

Summer Newsletter 2017



A word from Sharon

As we approach the end of the ECCE year, I would just like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support of Sligo County Childcare Committee. The team and I are acutely aware of the time and commitment you have put in not only running and working in your services, but also the time and energy that you have put into training and continual professional development throughout the year. Just to name a couple of initiatives that you have been involved with – The roll out of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training as part of AIM has been fantastic and 35 Early Years practitioners from 20 settings have completed the training to date, congratulations and thank you for all the sharing of good practice and engaging fully with the programme. Further programmes will run in the Autumn. We are also delighted to congratulate the 9 settings and 17 early years educators who completed the Smart Start module.

While I understand that our sector is not perfect yet and a lot of work needs to be achieved in supporting the remarkable work of our early years educators, it is heartening to see further investment in the sector, Minister Zappone has committed an additional 3.5million euro to supporting non-contact time from September, as we work towards a single affordable childcare programme which is welcome, we also must acknowledge the increased supports that enable children with all abilities to engage in their ECCE year. If your service is looking for additional supports regarding AIM please do not hesitate to contact us or go to www.AIM.ie where you can find full information on the programme.

I am sure we will see many challenges in the coming year but as Manager of the County Childcare Committee in Sligo have no doubt that Sligo Early Years educators are in a strong position to take on the challenges and continue to provide high quality affordable and sustainable childcare for the families in our community.



I hope you all enjoy the Summer months having fun with summer camps, enjoying time with family or maybe getting away for a little rest and reoperation and look forward to meeting you in September.

Sharon

The management and staff of Sligo County Childcare Committee would like to take this opportunity to send our deepest sympathy to Minister Katherine Zappone on the recent loss of her wife Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan, may she rest in peace.



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Manager

Sharon Boles

Development Workers

Viola Craig, Joan McGrath & Nicola McCormack

Administration

Suzanne Scanlon & Laura Norman

Reception

Barry Sullivan & Kerrie Aldridge

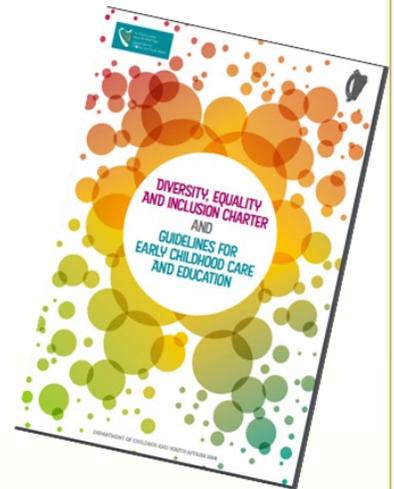
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education.

Over the Spring, Sligo County Childcare Committee have delivered 3 Programmes under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) - Level 3.

This training is designed to incorporate a deeper level of understanding around the subject of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion for all staff and to assist in meeting some of the challenges in this area.

Over the four sessions, the programme explored the following:

- Using the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines to support practice in ECCE - Terminology and concepts relating to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion
- Looking at our attitudes and values - Anti-Bias approach
- Policy, Legislation and Guidelines - Equality Proofing the ECEC environment
- Exploring issues and challenges - leadership relating to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion



It is proposed to run this programme again in the Autumn and this will be highlighted on the Autumn / Winter training calendar.

This training is funded under the AIM Model and is therefore free of charge to all staff working under the ECCE Programme only.



The More Affordable Childcare Scheme

From September (of this year), Every child between the ages of 6 months and 36 months in Tusla-registered childcare services will be eligible for some level of childcare support.

All services currently in contract with a DCYA childcare funding programme will be set up with a CCSP (CCS Plus) contract on PIP for 2017 - 2018.

