

SCCC Summer 2018

Newsletter



A word From Sharon

As we approach the end of another ECCE year it's time for reflection, we think about all the ECCE children taking their next steps on their

journey in life, as ECCE professionals you have helped support and equip the children and their families towards the transition that is primary school.

You as ECCE professionals are already thinking about the children that will enter the next phase in their early education moving from baby room to toddler room – toddler room to ECCE room you have been providing this transitional process for all the children in your care.

Moving to September 2018, we will see some exciting developments in the sector. The publication of the long awaited Early Years Strategy will happen in the autumn and a focus on the role of Early Years Professionals engagement and support of parents will be key. We also see the publication of the quality and regulatory framework within this again we see the key role played by the Early Years Professional, been highlighted.

As with all new developments there will be challenges, however I know that the sector will embrace these developments as they always do with professionalism and with the children and families at the centre.

On behalf of Sligo County Childcare Committee we would just like to say thank you to you all for the work you have put in this year, the demands placed on you to upskill in areas such as Diversity Equality & Inclusion, Safeguarding Children, SIOLTA/Aistear you have embraced. So far this year 38 services have completed the DEI training with 94 ECCE professionals completing the 15 hr programme.

We are currently working with a number of services on the National SIOLTA/Aistear initiative and I would like to thank all the services and Early Years Professionals for welcoming Joan Mc Grath into your setting and working with her in such a positive way.

We look forward to working with you for the coming ECCE year and we hope your summer is filled with sunshine and that you get a well-deserved break.

Thank you for letting us support you this year

YOU ARE AMAZING



**Childcare
Committee**
County Sligo
Coiste Cúram Páistí Chontae Shligigh

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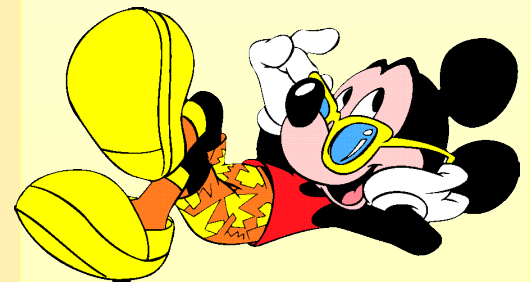
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Manager

Sharon Boles

Development Team

Viola Craig & Joan McGrath

Quality Worker

Karen Folan

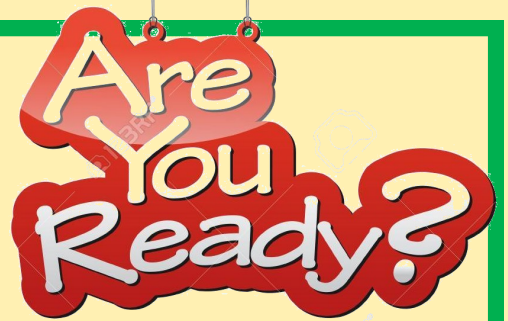
Administration

Suzanne Scanlon & Laura Norman

Receptionists

Barry Sullivan

& Kerrie Aldridge



Programme Readiness

The process this year will be similar to last year, where each service must certify a 2018/19 PAU, Organisation details and Service details in order to activate any contracts.

This year the process will be released in two phases. Phase 1 will be available from Monday 28th May and will entail:

- PAU Certification
- Organisation details certification
- Service details certification

Phase 2 will be available from Monday 11th June and will entail:

- Re-contracting
- Fees lists
- Service Calendars

How to guides will be posted on the PIP portal in the coming days.

Note: For Services who still wish to activate a 2017/18 contract:

From Monday 28th May, services will have to complete the 2018/19 Readiness tasks in order to activate any contract. If you wish to activate a 2017/18 contract using your current PAU, you must do so **before 3pm on Thursday 24th May.** After this date you will have to certify your 2018/19 PAU before you can activate any contract.

The how to guide is available on PIP





FAR Training

JULY DATES

FAR Refresher 21st & 28th July €150 SCCC

FAR 25th, 26th & 27th June €245 SCCC

August Dates

FAR 01st, 02nd & 03rd August €245 SCCC

FAR 04th, 11th & 18th August €245 Strandhill Golf Club

FAR Refresher 27th & 28th August €150 SCCC

FAR Refresher 30th & 31st August €150 SCCC

For further Details Please contact :

Premier First Aid Training

Thomas McGoldrick (Instructor)

086 2434762 / 0879664150



**For other FAR training Dates
contact:**

LifeLine Training

Jackie Sheridan or Eamonn Dowdican
at:

www.lifelinetraining.ie

083 866 2831

Childminder Development Grants 2018

CMDG Applications are now available! if you are interested in applying please leave your details with the office and we will send application forms. Closing date for receipt of grants is Thursday 5th July 2018.



What is the Childminder Development Grant?

The aim of the grant is to enhance the safety/quality of the childminding service through the purchase of childcare equipment, safety equipment and toys. It 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.

Criteria for the grant:

Childminders/Potential Childminders must have First Aid, Child Protection and insurance cover. Registration to Child and Family Agency, if required (Tusla) or Voluntary Notified to the CCC



Forbairt Cáilíocht
Luathbhlianta Náisiúnta
National Early Years
Quality Development

Have you ever wondered how you could get support to enhance your curriculum?

