

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](http://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 reach 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 AND ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

### Pobal compliance visits and Workshop March 9<sup>th</sup>

Pobal will be commencing compliance visits to services in receipt of CCS funding for the 2017/18 cycle shortly. Attention should also be drawn to the notice previously issued by the DCYA and posted on the PIP Portal on 27/10/2017 which outlines requirements for maintaining attendance records and registering children on PIP during the snapshot window.

The Pobal compliance visit will continue to include a cross check between PIP registrations and attendance during the snapshot window. Any identified discrepancy will need to be amended and may subsequently result in a negative financial adjustment to the service.

Compliance checklist is available on RCCC website: <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/pobal-compliance-visits/>

**RCCC are facilitating a Pobal Compliance workshop on March 2nd 2018 to support your service. Due to the adverse weather on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we postponed our workshop for the safety of all our staff and clients to March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Date: March 9th 2018**

**Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.**

**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. **Please note the change of date.**

### 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 - Capital funding deadline

The Capital funding workshop that took place in the RCCC offices on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February outlined the opening and closing dates for capital funding 2018. The opening date for online applications is February 12<sup>th</sup> and this window will close on March 9<sup>th</sup>. **Your grant application/s must show a 'submitted' status by 3 p.m. on this date to be considered.**

A one-to-one clinic took place on February 21<sup>st</sup>. If you should require assistance with your application please contact Sinead or Áine on 094 96 22520.

More information and guidelines can be found on Roscommon CCC website:

<http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/capital-grants-2018-2/>

**Please read if you currently have an Early Years or School Age Capital Grant 2018 application in draft on PIP.** There has been an issue with entering the correct information on whether a service is

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registered for VAT or not in the Budget section on the application form. Before finally submitting your form, please ensure that your VAT information is correct.

If your service is not registered for VAT that you click NO to that question in the application form. Please Note if your service is registered for VAT then you should click YES . This means you cannot claim the VAT amount in the total grant requested section.

**Please read if you currently have an Early Years or School Age Capital Grant 2018 application in draft on PIP.**

There has been an issue with entering the correct information on whether a service is registered for VAT or not in the Budget section on the application form. Before finally submitting your form, please ensure that your VAT information is correct.

If your service is not registered for VAT that you click NO to that question in the application form. Please Note if your service is registered for VAT then you should click YES . This means you cannot claim the VAT amount in the total grant requested section.



**Child Protection training Update**

**Child Safeguarding Statement March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Briefing session in RCCC offices**

**Child protection training Update**

At the moment we are not running our child protection training for childcare services. The emphasis is on the preparation of child safeguarding statements. Once we have received an updated programme that takes into account the provisions of the Act 2015, we will be in touch with services who have put their staff on our waiting list. We will keep you updated on when the training will recommence.

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Roscommon County Childcare Committee are facilitating a final 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. To book your place please contact our office on 094 96 22540.

**Date: To be confirmed, all attendees will be notified of postponed date due to adverse weather conditions.**

**Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.**

**Time: 18.30-20.00 (expected)**

This Briefing Session will look at:

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- 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)
- Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection.



March 12<sup>th</sup> 2018



## Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Programme

### Information Session

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Venue: RCCC Offices, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon.**

**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 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](http://www.lincprogramme.ie)

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

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## Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)

### Access and Inclusion Packs

Roscommon CCC have been working closely with the DCYA to deliver the Diversity Equality and Inclusion Guidelines training and to provide parents and service providers with information and signposting on the Access and Inclusion Model.

The DCYA are currently assembling access and inclusion packs for early childhood services. Roscommon CCC have provided the DCYA with the relevant information regarding services who have participated in the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training. It is expected that these inclusion packs worth approximately €500 will be distributed to childcare over the coming weeks.