The CCSP contract must be activated if you wish to participate in any of the following schemes:

- ⇒ CCS Plus (Community services can sign up to the CCS Plus contract in addition to the CCS contract)
- ⇒ CCS Universal
- ⇒ CCS Resettlement, relocation and transition

To enter contract to provide the CCS Plus

1. Log onto your PIP Portal
2. Certify the Primary Authorised User
3. Primary Authorised User activates the CCS Plus contract
4. Submit the fees list and service calendar for your organisation on PIP

If you are a service that has never participated in a subvented childcare scheme but have a DCYA reference number, all you have to do is contact Sligo County Childcare Committee on 07191 48860 and we will assist in the setting up process.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Affordable Childcare website. At the top left is the logo for 'agus Gnóthai Oige Department of Children and Youth Affairs'. A search bar and a 'MENU' button are on the top right. The main heading is 'More Affordable Childcare Starts September 2017'. Below this is a sub-heading: 'From September, your child may qualify for childcare supports. If you are a parent with a child in registered childcare and would like to find out more, please click below for further information.' There are four buttons with images of children: 'I have a child under 3 years old', 'I currently get DCYA Childcare Supports', 'Can I get help with my childcare costs?', and 'I am a childcare provider'. At the bottom, there is a teal box with the text 'Need to speak to someone? Click here.'

Please go to the following Link to view the Affordable Childcare Website

<http://affordablechildcare.ie/>

Also released is the FAQ section at <http://affordablechildcare.ie/faq/>



CCS Universal (CCSU)

Under the More Affordable Scheme a new Universal band named CCS Universal will be available for all children between 6 months until the time at which they can commence ECCE, and who are not in receipt of CCS Subvention.

Who can offer CCS Universal Subsidy to parents?

In order for Providers to be able to provide the CCS Universal Subsidy to parents

- For Community services, they can sign up to the CCS Plus contract in addition to the CCS contract.
- For Private Providers, the CCS Plus will replace the CCS Private contract

To enter contract to provide the CCS Universal Subsidy

1. Log onto your PIP Portal
2. Certify the Primary Authorised User
3. Primary Authorised User activates the CCS Plus contract
4. Submit the fees list and service calendar for your organisation on PIP

If you are a service that has never participated in a subvented childcare scheme but have a DCYA reference number, all you have to do is contact Sligo County Childcare Committee on 07191 48860 and we will assist in the setting up process.

CCS Universal Subsidy Rates

CCS Session Type	Universal Band (CCS Band U) (Weekly Subsidy)
Full-time (i.e. 5 hours +)	€20
Part-time (i.e. 3.31 to 5 hours)	€10
Sessional (i.e. 1 to 2.15 hours)	€7
Half-Sessional (i.e. 1 to 2.15 hours)	€3.50



For further information on the More Affordable Childcare programme, go to <http://affordablechildcare.ie/>

Smart Start

A second cohort of Early Years Educators in Ireland recently received their Healthy Ireland Award at an important award ceremony and show casing event in Athlone IT on Saturday 22nd April.

This award acknowledged the delivery of a health promoting programme in their pre-school service.

The initiative funded by the HSE and delivered on their behalf by the National Childhood Network is supported by the DCYA and the Department of Education and Skills.

The programme seeks to build the knowledge and skills of pre-school educators to develop health promoting pre-school services that influence children to develop healthy lifestyle habits from their early years. Research worldwide shows the important role the pre-school sector has in promoting a health and well-being agenda in collaboration with parents and families.

The following services from Co. Sligo were in attendance and received their award at the event

- *Acorn Montessori School*
- *Collooney Montessori School*
- *Footprints*
- *Learn Early Centre*
- *Little Peoples Playworld Crèche*
- *Lollipop Lane Crèche, Montessori & After-School*

Other successful services in this achievement from Co. Sligo were:

- *Little Haven*
- *First Friend*
- *Dreamchasers*



CCS Plus

Community / Not-for - Profit Childcare services can now start registering children under CCS Plus.

The CCS plus registration forms have gone live for Community providers since Friday 30th March.

Once the Primary Authorised User (PAU) has activated CCSP contract on PIP, they can then begin the registration process. Child registrations can be back dated to January 2nd, 2017.

