

Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for the Early Learning & Care & School Age Childcare Sector in County
Roscommon - Edition: 02nd July 2021



Supporting
parents &
families & the
ELC and SAC
sector

Message from our County Childcare Coordinator Irene Cafferky

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 (details updated below).

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 or indeed through your social media. We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative and beneficial.

As many of our sessional services are breaking up now for the summer period, we would like to take this time to wish those of you that are off for the summer period a well-earned rest. The remainder of our services in County Roscommon remain open for full day care and afterschool services and we look forward to seeing what fun activities you have planned, and we will keep you informed of any new developments as they arise.

Kind Regards & Happy Reading,

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



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We ask that if you need to contact a member of our team that you now use the contact details as outlined below.

Roscommon CCC Staff Name	Contact Details
Martina Towey (Administrator)	 martina.towey@roscommonchildcare.ie  0949622750 and press for extension 1.  Mobile: 087 0629894
Carmel Dunne (Development Officer)	 carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie  0949622540 and press for extension 2.  Mobile: 087 774405
Sinead Mc Quaid (Development Officer)	 sinead.mcquaid@roscommonchildcare.ie  0949622540 and press for extension 3.  Mobile: 087 7744406
Aine Mannion (Development Officer)	 aine.mannion@roscommonchildcare.ie  0949622540 and press for extension 4.  Mobile: 087 774404
Irene Cafferky (County Childcare Coordinator/Manager)	 irene.cafferky@roscommonchildcare.ie  0949622540 and press for extension 5.  Mobile: 0866039606



All updates and our weekly newsletter/bulletin from us to your service will now come from our info@roscommonchildcare.ie address. Your assigned development officer will also keep in regular contact with your service for any support needs.



Visit our website at <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/> Roscommon CCC has uploaded a variety of useful resources for services and parents on our resource page on our website.



<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.



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Roscommon County Council and Roscommon County Childcare Committee host:

ROSCOMMON PLAYFUL COMMUNITIES PLAYDAY

ONLINE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: ARTS & CRAFTS, MUSIC, STORYTIME, SCAVENGER HUNT, PLAY PACKS, MINDFULNESS, BAKING, SPORTS SKILLS

FOR FULL DETAILS SEE:
[HTTPS://WWW.ROSCOMMONCHILDCARE.IE](https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie)
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROSCOMMONCHILDCARE](https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare)
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROSCOMMONCOUNTYCOUNCIL](https://www.facebook.com/roscommoncountycouncil)



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



ROSCOMMON
Sports Partnership
- SPORT IRELAND -



Roscommon County
Childcare
Committee CLG



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lámháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Roscommon County Playday will take place virtually on July 3rd from 10am. The virtual events will be published on Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare>

You can find the schedule of planned events for the day here:

<https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/roscommon-county-playday-2021/>

Please join us for a fun filled day.



The code used to identify ELC and SAC services, formally known as the DCYA Ref. Number, has now changed to the **Service Ref. Number**.

Going forward, you will be asked for your Service Ref. Number when contacting the EYPC and you may have encountered this already.

This change has already automatically taken place on the Early Years Hive and will shortly be occurring on the PIP Portal. There is no action required from service providers except be aware of the new name.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
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Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



government supporting communities

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Ask The Team - Roscommon CCC Team answering queries as they arise for the sector.




ASK THE TEAM



Q. I have an AIM level 7 AIM staff member on my team. Can this staff member avail of EWSS?

A. As per the AIM Programme Rules, the wages of an employee may be supported through either EWSS or AIM Level 7 capitation, **but not both**. It is open to a service provider to decide whether EWSS or AIM Level 7 funding is most advantageous to them.

 Roscommon CCC Training/Continuing Professional Development Events/Workshops			
Workshop	Date	Time	Content & Who To Contact
NCS- Portal guidance & ECCE - calendar enhancements	Wednesday 7 th July	10am - 11am	We will take providers through the Hive portal enhancements & guidance. To book a place contact Sinead on 0949622540 and press for extension 3. sinead.mcquaid@roscommonchildcare.ie

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES



Tuesday 31 August 2021

- Playing outside grant applications close, see below for further information.

Thursday 15 July 2021

- Final resubmission deadline for new higher capitation applications

Friday 16 July 2021

- Childminding development grant applications close, see below for further information.



