



# OFFALY COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE



## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

30th June 2025



### IMPORTANT DATES, DEADLINES AND DCEDIY PRESS RELEASE

Here you will find details and reminders of important upcoming deadlines along with DCEDIY current press releases.



### OCCC UPCOMING EVENTS

Here you will find details of all our upcoming training events with links to bring you directly to Eventbrite.



### HIVE NOTIFICATIONS

Here you will find the most recent Hive notifications and details on Compliance for ECCE and NCS.

## CONTACT DETAILS



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An Roinn Leanaí, Michumais  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality





# IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

<b><u>NCS Compliance Inspections – 2024/2025</u></b>	<b>On-going</b>
<b>NCS Weekly Returns to be completed between Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>AIM non-term application for Summer 2025</b>	<b>Now Open</b>
<b>Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 4, 5, and 7 standard applications for 2025/2026.</b>	<b>Now open</b>
<b>Programme Readiness for 2025/2026</b>	<b>Now Open</b>
<b>Change of Circumstances - Tulsa</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>Always Children First Safeguarding Awareness Training</b>	<b>17th July 2025</b>
<b>Exploring the Updated Aistear - Information Sessions</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>Always Children First Safeguarding Awareness Training</b>	<b>17th July 2025</b>
<b>QIPP Report Template for 2024/2025</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>Core Funding Information Session</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>

### Pillars of Practice

Curriculum Foundations underpins the Pillars of Practice. There are six interconnected Pillars of Practice as outlined below. Each Pillar of Practice has its own overview which provides an introduction to that particular Pillar and makes connections to both *Síolta* and *Aistear*. Each Pillar of Practice then presents two areas – Self-evaluation tools to support you to reflect on your practice and other supports including videos and practical resources which help to exemplify *Síolta* and *Aistear* in practice.



#### Learning Environments

This Pillar will support you to reflect on, create and use inclusive learning environments.



#### Relationships and Interactions

This Pillar will support you to reflect on how to nurture responsive relationships and interactions.



#### Play

This Pillar will support you to reflect on free-play, guided play and educator-led playful experiences.



#### Partnerships and Connections

This Pillar will support you in building and maintaining trusting relationships with families.



#### Transitions

This Pillar will support you to reflect on and support transitions in practice.



#### Planning and Assessing

This Pillar will support reflection on your approach to planning and assessing in practice.



We are pleased to inform you that the updated and newly designed Aistear Síolta Practice Guide is now live and available on Nurturing Skills website.

This online resource helps educators to use the two early childhood frameworks, *Síolta* and *Aistear* together to develop, reflect on and enhance the quality of their practice with babies, toddlers and young children. It offers practical suggestions, ideas and examples to guide educators in using the frameworks to inform and enrich children's learning and development.

**Please note** that the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide is now only accessible through the Nurturing Skills website. The previous link is no longer in use. To access the Practice Guide, please visit [nurturingskills.ie](http://nurturingskills.ie), go to the Resources tab and click on The Aistear Síolta Practice Guide.





# NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME

for Early Learning & Childcare Services



## ALWAYS CHILDREN FIRST: CHILD SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS TRAINING

This accredited training course will enable participants to

- Gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of how to recognise and respond to child protection and welfare concerns.
- Consider child-centred practice as a key part of child safeguarding and how you might implement child centred practice.
- Gain a clear understanding of your role and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and promoting their welfare to enable them to achieve their full potential

### Booking Conditions

- ✓ Training participants must complete the Tusla eLearning programme prior to attendance of this course.
- ✓ Open to all early years practitioners working in a childcare service in County Offaly, including those in DLP or Mandated Person roles
- ✓ Maximum booking of 2 people per service, service must be based in Offaly
- ✓ Cost per participant: €10



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- **Date:**  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- **Venue:**  
O'Connor Square, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 Y7P0
- **Time:**  
9.30am - 4.30pm

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**



Offaly County Childcare Committee



## Exploring the Updated Aistear Information Workshops



- ✓ Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025      ✓ 10.00am - 2:30pm
- ✓ Offaly County Childcare Committee Training room
- ✓ Cost: FREE



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[Click here to register for the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025](#)



Offaly County Childcare Committee



## Exploring the Updated Aistear Information Workshops



- ✓ Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025      ✓ 10.00am - 2:30pm
- ✓ Offaly County Childcare Committee Training room
- ✓ Cost: FREE



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www.offalychildcare.com

[Click here to register for the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025](#)



OFFALY COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE CLG.