Community Service providers are advised to read the How to Guide and Frequently Asked Questions, available on the CSSP 2016/17 page on Pip for more information and guidelines.

CETS Expansion

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs has directed the expansion of criteria for the **Childcare Education and Training Support programme (CETS)** from the 27th of March 2017 to include parents attending secondary school.

This change means that parents attending secondary school are now entitled to receive childcare funding under the CETS programme.

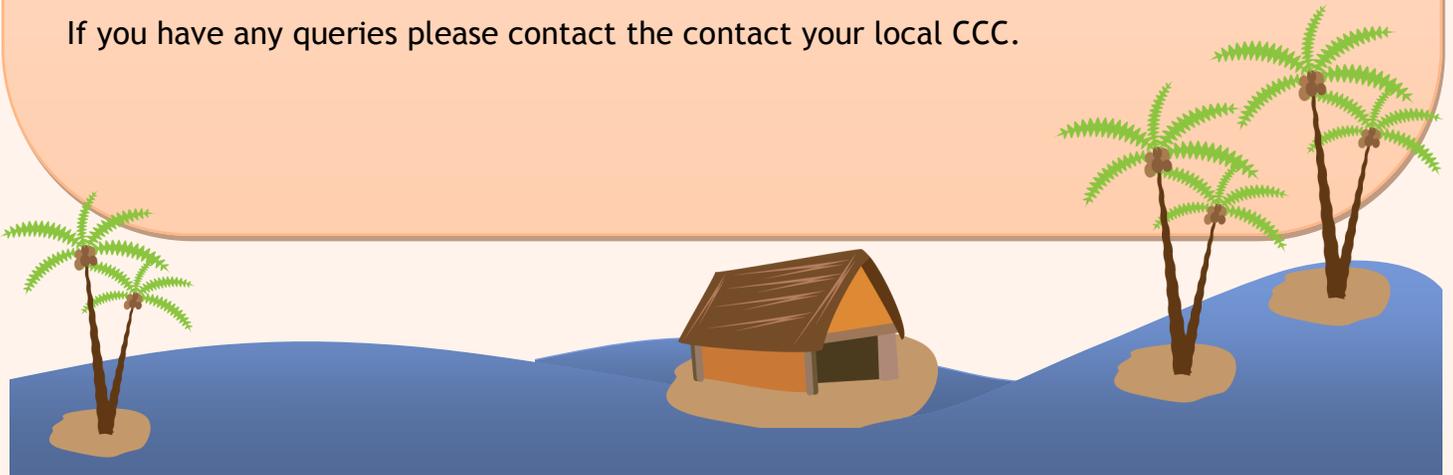
Participants on the following education programmes are eligible to apply for CETS funding.

- CETS approved Education and Training Board (ETB) courses - (former FAS courses)
- CETS approved Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)
- CETS approved Youthreach
- Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)
- Secondary School Students completing their Junior and/or Leaving Certificate

What a parent needs to apply:

- Child's PPSN
- Child's D.O.B
- Parent's PPSN
- Parent's D.O.B
- Stamped or headed paper letter of eligibility from relevant course provider/ secondary school as proof of eligibility to apply for the CETS Programme.

If you have any queries please contact the contact your local CCC.



National Síolta Aistear Initiative

The National Síolta Aistear Initiative has been developed to provide central support and coordination of Síolta and Aistear implementation across the early childhood sector

There are two strands to this initiative. The first focuses on Síolta, including the introduction of Síolta awareness raising workshops and the expansion of the Síolta Quality Assurance Programme (QAP).

The second strand relates to Aistear, and will see the development of workshops and coaching to support practitioners to use Aistear in their setting. This part of the initiative is currently being piloted across the country with seven Early Years services in Sligo taking part with support being given by Sligo County Childcare Committee

More detail on this Initiative is provided through the link below:

http://ncca.ie/en/Practice-Guide/About/ASAIN_APRIL_17_5.pdf

Sligo County Childcare Committee can connect you with formal supports available under the National Síolta Aistear Initiative



Child Minding Development Grant 2017

What is the Childminder Development Grant?

