

Dear Early Childhood Care and Educator/Service Provider,

Hope you all had a lovely Easter break. 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 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 TRAINING OF IMPORTANCE

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Roscommon County Childcare Committee Annual Continuing Professional Development Seminar in collaboration with Athlone Institute of Technology "Space to be Free to be me – Building blocks for life"

Venue: Athlone IT

Date: 26th April 2018

Time: 2pm- 8.30pm

Roscommon County Childcare Committee are holding our annual CPD seminar this year in collaboration with Athlone Institute of Technology. We have lots of great speakers and presenters lined up with workshops around the theme of transition and inclusion. Further details to follow. To book your place at his upcoming conference please contact our office on 094 96 22540.

Data Protection Training

GDPR and you – have they scared the pants off you yet?

We are getting an increasing amount of calls about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and what it means for childcare services. The Data Protection Commission have set up a special website to help with queries www.gdprandyou.ie. They have also produced a short 12 step guide to GDPR for organisations which can be found [here](#). As the Data Protection Commissioner states in the guide: *Many of the main concepts and principles of GDPR are much the same as those in our current Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 (the Acts) so if you are compliant under current law, then much of your approach should remain valid under the GDPR.*

In order to further support services Roscommon CCC have commissioned Canavan & Byrne to deliver a workshop on GDPR.



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:

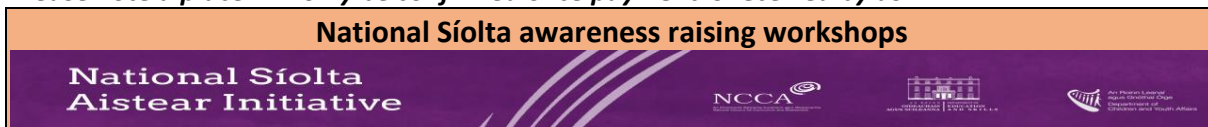
- To understand data protection principles.
- Understand how data protection applies to the delivery of childcare services.
- To be able to avoid the common mistakes that put data at risk.

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

We have two places remaining on this workshop. Please **contact our offices on 094 96 22540** to book. **Please note a place will only be confirmed once payment is received by us.**



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. Following the feedback from services we are offering the following dates. Please let us know your preference.

Standards	Date & Time	Venue
Interactions partnerships workshop Standard 1: Rights of the Child Standard 3: Parents and Families Standard 4: Consultation Standard 5: Interactions	Tuesday 17th April 2pm – 4.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices
Environments/curriculum workshop Standard 2: Environments Standard 6: Play Standard 7: Curriculum	Friday 20th April 2pm – 4.30pm	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	Tuesday 24th April 2 pm- 5pm 6pm-9pm	Roscommon CCC offices
Transitions Standard 13: Transitions Standard 14: Identity & Belonging Standard 16: Community Involvement	Friday 4 th May 2pm-4.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices

Please email carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie or contact 094 9622540 to book your place at these workshops.

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Diversity Equality and Inclusion Training – May 2018

Diversity Equality and Inclusion Training

Roscommon CCC have been rolling out the National 15 hour Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Training programme for the past 18 months. A number of services in Roscommon have already participated in this national training programme. This programme is due to finish in June 2018. The final delivery of this programme will commence on Tuesday May 1st May at 2 pm in Roscommon CCC offices. There are still a few places available. To book your place on this training please contact carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie or phone 094 9622540 to contact any member of staff.

Diversity Equality and Inclusion training

Date and time	Venue
Tuesday 1/05/2018 2pm - 8.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices Knock road Castlerea
Tuesday 8/05/2018 6.30pm-9.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices Knock road Castlerea
Tuesday 15/05/2018 6.30pm-9.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices Knock road Castlerea
Tuesday 22/05/2018 6.30pm-9.30pm	Roscommon CCC offices Knock road Castlerea



Better Start Inclusion Update

Better Start are starting to roll out Hanen Teacher Talk training again in April, May, and June partnering with Teacher Education Centres around the country. Initial invitations for first round have been sent to settings with children receiving AIM support in local counties of Leitrim, Waterford, Sligo, and one in the Pobal office in Galway. Course dates (Saturdays) 21st April and 12th or 19th May, and 9th June.