# CORE FUNDING FINANCIAL REPORTING INFORMATION SESSIONS



- 1 Core Funding Application form for 2025 - Year 4
- 2 Overview of the Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements for year 3 and 4
- 3 Overview of the Fee management and Fee increase application (if available at time)
- 4 Overview of the Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan



**When:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Where:** OCCC Training Room, O'Connor Square

**Time:** 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Cost:** €0.00 per person

<http://www.offalychildcare.com>

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[Click here to Register](#)



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# DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION CHARTER AND GUIDELINES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

## DIVERSITY EQUALITY & INCLUSION TRAINING



### Topics

- The National Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter
- Understanding Diversity, Equality and Inclusion
- Developing an anti-bias approach in early years
- The physical environment and its role in inclusive practice



Saturday 27th September  
2025: 9.30am - 4.30pm



Saturday 4th October  
2025: 9.30am - 4.30pm



Offaly CCC Training  
Room,  
O'Connor Square  
Tullamore



€10 for training course

[REGISTER NOW](#)



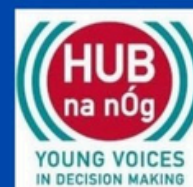
[Click here to Register](#)



Offaly County Childcare Committee



# CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION Framework



This training will focus on how The National Participation Framework can enhance your work on involving babies, toddlers, and young children in decision-making in your everyday practice. This training will refer to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and will explore practical approaches that can be applied in everyday decision-making in your early learning and care services.'

## DETAILS:

- ✓ **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025**
- ✓ **9:30am – 4:00pm**
- ✓ **OCCC Training room,  
O'Connor Square, Tullamore**
- ✓ **Cost: €5 per participant**



[aine@offalychildcare.com](mailto:aine@offalychildcare.com)



Call to find out more  
057 9135878



[Click here to Register](#)



# Hive Notifications



Dear Service Provider,

We would like to remind you that NCS subsidies can only be paid once a CHICK has been registered and the parent/guardian has confirmed that all details are correct on the NCS parent portal. Please review any unconfirmed claims for your service and request parental confirmation from applicants where necessary. For payments to flow, all claim weeks for a child must be confirmed. A registration will display 'No' under the 'All Claims Confirmed by Parent?' column until all claim weeks have been confirmed.

Where a registration is displaying 'No', it may be that there is an older claim still awaiting parent confirmation. Parent confirmation only changes to 'Yes' when the parent has confirmed all of the claims for the child.

If you have any questions, contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC). Simply raise a Request on the Early Years Hive by selecting the relevant programme and request type from the dropdown menu.

Regards,

The Early Years Team

# Hive Notifications



Dear Service Provider,

This is a reminder that the application process for the Core Funding 2025/2026 programme year opened on 9 June 2025.

You can submit a Core Funding application for the 2025/2026 programme year on the [Core Funding Application](#) page under the Programmes menu. Partner Services who have completed the May Review and Confirm process and are at an 'Approved' status will have the option to auto-populate their new Core Funding Application Module for the 2025/2026 programme year using the information from the most recently 'Approved' Core Funding Application record for 2024/2025.

It is important to note that once you have submitted your Core Funding Application Module for 2025/2026, you will have a 21-day window to activate the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2025 on the [All Programme Applications](#) under the Programmes menu. If you do not accept your Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2025 within 21 days, your Core Funding application will be cancelled, and you will need to reapply.

Additional support and training materials are now available in the [Help and Support](#) section of the Early Years Hive.

Regards,  
The Early Years Team



# Hive Notifications



Dear Service Provider,

Access & Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 7, Plus and Non-term applications open on the Early Years Hive from 9am today. A new AIM Plus and Non-term application must be submitted for the 2025/2026 programme call.

AIM Level 4, Level 5 and Level 7 standard initial and Review & Confirm opened on 6 May 2025. Services are reminded to submit any relevant AIM application at least three months prior to a child's planned start date in ECCE.

## Guidance

See the [AIM Hive Guides](#) to support with the submission of your AIM applications and completion of the AIM Review & Confirm process. Additionally, see the 'How- to' videos available on the Early Years Hive for AIM Plus and Non-term [here](#).

An AIM Programme Readiness checklist is now available on the Early Years Hive [here](#).

