



Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon



In this edition

1. Roscommon CCC updates
2. Tip of the week
3. New supports for childcare providers weekend/bank holiday
4. Roscommon CCC Resources
5. DCEDIY Important notice/deadlines
6. First 5
7. PIP updates & Hive updates
8. Barnardo's Library service
9. Tusla updates
10. EGGstra Fun Easter Activities for Children (and Parents!)

Supporting parents
& families & the
ELC and SAC sector





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon



Roscommon County Childcare Committee Details

If you have any questions or queries, contact a member of the team

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Reminder: Please ensure you sign your extended COSP agreement by this Friday 26th March.


New supports available to childcare providers, weekend, and Bank Holidays

Covid Case Support Helpline

There are two helplines available to services who have a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in their service.

The HSE have a helpline to advise service providers if they have been informed of a Covid-19 case in a child or a staff member. The number is 01 511 9777 It is open Monday – Friday 8.30 – 4.30 and 10 – 4.30 Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

For those services who need support on engaging with the relevant authorities due to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, there is an **out of hours** helpline. The number is 1800 940 341. The service will be available Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from 10.00 – 13.00 and 13.30 – 16.00.




An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

National Covid-19 Support Helpline for ELC and SAC providers

If you are a childcare provider and/or a childminder and need
out of hours support in relation to a suspected or confirmed
case of Covid-19 in your childcare service please contact
1800 940341

This support line is available only
Saturdays/Sundays and Bank holidays
from 10am - 1pm and 1.30pm - 4pm



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

Looking for Early Learning and
Care/School Aged Childcare/
Childminding/Parent and Toddler
Group Resources?

Check out Roscommon CCC website
www.roscommonchildcare.ie

Roscommon CCC updates

In this week's bulletin you will find the most recent announcements from DCYA and the PIP Portal.

Please note the information in these bulletins is based on official communications from DCYA and Pobal as well as notices on PIP. However, information is subject to change from week to week so please check our most recent bulletin for the most up to date information. Don't forget this bulletin should not replace checking PIP - it is merely a reminder of important deadlines and information.



National Child Safeguarding Programme Update

For staff in services who have not completed the Tusla eLearning Programme in the last 3 years you can access this short e-learning programme here <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>

Once completed you can download your certificate of completion and display it in your service as part of you staff Continuing Professional Development and commitment to safeguarding children.

Staff can also access the Children First Revision Webinar <http://chidsafeguardingelc.ie/early-learning-care-services/>

Staff can also review and refresh their knowledge by accessing Info Blasts on various topics <http://chidsafeguardingelc.ie/category/english/>

National Child Safeguarding Programme Info Blast

Please find attached the latest Info Blast from the National Child Safeguarding Programme. The Info Blast focusses on returning to ELC and SAC services and how practitioners should take time to refamiliarise themselves with Child Safeguarding documentation.

This Info Blast is also available here <http://chidsafeguardingelc.ie/return-to-work/>

School Age Childcare Guidelines

Roscommon CCC will be distributing a copy of the SAC guidelines to SAC services both stand alone and combined in the coming weeks.



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Q. My child is attending a specialist pre-school for 2 days per week, and they recommend that my child attends a mainstream pre-school for the other 3 days per week; can the ECCE funding be split between the 2 pre-schools?

A. Yes, once both the specialist pre-school and the mainstream pre-school are both in contract to provide the ECCE programme, the specialist pre-school must provide a letter stating that it is in the best interests of the child to attend a mainstream pre-school for the remainder of the week. A letter must also be provided by the mainstream pre-school stating they are aware that the child is also attending a specialist pre-school. Both letters must be forwarded directly to Early Years Policies and Programmes in DCYA for approval.



Roscommon County Childcare Committee is working in collaboration with Dublin City University to facilitate a final year student placement. Emily, our student, is working towards supporting Parent and Toddler groups interested in using Zoom as an online platform to continue their sessions. Weekly activities for groups will be posted on Roscommon CCC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare> and feedback from these activities will inform the zoom session Emily plans to hold with Parent and Toddler Groups. We would encourage groups interested in getting involved to contact Roscommon CCC via email to aine.mannion@roscommonchildcare.ie.