Lámh will also begin as of April again partnering with the Teacher Education Centres across the country. These invitations are being sent to services in local counties of Sligo and Leitrim. Course dates (Saturdays) 21st April and 12th or 26th May, and 9th June.

Invites are sent directly to relevant services via Eventbrite and services are offered two places on each course. Courses are one Saturday per month, for the first set of trainings, to reduce impact on services needing cover etc. Better start will review this after the 2nd roll out, in June. The dates coincide with some LINC training dates, as this will encourage take up and build capacity among other staff. Further info if required from: AIM_training@betterstart.ie

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Application closing date 12th April for Leadership and Inclusion (LINC) programme



Following our LINC programme information evening on Monday March 12th, the closing date for the application process for students interested in partaking in the LINC Programme for the 2018/2019 academic year is 4pm on 12th April. 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 as well as on Roscommon CCC website: <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/applications-now-open-linc-programme/>.

Has your service applied for the additional if you now have a LINC Graduate Inclusion officer in place?

Roscommon CCC have noticed that a number of Services that participated in LINC programme across the country have not applied for the additional capitation. DCYA have asked all CCCs to ensure that the Services know that the Inclusion Co-ordinator (IC) must be working in the pre-school setting - not necessarily in the pre-school room, and must have taken on the role and responsibilities as listed on the website. The application process is still open. Once the service and the IC confirm that IC has undertaken the role of the IC then payment can be backdated to commencement. Please see link below for role of Inclusion Officer.

<http://aim.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/role-of-the-inclusion-co-ordinator.pdf>

HACCP (Hazard Analyse Critical Control Point) Training

Date: 9th May 2018

Venue: Abbey Hotel, Roscommon

Time: 9.30 -4.30pm

About Hygiene Limited are holding a HACCP training session on May 9th in the Abbey Hotel Roscommon. If you are interested in booking your place or want to find out more information please click the following link: <https://www.about-hygiene.com/e/roscommon-haccp-food-hygiene-training/191>

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National Child Protection training Update

The following advice has been given to us by the National Children First Coordinator in relation to child protection training for services. At present the updated national Refresher module is in development and will not be available for delivery until late 2018. In the meantime we wish to advise people who wish to refresh their training that:

- They should complete the Tusla online course - Introduction to Children First
- They are welcome to attend the 6-hour Always Children First course if they would prefer to attend training now
- The Refresher Training is to allow practitioners to refresh their knowledge after 3 years – there will be an allowance with this time limit to allow for the fact that there has been a break in availability of the National Always Children First Refresher Training.
- The National Children First Committee are flexible about the 3 year time-limit - **but** anyone who attended Always Children First Training 4 years ago (or more) is required to attend the full course.

Roscommon CCC will advise the local preschool inspectorate of this national development and keep services updated on refresher training dates when we are advised nationally that this can go ahead. Those of you who have booked and paid for your refresher place with us will be on our priority list once the refresher training is available in late 2018.

In the meantime **Always Children First Child Welfare and Protection training- Foundation level** which is certified and certification lasts for 3 years will be held on:

Date: Thursday 3rd May

Date: Friday 4th May

Time: 10am – 4.00pm.

Time: 10am – 4.00pm.

Venue: Athlone, Co. Roscommon

Venue: Roscommon CCC Offices, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon

Roscommon County Childcare Committee's Jobs Board



Over the past year we have had many requests to post vacancies for services and in response and to further support childcare services in the recruitment of new staff a new jobs board is now available on our website for County Roscommon. http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/usp_form/post-a-job/

How can I post a vacancy on Roscommon CCCs website?

The page to post the vacancy is located under the Childcare provider's button on the main home page of Roscommon CCC's website. By clicking this button, you can fill out the details of the vacancy. You must fill in:

- Name of Service.

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- Email Address.
- Job Title
- A brief job description.
- Additional files such as the full job description can be uploaded by clicking the Choose file button.

Once this is completed it is necessary to click “post job” in order for the job to go live on the website. From there it is visible for anyone to see who visits that page.



Using your local CCCs logo

As Roscommon CCC is the DCYAs local agent on the ground, services can now also use Roscommon CCCs logo below when advertising job adverts or anything about their service in the local media. We have already emailed out this logo to all services in the county.