The Purpose of the Childminders Development Grant is to offer an incentive, in the form of a small capital grant, to Childminders to enhance and support their awareness of Quality Childcare.

The Childminders Development Grant is designed to assist Childminders, already providing a childminding service in their own homes, to enhance safety/quality in the service through the purchase of small capital items, equipment, toys or minor adaptation costs. The CMDG may also give financial assistance to new or prospective Childminders with their initial set up costs.

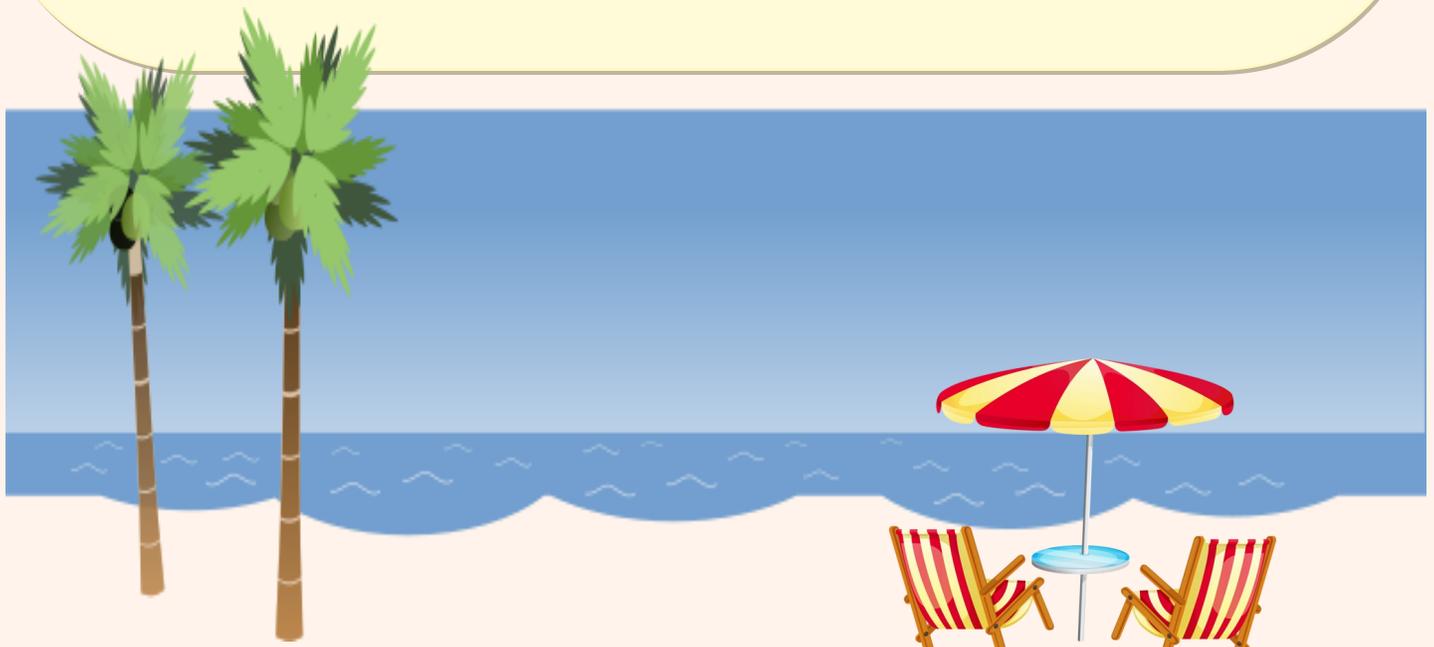
How much funding is available under the Childminder Development Grant?

The maximum grant available to the childminder who fully meets the criteria of the scheme is 90% of the total receipted childcare expenditure, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. i.e. spend €1,111 and claim back 90% = €1,000.