## Training

Training sessions on AIM Level 4 and AIM Level 7 were held on 7 May 2025. Click the link below to access the recorded AIM Programme Readiness Webinar.

## Recorded training webinars

## Support

Should you have any queries in relation to the AIM programme, please contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) by raising a Request using the following categories:

- Programme: (select the AIM level)
- Request type: Application
- Request type detail: How To

# Hive Notifications

## ECCE compliance

It is the responsibility of the Service Provider to ensure compliance with their contractual requirements. Service providers should ensure that they understand and adhere to the ECCE Funding Agreement. Failure to do so will result in non-compliance and will require corrective action.

In order to make compliance visits as efficient as possible for both providers and visit officers, service providers should ensure that their compliance file is kept up to date and contains:

- Attendance records
- Enrolment details (including minimum enrolment exemption where relevant);
- Parental declaration forms
- Parent letters
- Fee records
- Staff qualifications
- Higher capitation forms

The below documents offers guidance for service providers on ECCE compliance:

- [ECCE Compliance Checklist 23-24](#)
- [ECCE Compliance Approved Provider Guide 23-24](#)
- [ECCE Post-Inspection Rectification Actions 23-24](#)
- [ECCE Good Practice Guide for Attendance Records](#)



## National Childcare Compliance

- [Accessing the NCS Compliance Report on Hive](#)
- [NCS Compliance Checklist](#)
- [NCS Compliance Service Provider Guide](#)
- [NCS Post Inspection Rectification Actions](#)



# Hive Notifications

## CCSP Saver Programme compliance

It is the responsibility of the Service Provider to ensure compliance with their Funding Agreement requirements. Failure to comply with any of the terms of the Funding Agreement may result in the suspension of CCSP Saver Programme Funding and/or DCEDIY funding or part thereof may be withdrawn and/or a termination of this Funding Agreement.

In order to make compliance visits as efficient as possible for both providers and visit officers, providers should ensure that their compliance file is kept up to date and contains:

- Attendance Records
- Service Fee Information Letters
- Parental declaration forms;
- Parent/guardian letters;
- Fee records;
- Staff qualifications and letters of qualifications;
- Grandfathering declarations as applicable;
- Evidence of Tusla registration(s).

**The compliance file must be kept on site and available for inspection at all times.**

Services should also ensure that:

- Registrations are correct,
- Fees list and calendar, for all approved funding programmes, are clearly displayed for parents and,
- **There is a staff member on site at all times who has access to the compliance file and can facilitate the visit. Failure to do same could result in a service being found non-compliant.**

Please note that if the records are readily available for review any interruption to the service will be minimal, other than seeking clarifications when required.

To assist services to comply with the CCSP Saver Programme requirements, the Department and the Scheme Administrator provide a range of training and supports.

These include:

- [CCSP Compliance Checklist 23-24](#)
- [CCSP Compliance Approved Provider Guide 23-24](#)
- [CCSP Post-Inspection Rectification Actions 23-24](#)

Providers are strongly encouraged to engage with these supports, both before and after compliance visits, to ensure that they maintain compliance with scheme rules.

# Hive Notifications



## AIM Level 7 Compliance

AIM Level 7 compliance checks will be commencing on AIM Level 7 payments from the week beginning 22 April 2024. This will involve a series of standardised checks on AIM Level 7 approved capitations relating to additional assistance in the pre-school room and the maintenance of reduced ratios.

The compliance checks are aimed at confirming adherence with AIM Level 7 rules and contract conditions as set out by the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration & Youth (DCEDIY).

To ensure the compliance checks can be conducted at unannounced inspections, please ensure that the person in charge on-site has access to the following records to present to the Visit Officer for review:

- The child attendance records for each of the ECCE sessions attended by child/ren benefitting from AIM Level 7
- The Staff Qualifications for staff working in these ECCE session/s

The Pobal compliance team have uploaded additional compliance support documents to the Hive in order to assist services in preparing for a compliance inspection. The documents, which are listed below, are available under the Resources section and can also be accessed through this link

- [AIM Level 7 Compliance Guide for Approved Providers 2023 - 2024](#)
- [AIM Level 7 Compliance Checklist for Approved Providers 2023 - 2024](#)
- [AIM Level 7 Rectification Actions Guide 2023 - 2024](#)

Please note - these documents are only supports, intended to assist you. There is an onus on each provider to familiarise themselves with their responsibilities under the AIM Rules (AIM Level 7 included) and contractual conditions.