Roscommon County Childcare Committees remit as local agent on behalf of the Department of Children Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) in County Roscommon is to assist parents and families with their childcare choices and support them in accessing the national childcare schemes. Our team are available to meet or talk with you regarding childcare subsidies and accessing the current childcare subsidies.

Roscommon County Childcare Committee, Knock Road, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon

Telephone: 0949622540

Email: info@roscommonchildcare.ie

Website: www.roscommonchildcare.ie

Roscommon CCC Resources

Roscommon CCC has uploaded a variety of useful resources for services and parents on our resource page on our website.

Recent resources include:

- Roscommon CCC Crawl and Learn poster. Click on the poster to download for free. This would be a good resource to parents and service providers.
 - Roscommon CCC [policies and procedures guidelines](#) and many others.
- [Think abouts on re-opening your Early Learning and Care and School Aged Childcare Service Support from Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG](#)





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon



Service Providers: Will you please inform Roscommon CCC if your service closes for any reason.

Contact us on 094 9622540 or e mail info@roscommonchildcare.ie



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Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



DCEDIY updates



Please find attached and below some important updates for you as owner/manager and your voluntary management committees (if community services)



School-aged childcare service Tusla registration Deadline 16th April 2021

All services that offer school aged childcare – either as a stand-alone service or as part of a sessional, part-time or full day care service **MUST** register the school aged part of their service with Tusla. Registration is completed online. Previously you would have received a notification to register with a link and password.

The final deadline for registration is **Friday 16 April.**

The submission checklist can be found on the Tusla website here:

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/School_Age_Childcare_Policies_Registration_Checklist_version_1.02.pdf

If you have any queries or need assistance you can contact the school age registration team on:

- sac.registration@tusla.ie or 061 461715
- portalsupport@tusla.ie for technical issues

Members from our staff team here in Roscommon County Childcare Committee are also available to support you through the process.

Friday 26 March 2021 Closing date for additional COSP funding agreement (see below for details)

Covid-19 Operating Support Payment (COSP) extension information 12th-26th March 2021.

The Covid -19 Operating Support Payment (COSP) has been extended to cover the period the 8th of March to 28th March. All services eligible for the extended COSP were notified on Friday, 5th March. To receive funding, all services eligible for COSP are required to accept terms and conditions of funding. To facilitate this, a COSP funding agreement relating to the extended period, will be available on the HIVE from **Friday 12th March to Friday 26th March**. Please see [how-to guide](#) for further details on this process.

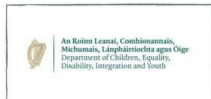


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Two new update improvements on the HIVE see below NCS for further details.



Please see videos below, updated NCS video as well as a number of guidance and reopening ELC and SAC videos produced by the Department.

Please click on links for further information; <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/> for the NCS video and <https://first5.gov.ie/guidance> for the Guidance videos.

Updated National Childcare Scheme 'about' video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPUZb16ihz0>

Phased reopening (08 March) of Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UMakysQYbQ>

Dealing with COVID-19 symptoms in ELC/SAC settings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM-DPDizJzY>

Important information for adults regarding the use of face coverings in ELC/SAC settings

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRL_vpqToKY

The importance of play as children return to early learning and childcare settings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9FsTwk_WqA

Key messages for childminding settings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL-6fZxgMiA>

Social distancing for adults: information for adults about social distancing in ELC/SAC settings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI36iK8h24o>

Helping kids through it: a reminder to us all about supporting children's wellbeing at this time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bsiYS3o-fg>

Operating play-pods is key to keeping both children and staff in ELC and SAC settings safe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeNcNgV7m3w>

Important information on Emergency Measures 8 - 28 March 2021

Full details of the funding arrangements for the period 8th March to 28th March were announced by the Government on Tuesday, 23rd February and can be found [here](#).

Payment Schedule

Eligible COSP services who have accepted the terms and condition of funding by COB on Monday, 15th March, will be paid on Friday, 19th March. Thereafter payments will be issued on a weekly basis.