Childcare providers are being urged to participate in an online survey as part of the Independent Review of Costs of Providing Quality Childcare

Crowe Horwath have been chosen to undertake an independent review of the costs of childcare. They are looking at how much it costs to provide childcare; what factors influence that cost; developing a cost model and providing an analysis of the childcare sector in Ireland. Minister Zappone hopes that this review will help to deliver “*a childcare funding system where childcare providers are funded on a fair and sustainable basis and where the genuine concerns over pay and conditions in the sector can be addressed.*”

Every childcare provider was emailed a link to the survey. If you didn’t receive an email from Crowe Horwath, check your spam/junk email folder first. If you do not have a link contact Crowe Horwath on childcarecostsurvey@crowehorwath.ie. For further information, contact Crowe Horwath at (01) 448 2200.

See full report on our website: <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/childcare-providers-urged-participate-online-survey-part-independent-review-costs-providing-quality-childcare/>

Clarity on ECCE April Registrations

Please be advised that the ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) April registration window has been extended to allow registrations be made more than 7 days in advance of the childcare start date.

Therefore, ECCE registrations with a start date of 09/04/2018 may be registered from Wednesday 21st March (or at any point thereafter, at the service providers’ convenience), and similarly, registrations with a start date of 16/04/2018 may be registered from Wednesday 28th March onwards. We have been receiving calls from parents who are unsure as to when their child can start the ECCE programme. As you know, this month was the last time there will be spilt entry points

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during the year. From September 2018 all ECCE children will start in September and get two years of the scheme. To be eligible the child must be 2 years 8 months old on the 31st August, to be eligible from 1st September. This table should help you to advise parents:

Following is a chart of eligibility for ECCE by month and of enrolment in preschool.

Table 1: Eligibility for ECCE by month of birth and of enrolment in pre-school		
Birth date between	Eligible Enrolment date(s).	ECCE end date
1 st January 2014 - 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2017, 1 st September 2017 + 1 st September 2018*	June 2019
1 st April 2014 - 31 st August 2014	1 st September 2017 + 1 st September 2018*	June 2019
1 st September 2014 - 31 st December 2014	1 st January 2018 + 1 st September 2018*	June 2019
1 st January 2015 to 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2018, 1 st September 2018 + 1 st September 2019	June 2020
1 st April 2015 - 31 st December 2015	1 st September 2018 + 1 st September 2019	June 2020
1 st January 2016 - 31 st December 2016	1 st September 2019 + 1 st September 2020	June 2021
1 st January 2017 - 31 st December 2017	1 st September 2020 + 1 st September 2021	June 2022
1 st January 2018 - 31 st December 2018	1 st September 2021 + 1 st September 2022	June 2023
1 st January 2019 - 31 st December 2019	1 st September 2022 + 1 st September 2023	June 2024

****Please note children who enrolled in ECCE scheme April 2018, have access to the free pre-school year until June 2020.**

Minimum number exemptions and the April intake

If you registered children newly eligible for ECCE this month, please ensure that you have the minimum number of children required to run an ECCE room. Don't forget you must have a minimum of 8 ECCE children per room, per session. Therefore, if you have morning sessions with 22 children but you have an afternoon session with only 5 ECCE children, you must apply for a minimum number exemption for your afternoon session. We are seeing a number of services being found non-compliant by Pobal for this reason. You can get an exemption in the following circumstances:

Exemption Sought Under:
A. Registered providers who have a daily enrolment of at least 8 children but, for good reason, only 3 or more are in the ECCE programme and the remainder of the children are between the ages of 2½ and 6 years;
B. Smaller registered providers which are considered appropriate settings for delivery of the ECCE programme, but for good reason, have a daily enrolment of not fewer than 5 ECCE eligible children;

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- C. A service that has an ECCE room that is full but has children eligible for ECCE in a room that is an appropriate setting for the delivery of the ECCE programme but which has a daily enrolment of not fewer than 5 children aged between 2½ and 6 years - subject to the requirement that ECCE staff qualification criteria are met

This will be checked at your Pobal compliance visit. Contact your development worker if you need to get an exemption.