A further development under the Access and Inclusion model is a new programme of specialised training for Early Years Practitioners will be rolled out in 2018. The first round of training is Hanen Teacher Talk, which is a certified 3 day course which will be delivered by Better Start Early Years Specialists. Better Start are collaborating with Teacher Education Centres around the country to ensure local delivery of training. A new programme of specialised training for Early Years Practitioners will be rolled out as part of the AIM programme. The first round of training is Hanen Teacher Talk, which is a certified 3 day course which will be delivered by Better Start Early Years Specialists. Better Start are collaborating with Teacher Education Centres around the country to ensure local delivery of training.

The first round of training will begin in March and April 2018 in Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Leitrim, Limerick and Wexford and will take place on one Saturday per month. ECCE services in receipt of AIM targeted support (Levels 4-7) will be invited to apply. Further training courses will be available throughout 2018. Information on Hanen training for Early Years Practitioners in County Roscommon will follow over the next few weeks.

For further information please contact Roscommon CCC on 094 9622540 or e mail [carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie).

More information is available on RCCC website: <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/better-start-aim-hanen-teacher-talk-training-programmes/>

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## Learner Bursary opens February 26<sup>th</sup> and closes March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 – 5pm

Have you completed a major award at level 7, 8 or 9 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework? If you completed the award in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 or 2017, please contact Roscommon CCC on 094 9622540 or [info@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:info@roscommonchildcare.ie) for further information or download the application form from our website on the link below.

The Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) will re-open the Learner Fund Bursary (announced early 2017) to Early Years practitioners who have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7, Level 8, or Level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications since the inception of the Learner Fund (2013). This qualification must be on the DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list. The bursary amount will be €750. Roscommon County Childcare Committees (CCC) will process/appraise Learner Fund Bursary applications. In order to apply you must:

- Have a Qualification which is on DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list
- Have a graduating certificate. If your certificate does not have the full name of the course a transcript will be required to confirm the course was ECCE. For example NUI certificates in Latin state that the holder received a Bachelor of Arts but not what subject it is in.
- Have been working in a registered Early Years' Service prior to beginning their course
- Be currently working in a registered Early Years' Service
- Have submitted a completed application form (along with all relevant documentation) to us no later than **5 pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**.

Please check out our website for more information and for links to the application form.  
<http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/learner-fund-bursary/>

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## UPCOMING TRAINING

### National Síolta awareness raising workshops

## National Síolta Aistear Initiative



Roscommon CCC are hosting a number of national Síolta awareness raising workshops in the coming weeks. We would like to remind childcare services that engagement with Aistear and Síolta is recommended in your ECCE contract and capital funding 2018 also refers to Aistear and Síolta. The dates of the workshops are outlined below

Standards	Date & Time	Venue
Interactions partnerships workshop Standard 1: Rights of the Child Standard 3: Parents and Families Standard 4: Consultation Standard 5: Interactions	5/03/2018 6.30-8.30pm <b>Postponed due to weather conditions</b>	Roscommon CCC offices
Environments/curriculum workshop Standard 2: Environments Standard 6: Play Standard 7: Curriculum	12/03/2018 6.30-8.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices
Management workshop Standard 4: Consultation Standard 8: Planning & Evaluation Standard 9: Health & Welfare Standard 10: Organisation Standard 11: Professional Practice Standard 12: Communication Standard 15: Legislation & Regulation	19/03/2018 6.30-9pm	Roscommon CCC offices
Transitions Standard 13: Transitions Standard 14: Identity & Belonging Standard 16: Community Involvement	26/03/2018 6.30-8.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices

Please email [carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie) or contact 094 9622540 to book your place at these workshops

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## Data Protection Training

Is your service ready for The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that will come into force on the **25th May 2018**, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