**FAQs relating to the gradual lifting of restrictions for ELC and SAC.**

The new [FAQ document](#) covering the period March 8th to March 29th. These FAQs reflect the announcement made by the Minister on 23rd April with regard to the gradual lifting of restrictions on delivery of early learning and childcare services from 8th March. Also attached.



**Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon****FAQs for Parents of Children in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services (07****January)**

Please click [here](#) for further information



The Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY) is relaunching its Support Children campaign. The campaign will run on radio and social media for the next 6 weeks.

Useful information about the supports available to vulnerable children during the campaign is available here: [Supporting Children](#).

**STEM in the Early Years**

The STEM Education Policy (Department of Education and Skills, 2017, p. 6) defines STEM as four disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Each of the STEM areas is relevant and important for young children whose curiosity and drive to explore and understand the world is the starting point for their learning. Adults can support young children's STEM learning through providing opportunities for children to use their imaginations, to ask questions, to experiment, to make things and to try different ways of doing things. The STEM tip sheets available in the *Aistear Síolta* Practice Guide provide practical examples of such learning opportunities. The tip sheets can be found through the search bar in the *Aistear Síolta Practice Guide* homepage. Click [here](#) to access.



The Let's get Ready website has lots of resources for parents preparing their children to return to preschool/school. Click [here](#) for further information. Supporting your child's transition to primary school: click [here](#) for further information. Teaching new skills to children: Click [here](#) for further information.

Preschool Hub

Preschool Hub - Please find attached the link to the **new** Pre-school at Home hub page that includes the Playing at Home information sheets.

<https://first5.gov.ie/parents/pre-school-at-home/exploring-thinking>.



**Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon****Clarification on resumption of ECCE from 08 March 2021**

DCEDIY have provided the following clarification with regard to the resumption of ECCE from 08 March, (Question 22 of the [March FAQs](#)).

Children eligible to return on 08 March.

- All children within the eligible age range and currently registered on the ECCE programme on the Early Years Hive
- Children within the eligible age range, availing of ECCE provision but are funded through CCSP/TEC.

This is in addition to children considered vulnerable or children of essential workers who continue to be eligible to avail any service during this period.

Children not eligible to return until 29 March.

- Children who are not children of essential workers, are not considered vulnerable or, are not ECCE-eligible (based on age) and availing of ECCE provision within a service.

For clarity, children who are ECCE eligible (based on age) and are availing of ECCE provision can also avail of non-ECCE hours during the same period. For example, if a child resumes on March 8th and requires full-time provision they can attend for the three hour ECCE provision and remain within the service for remainder of the day.

Launch of COVID-19 Impact support - Monday 1st March.

Please click the [link](#) announcing the launch of the COVID-19 Impact support, a strand of sustainability funding for which applications will be opened on Monday 1st March. Information about eligibility criteria and how to apply are contained within.

CCSP/TEC saver management window will remain open for any changes to existing registrations.

NCS updates**Early Years Hive improvements****Early Years Hive Improvements**

The following two new updates have been recently made to the Early Years Hive based on service provider feedback.

Announcement's calendar

A new calendar feature has been added to Hive, located under the Announcements menu dropdown. This calendar displays key dates and upcoming deadlines for services on a monthly basis, this should be especially beneficial as we move closer to the summer months and





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

Programme Readiness. Announcements will continue to be posted on the Announcements page, but this calendar gives a clear visualisation of what's coming up and what actions may need to be taken by services. We advise that you check both this calendar and the announcements page regularly to keep updated. Note the entries on this calendar are managed by Pobal and cannot be edited or added to by the portal user.

Guidance for the Funding menu

New guidance has been added under the Quick Guides section of the Early Years Hive. This page will help you navigate the Funding menu of Hive and can be accessed by going to [NCS Quick Guides > Payments/funding](#).

