The FAR standard includes the full Cardiac First Response Community programme covering the skills of adult, child and infant CPR and relief of choking. All successful course participants are given joint PHECC/Recognised Institution FAR certificates. The certificate expires after two years at which time candidates may recertify. From the 1st September 2017: Early year’s staff availing of First Aid Training for the first time must undertake FAR training.

Early year’s staff seeking to renew their qualification must undertake FAR training. Early Years staff seeking a refresher course must undertake the FAR training. Transition Arrangement - The Early

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Years Inspectorate will recognise training and education and assessment relating to certified First Aid courses, the QQI's level (5N1207) and the refresher certification that took place up to the 31st August 2017. This will be accepted until January 2019. (Please note that it is possible that the QQI component certificate could be dated post 31 August 2017, e.g. October or December 2017 - in such instances where the course has been undertaken prior to 31st August 2017 this certification will be accepted). Documentary evidence of in date certification is required in all instances."

Post Graduate Certificate/ Diploma in Practice

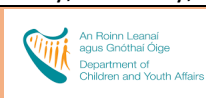
NUI Galway has announced a [Certificate/Diploma in Practice Based Play Therapy](#) which is run in collaboration with The Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC), course developers. The course content has been developed to meet the Play Therapy International (PTI) standards of practice and training in conjunction with Play Therapy Ireland (ptirl).

This programme is suitable for those who wish to add therapeutic play skills to their existing qualification and is aimed at individuals who work with children in roles such as counsellors, psychotherapists, psychologists, teachers, occupational therapists, nurses and social workers. The taught element of the programme is delivered on the NUI Galway campus over 15 days summer school followed by completion of 3 modules and 100 clinical hours practice. The Certificate stage takes up to 20 months to complete and the Diploma stage takes another 20 months to complete. Monika Jephcott (mokijep@majemail.com) is the Chief Executive of APAC and can be contacted for more detailed information about the programme, the application procedure and to discuss your suitability for the course.

The following are the summer school dates in 2018:

Start: Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018

Finish: Tuesday, 17th July, 2018.



Childcare Support Bill 2017: Second Stage Minister's Opening Speech

On Wednesday January 21st, Minister Zappone introduced the childcare Bill 2017 as part of the second stage of the minister's opening speech. The bill entitled an Act to provide for the establishment of a scheme to be known as the Affordable Childcare Scheme under which financial support may be made available to persons in respect of childcare out of resources allocated to the Minister for the purposes of the scheme and to provide for related matters. More information can be found, including the benefits, impacts and the bill itself on the following link: <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=4576>

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Minister Zappone announces change in recruitment policy for future Túsla Early Years Inspectors

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone announced on Friday 2nd February 2018, that the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Túsla – the Child and Family Agency and the INMO (representing Public Health Nurses) have reached an agreement at the Labour Court regarding the future recruitment of Early Years Inspectors within Túsla. Túsla is responsible for inspecting pre-schools, play groups, day nursery, crèches, day-care and similar services which cater for children aged 0-6 years.

Please find more information on the following link:

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=4583>

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