'Inclusive Play' helps make pre-school accessible to all. Over €3 million investment boosting resources to over 6,000 pre-school rooms

Roscommon CCC hope our Roscommon Services receive their inclusive packs shortly. More than 6,000 'Inclusive Play' packs are being distributed free to pre-schools across the country. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone is confirming that distribution of the packs is underway under the Access and Inclusive Model (AIM) which is working to make pre-school accessible to all children. These resources will add to the range of resources already offered and will improve pre-school for all children.

Resources have been chosen for their inclusive play value, for their open ended opportunities and, most importantly, for their appeal to young children.

Distribution of AIM Inclusive Play

Distribution of AIM Inclusive Play will commence on 9th April 2018. Approximately 200 AIM Inclusive Play Packs will be delivered daily to ECCE settings nationwide. ECCE settings will be prioritised for distribution where:

- The setting has availed of targeted AIM supports OR
- An employee in the setting has graduated from the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) in the Early Years higher education programme 2016/17 and has agreed to take on the role and responsibilities of an Inclusion Coordinator OR
- An employee in the setting has enrolled in the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) in the Early Years higher education programme 2017/18 OR
- At least one employee in the setting has completed the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training being rolled out by City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs).

For ECCE settings with multiple ECCE rooms, a maximum of three AIM Inclusive Play Packs will be distributed initially with remaining AIM Inclusive Play Packs distributed once all settings have received at least one AIM Inclusive Play Pack. It may take up to 8 weeks to complete distribution to all ECCE settings. Distribution is being managed by Learning SPACE (email info@learningspace.ie /

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phone 048 9031 9360). Learning SPACE will notify ECCE settings by email when their AIM Inclusive Play Packs have been dispatched.

Resources in AIM Inclusive Play include:

- All Kinds of Feelings/All Kinds of People Books
- Audible Ball
- AIM Early Years 'My Day' Fan
- Creating Sensory Play for Little on No Cost / Hey! Children on the Autism Spectrum Play Too Books
- Dancing Ribbons
- Dark Den Cube/Pop Up Den
- Disc o' Sit/Movin Sit
- Emotions Poster
- Grimms House / Grimms Rainbow
- Jumbo Tweezers
- Kinetic Sand
- Laptop Tray
- Massage Set
- Recordable Answer Buzzer
- Large Timer
- 5 Mini Timers
- Sockette Puppet
- See Me Sensory Ball
- Sensory Bubble Hourglass
- Sensory Reflective Blanket
- Squigz
- Strobe Bar
- Tactile Ball
- Teeter Popper
- Therapy Putty
- Time Timer
- Traffic Light Fan
- Warmie Weighted Sensory Friend

A short introductory guide has been developed and will be delivered with the resources. A set of short videos has also been produced to demonstrate just some of the benefits of and uses that can be made of these resources. These can be viewed on the AIM website (www.aim.gov.ie)”

See full report on the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) website:

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=4628>

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**“Pathway to a Quality Support and Assurance System for Childminding in Ireland”
Minister Zappone – Speech at Launch of Report of the Working Group**

Minister Zappone welcomed a Report of the Working Group on Reforms and Supports for the Childminding Sector at the Law Society in Dublin on 28th March 2018.

The group, chaired by Bernadette Orbinski -Burke, CEO of Childminding Ireland, has produced a range of recommendations. These will be considered by the DCYA (Department of Children and Youth Affairs) over the coming months in order to develop a plan to support the development of the childminding sector in Ireland.

The report is strongly in favour of establishing the sector professionally, with a long term view to inclusion in the Government financial support schemes, in particular the Affordable Childcare Scheme that is being developed. The group highlighted the need for the next steps to feed into the forthcoming National Early Years Strategy.

The report defines a Childminding Service as being ‘offered by a person who single handedly takes care of children aged from 0-15 years old, which may include the persons own children, in the person’s home, for payment, for a total of more than two-hours per day.’

The report recognises that the proposals will require legislative change – including changes to the Childcare Act.

The report recommends that Au Pairs and Nannies should not be considered as ‘child-minders’ and that they should remain outside the State’s childcare support programmes but that the Department should give consideration to training and information supports for families employing these personnel.

DCYA has committed to putting in place an action plan for implementation of the report by the end of the year with short, medium and long-term goals.

A spokesperson for the Minister said that the launch of this report represents another step for the Minister in transforming Ireland’s childcare sector from being one of the most expensive in the world to one of the best.

See full report on DCYA website: <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=4632>

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