Childminders may re-apply for the CMDG after 2 years,

CMDG Applications are currently available, if you are interested in applying, please leave your details with Sligo County Childcare Committee by contacting us by email on sligochildcare@gmail.com or by calling 07191-48860 and we will be able to assist with any queries.

Closing date for applications is the 7th of July 2017; please ensure applications are returned to Sligo County Childcare Committee by this date.





Developing your Child Protection and Welfare Policy



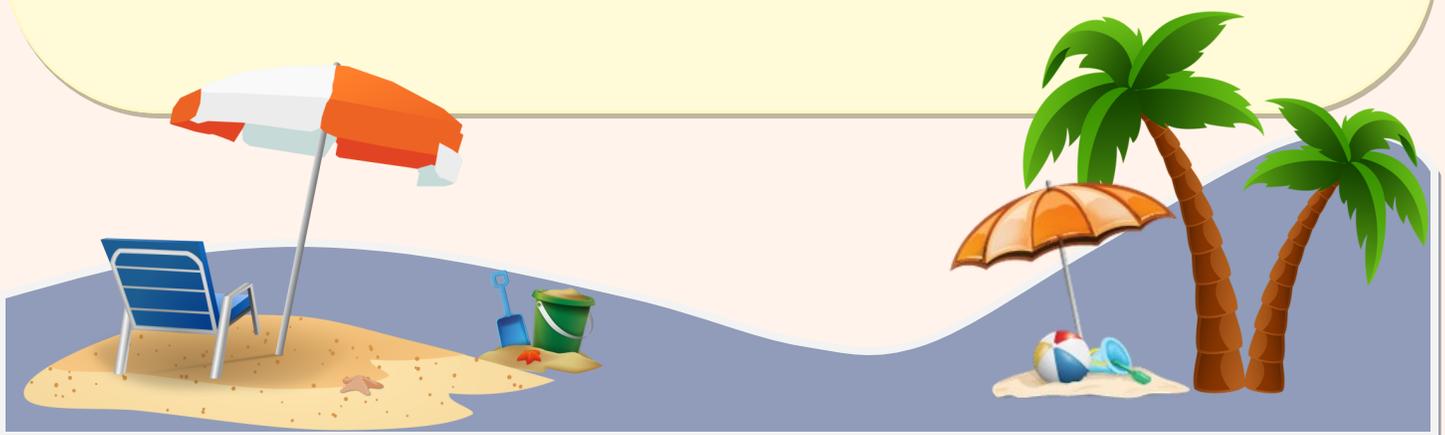
The Early Years Child Protection Programme is a national programme that supports services with the implementation of Children First in the early years sector. As part of this programme a suite of training is available to early years services which currently include

- Child Protection foundation level training
- Child Protection refresher training
- Developing a Child Protection and Welfare Policy Workshop

Sligo County Childcare Committee delivers all three training programmes. The spotlight is on the workshop “Developing a child protection and welfare policy”. This workshop is very valuable to early years services as it highlights what needs to be in a child protection policy, how to develop a strong Child Protection Policy it also provides resources to support policy development. The workshop also looks at how to:

- Meet the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and the commencement of the next stages of the Act scheduled for Autumn 2017.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of Early Years Services.
- Develop a cohesive approach to promoting children’s welfare and managing concerns when they arise.
- Build and strengthen Management and staff knowledge in the area of Child Protection and Welfare.

This is a 2 hour workshop, it requires a commitment from early year’s services to reflect upon and develop their child protection and welfare policy. Sligo County Childcare Committee will host further workshops in Autumn 2017. Participants must have completed Children First Child Protection Foundation level training and hold a position of responsibility within their respective service.





Access and Inclusion Model (Programme)

Applications for 2017/18

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Programme will be accepting **new*** applications for children commencing/returning to the ECCE programme in 2017/2018 from Friday **12th May 2017**.