The Programme Support Payments (PSP) 2021-2022 are now open for applications on the Early Years Hive until Friday **2nd July 2021**. Click [here](#) to see full announcement!



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Covid Case Support Helplines

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

Updated public health advice

Updated HSE Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for ELC and SAC settings was published on Friday 25th June. **We have attached a copy for your convenience.**

Webinar on public health advice

The Department will host a public health webinar for services on Wednesday, 7 July at 2pm. The webinar will include an update on the changes to the HPSC guidance. You can join the webinar by clicking this link

<https://irlgov.webex.com/irlgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e72fdb6f567dc6a35d57b825698a81423>

If you can't attend, the webinar will be recorded and published on first5.gov.ie.

OUTDOOR ENHANCEMENT GRANT

- The online application process for the Outdoor Enhancement Capital Grant 2021 is now taking applications on the Hive.
- To be eligible, applicants must have been contracted with DCEDIY to provide Early Learning and Care and or School Age Childcare Programmes on the 3 May 2021 and have a minimum of one child registered in respect of one or more of the DCEDIY registration-based schemes.
- The amount of grant available is pre-determined and calculated based on the number of individual children registered with the service as of 3 May 2021.



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**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**



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Number of children registered	Grant Allocation
1-49	€1,000
50-100	€2,000
101+	€2,500

- The timeframe for eligible expenditure under the grant is from **1 June 2021 - 31 December 2021**.

Payments for this grant will start on Friday 25 June and will be made weekly after that date. You should receive 100% of the grant, within 10 working days following the submission of your application.

PROCESS FOR CHECKING ECCE FEES LISTS FOR THE 2021/2022 PROGRAMME YEAR

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth would like to advise you that the process for the checking of ECCE fees lists for the 2021/2022 programme year will remain the same as the 2020/2021 programme year.

Once your service has completed the ECCE Fees List a copy should to be sent to Roscommon CCC for verification. This can be sent by email, screenshot or any other electronic means. Roscommon CCC will review the Fees List and will liaise with your Service to support and advise if amendments are required.

Where a service is requested by Roscommon CCC to amend a fees list on the Hive the service should submit a screenshot of the amendments to Roscommon CCC. For further information in regard to any of the above please contact Roscommon CCC directly.

NEW APPLICATIONS CLOSED FOR ECCE HIGHER CAPITATION 2020/21

New applications for ECCE Higher Capitation 2020/21 Programme Call are now closed for submission, effective from 25/06/2021 in line with the ECCE Programme Year.

No new applications submitted after this date will be processed. If your status is Referred back you have until Wednesday 15 July to resubmit. Queries and issues would have been highlighted on the form, specifying the issue and guidance on how to resolve it. Be aware that you will not be permitted to resubmit after July 15.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING- The following are some areas services and practitioners can review as part of their child safeguarding continuing professional development plans.



Irene in Roscommon CCC can advise and support services if you are unsure what CPD staff should undertake.



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- Encourage staff in your service, who haven't completed the Tusla eLearning Programme in the last 3 years to do so <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>
- Encourage staff in your service to access the Children First Revision Webinar <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/early-learning-care-services/>
- Encourage staff in your service to access the Garda Vetting webinar <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/early-learning-care-services/>
- Encourage staff in your service to review and refresh their knowledge by accessing Info Blasts on various topics <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/category/english/>



If you need support in this area, please contact Irene who is our child safeguarding trainer on our Roscommon CCC team on 0949622523/0866039606.

FAR TRAINING BURSARY – Remember to be eligible for this bursary you must have completed your training by 31st October 2021.

Tusla have confirmed that the regulatory requirement to have at least one person FAR trained available to children at all times in each service has been extended to 1 November 2021.

Please see link below for further Tusla communications on this regulatory extension.

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-pre-school-inspection-services/first-aid-training-in-early-years-services/>

Due to this extension, the DCEDIY have agreed to extend the FAR reimbursement scheme to **31st October**. Please see the attached application form for full details of the scheme and payment dates.

Please remember the following:

- Only **one** payment can be made per service.
- The training must have been **completed by 31 October 2021**. Training completed after that date is not eligible for a payment under the scheme.
- Completed FAR Reimbursement application form **must be accompanied by a PHECC accredited FAR certificate and a copy of training payment receipt**.