Three new training videos are available on this page. These videos show you how to do the following on Hive:

- View programme funding via the Contracts page
- View payments issued via the Payments Issued page
- View allocations via the Allocations page

Please also note that there are further training videos available for [NCS](#) and [ECCE](#) on YouTube To see full announcement please click [here](#)

Covid-19 guidance posters are now available under the 'Covid-19 Funding Measures and Support' heading on [Useful Links](#). These can be printed and displayed in your service or shared via email. There are 4 posters with advice for

- ELC and SAC services
- ELC and SAC services providing transportation to and from schools.
- Childmind settings.
- Parents



The Leadership for INclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Consortium have developed CPD for INCOs aimed at graduates of

its Level 6 Special Purpose Award. The LINC CPD for INCOs Programme consists of six 10 hour continuing professional development packages which will be released over the next three years. Follow the link for more information.

<https://lincprogramme.ie/.../LINC-CPD-POSTER-FLYER-2021...>





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

If you have AIM staff employed in your service who are reaching out to the children they would normally be working with, there are resources on the AIM website [here](#) and the National Council for Special Education website [here](#) that they may find useful.



Thaiscáid Léinní um Theirge ar Scoil agus Teicnící na Lútháilíne
Demonstration Project on In-school and Early Years Therapy Support



Búla na Míleann
Committee of School

Have Fun with Nursery Rhymes!

Your child may have some favourite nursery rhymes. Have fun with them by trying some of the following ideas:



You can find many examples of nursery rhymes on
<https://www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/earlychildhoodinformation/parents/parentscapacity/nurseryrhymes/>
You can find examples of nursery rhymes and more tips to support children learn to talk by rhyming.

Have fun with Nursery Rhymes.

Help children needing additional support have fun with Nursery Rhymes check out the Pre-school at Home Hub tip sheet here:

[fun-with-nursery-rhymes.pdf \(first5.gov.ie\)](#)



Better Start
Forbairt Gailíoch
Lútháilíne Náisiúnta
National Early Years
Quality Development

The Better Start Quality Development Service is continuing to accept requests for their Quality Development Service. Please e mail quality@betterstart.ie

They are also providing shorter-term support to settings with practice-related queries so if services are not interested in the longer-term mentoring support, this may be an option for them. All they have to do is send an email outlining their query to quality@betterstart.ie putting their DCYA number and setting name in the subject line and an Early Years Specialist will contact them to discuss it further. Below is link to the information Better Start Facebook page
<https://m.facebook.com/BetterStartIreland/photos/pb.315121062029998.-2207520000./1631185920423499/?type=3>



Barnardos Parent Supportline

1800 910 123

10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday

Supporting children facing adversity

Barnardo's have produced a document to support practitioners who may be working with or supporting children facing adversity. Covid 19 is a new adverse event in the lives of children. For some, any adversity is new to them, for others it is yet another adverse factor in their lives. The document aims to help you understand how adversity might impact on their lives and how you might be able to support them.

The document can be found [here](#)

Barnardo's offer a range of online e learning courses to participants from a wide range of organisations across the community, voluntary, statutory, public, and private sector.

To view a list of their upcoming courses please click on [here](#)



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government supporting communities





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

Tusla Portal
Complete your 2019
Early Years Re-registration



Childcare providers please check your Tusla portal to ensure you have submitted all your documentation for re-registration.

Happy Talk March Newsletter

Please see the 'March 2021 Happy Talk Calendar Newsletter' attached.

The Happy Talk Calendar helps us all remember how to build great communication skills!

It reminds us to listen, to wait, to pay attention and to take a Mindful Moment to build these skills. It reminds us to play and sing, laugh and chat, and to be the best Happy Talkers we can be!



Meitheal
TUSLA -led Early Intervention Practice Model

Meitheal is the Early Intervention Model Practice Model used in conjunction with parents to help them share their knowledge, expertise and concerns about their child and to hear the views of Practitioners working with them. The ultimate goal is to enable parents and practitioners to work together to achieve a better life for their child.

Dates available are
Monday 12th, 19th & 26th April
2pm to 2.45pm MsTeams
RSVP essential to book a Place and receive training link
denise.swanick@tusla.ie

Child & Family Support Network Roscommon are hosting an Introduction to Meitheal for Early Educators linked with Roscommon Child Care Committee

We will show a ten-minute video and have Q&A session to explore where Meitheal fits with your professional practice.