Childcare providers already in receipt of AIM L7 capitation for children returning in September will be eligible for support. Information on this process will be available in the forthcoming weeks.

If you require any additional support, please contact pobalonline@pobal.ie

For further information on the AIM programme, please visit www.aim.gov.ie

Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) Programme



The Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) higher education programme for early years practitioners won the award for 'Best Online Learning Experience' at the 2017 Education Awards ceremony. The Education Awards recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in the third level education sector on the island of Ireland.

LINC, which was established in 2016 as part of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), is a Level 6 Special Purpose Award designed to support the inclusion of children with a disability in free pre-school provided under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The LINC programme is being funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and is delivered by a consortium, led by Mary Immaculate College, Limerick together with Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University and Early Childhood Ireland.





Contract Activation: All Programmes

The steps below must be completed and turn Green before the contract can be activated:

- ⇒ PAU Certification
- ⇒ Service Details Certification
- ⇒ Organisation Details Certification

The PAU will be unable to proceed to contract activation unless all three of the readiness tasks have been completed

Once Contract is counter signed electronically and submitted it is automatically submitted.

ECCE fees list and service calendars

From Friday 16th June, 2017 Service providers are now able to complete and submit ECCE Fees Please note that some changes have been introduced to the service calendars this year.



Please refer to the [How to Guide](#) for more details: lists and Service Calendars on Pip

TEC, CCS Plus, and CCS Fees Lists and Calendars will be available for submission from mid July.

Non-contact time payment



The payment is intended to make a contribution towards the costs involved in providing quality childcare that Early Years providers incur through non-contact work and administration.

to work on additional
2016-17.

The payment is intended to cover costs incurred in paying staff administration and non-contact work undertaken by services dur-

A short programme readiness task (e-form) will be made available within the next two weeks on PIP for the PAU (Primary Authorised User) for your Early Years facility to complete in order to receive a payment. One e-form must be completed per facility by the PAU.

Non-contact payments will be open for applications from June 29th. Service Providers can make their applications by completing the programme readiness task on PIP.

The final date for completion of the non contact time payment application will be 24th July, 2017

Garda Vetting

All childcare providers, practitioners and Tusla notified childminders must avail of Garda Vetting for all their staff, students and volunteers, under the Child Care (Pre-school Services) Regulations 2006. Every service must have evidence of their Garda Vetting on the premises. It is therefore important to plan for potential relief staffing needs and to complete risk assessments for recruitment. Where new staff members commence in a service after the 29th April 2016 and the staff member has no Garda vetting disclosure on Inspection Tusla early years inspectorate will be asking the registered provider to remove the person from the service until the Garda vetting disclosure is received in the Inspectorate.



Good practice would also suggest that services have existing staff vetted every three years.

Below are contact details of organisations that carry out the Garda Vetting process for childcare providers:

Barnardos Vetting Service.

Blackmore House, Meade Street, Cork.

Phone: 021 4547060

Website: www.barnardos.ie

Early Childhood Ireland

Hainault House, Belgard Square, Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Phone: (01) 4040659

Website: www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/

Pobal Compliance Visit

For the 2016/17 cycle, there are some revisions to the Compliance function, which may have implications for services, i.e.

- ⇒ Service outcomes are now categorised as one of four categories: Compliant; Special Advisory; Minor Non-Compliant; Major Non-Compliant. Services will still be required to sign-off on the compliance findings on the day of the visit, with formal categorisation notification forwarded in due course to the designated primary contact e-mail address on the PIP system.
- ⇒ Attendance records must now contain the following information: Child's name; Date of attendance; Arrival time; Departure time.
- ⇒ CCS services must now update PIP with details of all "replacement" children as "CCS Not Funded" registrations.
- ⇒ If a service receives a major non-compliant outcome, they can be subject to a 2nd visit with a view to establishing if the issue identified has been rectified.