For further information click here or contact Martina on 0949622540 and press for extension 1 or any other member of the Roscommon CCC team. [https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/first-aid-responder-far-extended-to-31st-october-](https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/first-aid-responder-far-extended-to-31st-october-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1kopleGynFJSldyx6hly6vLy5bTS8blgWSQv2mnhBouzbBvYQpq4NAkFQ)


[2021/?fbclid=IwAR1kopleGynFJSldyx6hly6vLy5bTS8blgWSQv2mnhBouzbBvYQpq4NAkFQ](https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/first-aid-responder-far-extended-to-31st-october-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1kopleGynFJSldyx6hly6vLy5bTS8blgWSQv2mnhBouzbBvYQpq4NAkFQ)

Click here for an application form <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FAR-Reimbursement-Application-Form-2021.pdf>



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Childminding Action Plan - Consultation



As part of the National Action Plan for Childminding (NAPC), the DCEDIY are seeking childminders to participate on the following representation and consultation groups:

- Steering group
- 4 Advisory groups
- Focus groups

If you are interested in participating, please go to link in post and complete the form

The National Action Plan for Childminding (NAPC) was published in April 2021. Representation of childminders and consultation with childminders will be essential to the implementation of the NAPC.

To begin this representation and consultation process, we are seeking childminder representatives for the following groups:

- NAPC Steering Group which will oversee the implementation of the Action Plan
- NAPC 4 Advisory Groups: Regulation and Inspection, Training and Support, Funding and Financial Support,

Consultation and Communication

- Focus Groups

The Steering group will be established first, followed by the 4 Advisory Groups over the following months. Focus groups will be established for childminder representation and consultation throughout the pathway of the plan.

If you are interested in having your voice heard and participating on these groups, please follow the link below to complete the form to register your interest:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7jkkQT9D0EmFUmljWbkiCx6EwgPdqxGk4gQzEUHsrRUQjdDU0FLSVpKtjEwRDBSWFNCSDBWU5IRy4u>

The survey will be open from **Thursday 1st July till 5pm Friday 9th July.**



ACCESS & INCLUSION MODEL (AIM)

What is AIM?

The **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** is a model of supports designed to promote inclusion and to ensure that children with disabilities can meaningfully participate in the **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** free pre-school programme in mainstream pre-school settings.

AIM is a child-centred model, offering a range of universal and targeted supports. It offers tailored, practical supports based on need and **does not require a formal diagnosis of disability.**



AIM Universal Supports - promoting inclusive settings

Universal supports are designed to promote and support an inclusive culture within pre-school settings.

Training to support inclusive practice is being rolled out for pre-school staff. Many settings now have a qualified **Inclusion Coordinator.**

AIM Inclusive Play is a set of sensory and educational play resources. AIM Inclusive Play packs have been distributed to all ECCE-registered pre-school settings across Ireland for the use of all children registered on the ECCE programme.

AIM Targeted Supports

For many children, AIM universal supports will be sufficient to ensure inclusion. However, some children may require one or more further, specific supports to ensure that they can participate fully in the ECCE programme.

These might take the form of specialist advice and support, **specialist equipment or appliances, minor building alterations, therapeutic intervention**, or, in a small number of cases, **extra assistance** in the pre-school room.

While AIM does not fund Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), in some cases funding may be provided either to **reduce the child-to-adult ratio** in the pre-school room or to fund an extra staff member as a shared resource with other children in the ECCE setting.




Applications can be made from May each year for the ECCE Programme Year beginning in September

Go to www.aim.ie to find out more

How can I apply for AIM targeted supports?

Applications for AIM targeted supports can only be made through a pre-school setting and parents/guardians make applications together.

Advice and support from Better Start Early Years Specialists can be accessed by phone (01-511 7222), e-mail (online.support@pobal.ie) or via the AIM online application form through the Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP), the IT system providers use for payments from Pobal.

To apply for specialised equipment, appliances or a grant towards minor alterations, pre-school providers, in partnership with parents or guardians, should complete the relevant part of the online application form on PIP.

To apply for early years educational advice, therapy services or additional funding for extra support in the pre-school room, pre-school providers, in partnership with parents or guardians, should complete the "Access and Inclusion Profile" on PIP. Applications will be assessed by Better Start, whose Early Years Specialists will consider the strengths and needs of both the child and the setting.