This video is a comprehensive introduction to the key features of Meitheal. The aim of the briefing is to introduce:

- Meitheal and its defining features
- Considering the Meitheal process whilst working with a family
- The benefits of Meitheal for children, young people, families and practitioners

TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Roscommon
Child and Family Support Network
INFORMATION POINT

Roscommon County
Childcare
Committee CLG

Child & Family support Network Roscommon are hosting an online **Introduction to Meitheal for Early years Educators** linked with Roscommon CCC. See poster to book your place.

Useful Links

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate has developed guidance for registered providers of early year's services to support and facilitate the safe reopening and operation during the COVID-19 period.

Click [here](#) for further information!

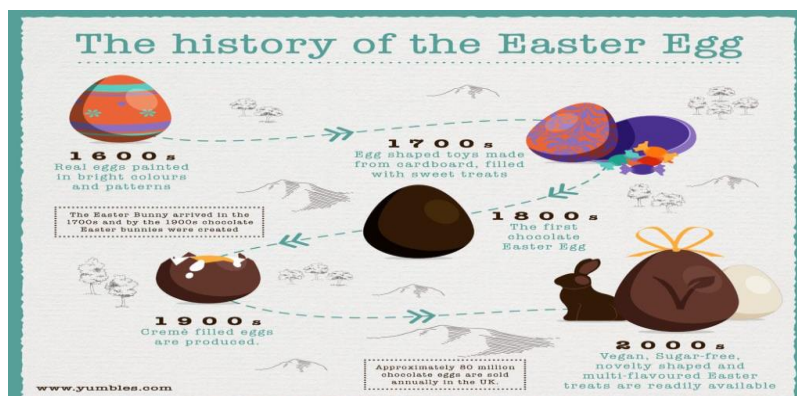
- Tusla, Early Years Notification Form – Covid-19. Click [here](#) to access form.
- Tusla Guidance for Early Years Services – Covid-19, Click [here](#) to access guidance
- Tusla, Early Years Self-Assessment Checklist – Covid-19, Click [here](#) to access Checklist





Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

EGGstra Fun Easter Activities for Children (and Parents!)



Organise an Easter EGG hunt

Hide eggs in different spaces outside if possible.

If you have mixed ages doing the easter egg hunt, arrange series of clues to find eggs.

Make the clues more difficult for older children.



For younger children use picture clues e.g.: picture of space/plant where easter egg is hidden.

Give younger children a 10-minute start on older children.

Ensure there are enough eggs for the number of children with a few to spare.

Make Easter decorations for the home.



Materials required.

Stiff paper/card

Pencils/markers/paints

String

Glitter glue

Stapler

Felt-wool, stickers if required.

Cut out shapes required e.g.: easter bunny/easter egg.

Draw faces on bunny shapes and decorate with glitter or colour in.

You can make add eyes and noses made from different materials e.g.: felt, different coloured card, wool, stickers. Staple on to string and hang around house.



Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

EASTER BUNNY CARD



To make an Easter bunny card, fold a piece of paper in half along the longer side. Draw an Easter bunny with long ears on the front of the card with some of the bunny touching the side fold. You can draw just a bunny's face and ears or a whole bunny or draw a bunny in an egg as opposite. Cut leaving part of the side fold joined. Decorate using paints, markers, or crayons.



Egg & Spoon race

This old-time favourite is great fun for all the family.

Children get hardboiled egg on spoon as less fragile.

Parents get egg on spoon so if it falls it cracks and they are eliminated.

Set out suitable track in garden with easter egg prizes for those who reach the end with egg intact.



GIANT EASTER EGG ART

Large Process Art
Perfect for Little Hands

It is important to provide young children with open ended activities to provide them with opportunities to direct their own independent learning experiences. This activity incorporated these important characteristics which are the corner stones of children early learning. By leaving materials open ended, you can encourage children to make choices as well as engage more openly in activities to support their development.