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

**Date: Thursday 8th March**

**Venue: Civic offices, Roscommon County Council.**

**Time: 9.30 -1pm**

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>

### Data Protection Training - Roscommon CCC Offices



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

**Date: 10th April 2018.**

**Venue: RCCC Offices.**

**Time: 6.30-8.30pm**

**Cost: €25**

**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. Please note this training event is pendant on numbers booked.

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## Information Updates

### DCYA Updates throughout the adverse weather March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018



The National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> following the issuing of a Status Red weather warning in some parts of the country. Conditions were expected to worsen over Thursday and Friday in parts of the country and the NECG advised that roads should be avoided in Status Red areas due to expected treacherous conditions. DCYA advised childcare services

that local decisions should be taken based on the weather status in their part of the country. In making this decision DCYA strongly advised that services have regard to any Met Eireann weather warnings that were put in place, particularly when a red warning is in operation, the availability of transport, the accessibility of roads and whether schools in the area were open. Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone commented:

“The welfare and safety of children, staff and parents is paramount and we urge everyone to be safe during this time and to be mindful of their local situation with regards to transport and school closures in their area”. The safety of children, parents and staff is of utmost importance and we are aware that some services took the decision to close their services on foot of the snowfall in parts of the country.

Information from across all government departments regarding the effects of the current weather situation can be found by visiting [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) and more information regarding closures of services can be found on our website: <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/update-early-years-school-age-childcare-sector-28th-february/>

### RSA Check it fits



This March the RSA's Check it Fits service will be visiting County Roscommon. It is the law that all children under 150cms or 36kgs must use a child car seat appropriate to their weight and height. In Ireland as many as 4 out of 5 child car seats are incorrectly fitted which can lead to serious injury or even death in a collision. Since October 2013, the RSA's 'Check it Fits' Service has checked over 30,000 child car seats and restraints in Ireland. The Check it Fits service is quick, it's easy, it's free. On the day the experts will advise on how to fix any problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have. Experts aim to put parent's, grandparent's and guardian's minds at ease that their child's car seat is safely and securely fitted in their car.

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RSA will be visiting the following location in Roscommon:

Location	Street Name	Town	Date	Time
<b>Dermot Hughes Cars</b>	Athlone Road	Roscommon	Tuesday 6 March 2018	10.00am – 5.30pm

### Sligo County Childcare Committee – Roots to Grow & wings to fly

Sligo County Childcare Committee will hold a seminar to promote resilience and well-being in young children.

Opening address by Dr. Carmel Corrigan, Ombudsman for Children's Office

Keynote Speaker Mary Skillington, Early Years Specialist

**Date: March 10th 2018**

**Venue: Sligo Institute of Technology**

**Time: 9.30 – 4.30**

**Cost: €20 per person**

Call Sligo County Childcare committee on: 071 91 48860 or email: [sligochildcare@gmail.com](mailto:sligochildcare@gmail.com)

### Mayo County Childcare Committee – Turning Play inside out

Mayo county childcare committee are holding a seminar to promote play. The title of the event is 'Turning play inside out'.

**Date: March 24<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Venue: GMIT Castlebar**

Please contact Mayo County Childcare Committee for further details on: 094 907010

### Seas Suas Survey

Seas Suas, the representative organisation for independent providers of childcare and early education are conducting a survey around the most urgent issues affecting providers. Seas Suas are hoping to get as many responses and give as many people as possible an opportunity to give their input. Survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XH3KHXX>

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## National Pyjama day – March 9th 2018

National Pyjama Day is the largest one-day fundraising event organised by the early childhood care and education sector in Ireland. Now in its 15th year, the event has raised more than €2.75 million for charities that support children with additional needs.

Due to the adverse weather conditions the date of National Pyjama day has been changed to March 9th 2018. Children and staff in early year's settings are sponsored to wear their pyjamas into the setting on National Pyjama Day. This is where the magic happens – children take part in dens, pillow fights, PJ picnics, Bear Hunts, storytelling, and nursery rhymes amid many other activities. Importantly, these activities are also an opportunity for settings to highlight the play-based, child-centred early year's curriculum which underpins practice and nurtures children at this vital time in their young lives.



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