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Supporting Transitions from the Home to the Early Learning and Care Setting –
Advice and Best Practice- <https://lincprogramme.ie/blog/supporting-transitions-from-the-home>

Getting Ready for Primary School – Advice and Preparation
<https://lincprogramme.ie/blog/getting-ready-for-primary-school>

There are a range of CPD resources for practitioners available on the First 5 website. To view the full range of courses available please click [here](#)

The outdoor learning and play section contain several resources and ideas to create a new outdoor area or further develop your existing outdoor area.
To view resources and ideas please click [here](#)

EARLY YEARS SECTORAL E-BULLETIN

Early Years sectoral e-bulletin for early learning and care (ELC) and school age childcare (SAC) providers. The e-bulletin includes updates from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Education, Pobal & Tusla. Click on the link below:
<https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/early-years-sectoral-e-bulletin/>

Tusla update:

Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Aged Care (SAC) childcare providers must be registered with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency as a prescribed early years service. A childcare provider who provides both early learning and care and school age childcare must have a valid Tusla registration for both service types. For full announcement please click [here](#)



See link below to a lovely story with Little Gem Puppets courtesy our friends in Roscommon Library the Fox, The Owl and The Hunter.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=125076509701198>

Ready to draw with Tina Mation – workshop 1 (dragon) - <https://fb.watch/6tbYDhXCOT/>

Ready to draw with Tina Mation – workshop 2 (tigercub) - <https://fb.watch/6tbKCiWAEB/>

Mythical adventure stories with Wayne O'Connor - <https://fb.watch/6tbVvnwosM/>





[LAOIS COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE CLG ARE NOW RECRUITING.](#)

Click on the following link to view a job opportunity with Laois CCC. job in Laois CCC:

<https://www.laoischildcare.ie/2021/06/23/laois-county-childcare-committee-clg-is-recruiting-a-quality-worker-28-hours-per-week/>

[RESEARCH INTO THE EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19](#)

Research related to the experiences of Early Childhood Educators/Practitioners, Service Providers, Childminders, all those who were involved in the provision of Early Years and School Aged Childcare services during the COVID-19 crisis is being undertaken by NUI Galway. The aim of the research is to gain insights into the challenges to services, the impact on educators and their ongoing connections with children and families through these past 16 months.



Those who are working directly in Early Years settings and others who can support wider dissemination are asked to partake in the research by click the following link here: [questionnaire link](#). You can also copy/paste the questionnaire link directly: <https://tinyurl.com/ECECQ>

Early Years services have played an exceptional and vital role in supporting children and families, our communities and wider society to find our way through this past year. This is a unique and important story that needs to be told. Your support and participation is crucial to ensure the Early Years community is accurately portrayed.

For any queries related to this research contact: sheila.garrity@nuigalway.ie

[GALWAY ROSCOMMON EDUCATION TRAINING BOARD LAUNCH UPDATED COURSE](#)

Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board (GRETb) wish to inform you of the **NEW Early Learning and Care level 5 QQI course** that has replaced the old Early Childhood Education and Play Course 5M2009.

GRETb are also providing for one more year full time the opportunity to learners who have completed the old Early Childhood Education and Play course 5M2009 to progress to the **level 6 Early Childhood Education and Play 6M2007**. These one year full time courses are available at Colásite an Chreagáin, Mountbellew from September 2021. Learners can apply through fetchcourses.ie and places are filling up. Email pauline.davoren@gretb.ie or call 09096 79231 for more information.



Barnardos have recently launched our Spring/ Summer 2021 Training Webinars.

[Children First Child Protection Training](#) - 29/30th June – 10am to 1pm - €90

[Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Child Development](#) – 10th July 9.30am-4.00pm - €90

[Children First Child Protection Training](#) – 10/11th August 10am-1.00pm - €90

[An Introduction to Supervision in Early Learning and Care](#) – 11th August 6.30-8.30pm - €25

[Designated Liaison Person Training](#) – 7/8th September 10am-1.00pm - €90

[Making the Most of Supervision](#) (3 day course for Supervisors) – 15th/16th September and
27th October 10am-5.00pm - €454

[Children First Child Protection Training](#) – 14/15th September 10.00am-1.00pm - €90

[An Introduction to Infant Mental Health in Early Learning & Care](#) – 22nd September 7-9pm -
€15

[Designated Liaison Person Training](#) – 28/29th September 10am-1pm - €90

[Trauma Informed Practice in Early Learning and Care](#) – 13th October – 7-9pm - €15

Barnardo's will continue to add events to the Training section of their [website](#)