Top Tip for Family Wellbeing

A new online resource for parents and families of children aged from 0 to 18 to view at www.parenting24seven.ie

Parent Support Champions is a National initiative developed by Tusla. This initiative is designed to promote parenting supports and information that are available in local areas. Sligo County Childcare Committees childcare Quality worker Nicola McCormack along with 4 other people from Sligo and Leitrim have taken on this role for the local area. Nicola is available to visit Early Years Services or groups of parents with information about parenting resources and supports. For further information contact Nicola by email at nicola@sligochildcare.ie



Top Tips for Family Wellbeing

7 GENERAL MESSAGES



The Parent/Child Relationship Is Key.

Activities to help build the parent/child bond.



Buy Well. Eat Well. Be Well.

Information on diet and advice on encouraging healthy eating.



A Positive Parenting Style Works.

Advice on how to be a positive parent.



Child Safety Practices Reduce Injuries.

Information for keeping children safe on the road, around water, on the internet and more.



Baby See, Baby Do.

Advice on how parents can be good role models for their children.



Name It and Tame It.

Advice for supporting children in times of stress and solving problems together.



Parents Need Good Social Networks.

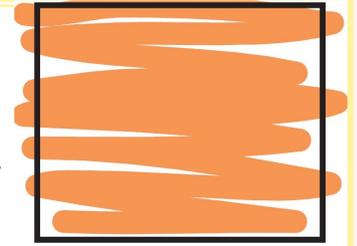
Information on building support networks for parents.

www.parenting24seven.ie
see website for more information

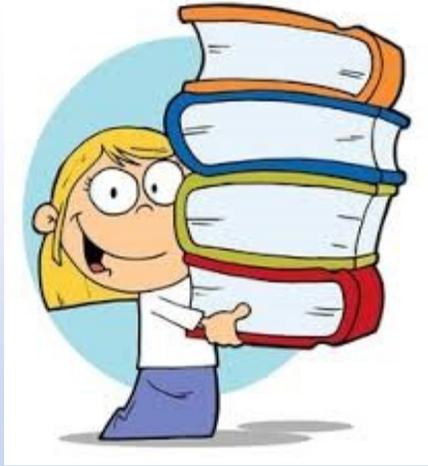
TUSLA

Learner Fund

All Learner Fund 4 participants must have their level 6 completed by June 2018; however it is advised to have it complete as soon as possible.



learner fund



SCCC Resource Library

Sligo County Childcare are minimizing the capacity of our Resource Library and we will now only retain Fetac & Research books for references or to borrow.

If your service is interested in adding any books to your library for the use of your staff or parents, please call up to our offices from Wednesday the 21st of June and we will be happy to supply you with a selection of the books.

New Telephone System

Sligo County Childcare have recently updated our Telephone system.

On calling, Hold the line for the following options:

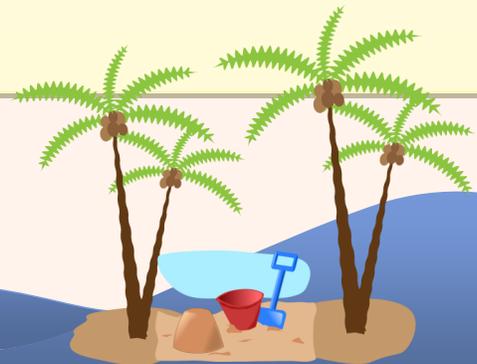
To call Admin/Sharon # 1

To call Joan # 2

To call Viola # 3

To call Nicola # 4

Please hold the line if there is no immediate answer



Congratulations



Congratulations to our Administrator Suzanne, husband Ross and Daughter Kaiah on the addition of a little baby boy to their family

Welcome

A warm Welcome to our new Receptionist Kerrie. Kerrie will be able to assist you from Wednesday 11am to 5pm plus Thursday and Fridays from 9am to 5pm.

Thank You!

A big thank you to Christina who was with us from Sligo I.T. on placement for the great work she completed on the Service Profile



Have a great Summer!