MATERIALS

- WHITE CARD/ PAPER
- RANGE OF COLORED POSTER PAINT
- STAMPING MATERIALS EG: SPONGE, BLOCKS, LEAVES, BRUSHES...
- GLITTER/STICKERS/POM POMS/ COTTON BALLS (any materials that children like to use during arts and crafts. Ask children what they feel they might like to use)

MIX IT UP

Why not attach the 'eggs' to a window and encourage children to paint using the natural light (poster paints are washable !!)

This opens a new experience for children and allows them to work from a different perspective










PROCESS

Prep: parents should assist children in drawing and cutting out a large oval shape using the card.

- Remember, this activity is LARGE. Encourage children to use their whole body movements.
- Demonstrate how they can use the different materials to make prints and stamps.
- For example, taking a pom-pom/ cotton ball and a peg, dipping it in paint, show children how they can use it as a brush or to make a stamp.
- Encourage children to mix and make different colors

Don't forget to share with us your feedback and thoughts!

It is important to remember that for both parents and children, there is not right or wrong way. That is why open ended activities are so effective to encourage children to develop their decision making skills.



Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon



Bunny shaped easter cake

You do not need a special template or baking pan for this easy Easter bunny cake, just a couple of round cake pans will do.

Ingredients	Frosting:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour • 1 ½ cups white sugar • ⅔ cup unsweetened cocoa powder • 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder • 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda • 1 teaspoon salt • 2 eggs • 1 cup milk • rapeseed oil • 2 teaspoons vanilla extract • 1 cup boiling water, or more as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ½ cups unsalted butter, at room temperature • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract • 4 ½ cups icing sugar, or more as needed. • 2 tablespoons milk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¼ cup sweetened flaked coconut • assorted candy decorations 	1-ounce black gel food colouring.



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour two 9-inch springform pans.
2. Combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add eggs milk, oil, and vanilla extract. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until well combined, about 2 minutes. Stir in boiling water. divide batter between the prepared springform pans.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool in the pans on wire racks for 10 minutes. Run a table knife around the edges to loosen. Invert carefully onto wire racks. Let cool completely, about 30 minutes.
4. Cream together butter and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Blend in icing sugar, 1/2 cup at a time, until fully incorporated. Beat in milk until frosting is light and fluffy. Keep icing covered until ready to decorate.
5. Place 1 whole cooked cake on a serving tray for the bunny's head. Cut 2 convex-shaped ears from each side of the second cake place. Place ears on each side of the head. Use the remaining concave-shaped piece for the bowtie; position it about 1/2 inch below the head.
6. Spread frosting over the entire cake. Sprinkle with flaked coconut to make the surface look like fur. Decorate the bunny face and bowtie with candy decorations and use the black decorating icing to draw on whiskers.



Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon

Easter Bunny Hop



I am sure all the children are delighted to be back with their friends. If you are looking for something creative to keep them entertained in the run up to Easter, why not get involved in our **Bunny Hop** and help support our amazing children at the Down Syndrome Centre! Getting involved is easy. We are looking for children in Creches, Montessori's and Junior and Senior Infants to join us for a simple walk, skip or hop around their Pre-School or School yard. Donate €2 to support children with Down syndrome. You will also receive a lots of Easter themed activities to keep them entertained – games, activities, bunny ears for colouring etc.

When does it take place?

Bunny Hop can take place anytime in **April 2020**, though most participate the **week before Easter** for a fun start to the holidays. We are happy for you to join us whenever works best for you!

Where will the funds go?

Your donations go straight to our early-intervention services here at the Down Syndrome Centre. We provide essential services to children of all ages, including a wide variety of therapies, family groups, and SKIP (Special Kids Intervention Programme). This programme prepares children for mainstream school by targeting all areas of a child's development, such as speech and language, fine / gross motor skills and most of all, social skills!

100% of our funding comes through fundraising events and campaigns, and we are so grateful for your support of the amazing children we serve here at our centre. Your donation makes a world of difference, and helps our children reach their full potential.

If you would like to get involved in our **Bunny Hop**, click [here](https://www.downsyndrome.ie) to register and you will be sent your Bunny Hop pack. For more information, please contact me via email at rhona@downsyndrome.ie or phone 086 8035530.