Are staff struggling with elements of documentation?

Is the importance of interactions recognised or is this posing Challenges within the team?

If you answered yes to any of these questions Better Start Quality Support Service may be able to help you and your team. If you feel that your service would benefit from the support of Early Years Specialists for any aspect of your provision, Better Start are in a position to offer on-site mentoring support to Early Years providers. **This service is free of charge.**

You can access the criteria for application on the Better Start website. There are also a range of additional criteria which Better Start will respond to requests for special consideration for support e.g.

- Inspection issues
- Access to quality support has been very limited
- A combination of factors such as location of service, high levels of disadvantage, rural isolation or the needs/ profile of children
- Significant staff turnover.

Sligo CCC will be happy to accept all requests for the support of an Early Years Specialist which will be considered on a case by case basis and submitted to Better Start on your behalf. Should you have any questions, please feel free to give a call to a member of our development team.

If the Better Start Quality Development Service can respond to the request an Early Years Specialist will arrange to visit you in your setting. She/he will discuss which aspects of practice you would like to work on. The Early Years Specialist will work with you and your staff to make a joint assessment of your service using the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide. On completion of the joint assessment, your goals and plans to develop quality will be agreed and timeframes for the delivery of the service will be set.

The Early Years Specialist will usually be assigned to work with you and your service for 6 months. You can both agree the frequency of visits and quality goals to be achieved. She/ he will work with individual staff and the staff team.



Link: [Better Start Criteria](#)

Link: [Steps to Quality Development](#)

Steps to Quality Development

A step-by-step guide to what to expect if your service is allocated the support of a Better Start Early Years Specialist

First Steps

- Introductory phone call from your Early Years Specialist
- Letter of Engagement is sent out, along with Information leaflets for Providers and Parents
- First Visit Appointment made

First Visit

- Discuss Quality priorities with manager
- Talk through the Quality Development Agreement
- Consent Forms provided
- Exchange Child Safeguarding policies
- Quality Liaison Person discussed and identified
- Timing and frequency of visits discussed (at least every 2 weeks for 6 months)

Next steps?

The Early Years Specialist will:

- Observe practice using self-evaluation tools of Aistear Síolta Practice Guide and video observation
- Provide Feedback on observations
- Discuss, identify, and agree quality development goals
- Document goals and actions
- Share goals and actions with Quality Liaison Person, management and staff
- Revisit, review and develop goals and actions with relevant staff and management on regular visits and at team meetings
- Share a Final Report detailing the quality development goals with the service
- Make recommendations for sustaining and continuing the quality development work

'Inclusive Play'

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



At this stage most received their packs containing such a range of fantastic resources to support children attending our settings and meet their needs.

Resources in AIM Inclusive Play include:

- All Kinds of Feelings / All Kinds of People Books
- Audible Ball
- AIM Early Years 'My Day' Fan
- Creating Sensory Play for Little or No Cost / Hey! Children on the Autism Spectrum Play Too Books
- Dancing Ribbons
- Dark Den Cube / Pop Up Den
- Disc o' Sit / Movin Sit
- Emotions Poster
- Grimms House / Grimms Rainbow
- Jumbo Tweezers
- Kinetic Sand
- Laptop Tray
- Large Timer
- 5 Mini Timers
- Sockette Puppet
- See Me Sensory Ball
- Sensory Bubble Hourglass
- Squigz
- Strobe Bar
- Tactile Ball



← Recordable Answer Buzzer



← Massage Set



← Sensory Reflective Blanket



- Teeter Popper
- Therapy Putty
- Time Timer
- Traffic Light Fan
- Warmie Weighted Sensory Friend



For guidance on best use of the Resource Pack, please follow the hyperlink [-http://play.aim.gov.ie/](http://play.aim.gov.ie/) - and it will lead you to the full range of Resource cards and Video clips for the best use of the different materials or equipment.

A sample Resource Card for the Dark Dens is included below as an example.



Dark Den Cube/Pop Up Dark Den

Key learning this resource may support:

The dens provide opportunities for **sensory experiences** as children can explore shades of light and dark and tune into a range of senses.

The dens provide lots of opportunities for children to engage in **role play and imaginative play** as they decide what and how the den might be used on a particular day.

Social and emotional development may be supported as children engage in play together and individual children may use the den as a safe space when they are feeling overwhelmed within the learning environment.

Suggested starting points for engagement:

- ♦ The practitioner might support open ended exploration and play by following the children's lead in terms of how they engage with the dark den. For example, do the children decide it is a house, a boat, a volcano? Follow the children's interests and ideas and participate as appropriately.
- ♦ An individual child may be introduced to the dark den as a space that they might find comfortable and safe at times during the daily routine when they might be feeling overwhelmed. Tune into the child's body language and communication about whether this is something that might be helpful for a particular child.
- ♦ Consider as a team if the dark den is part of the learning environment or perhaps at certain times it acts as a space for children to go when they need to. The den can be adapted based on children's needs. For example, by putting some cushions inside to enhance cosiness and warmth or providing additional sensory materials inside.

Use your knowledge and understanding of individual children when using this resource as some children may not like being in a darker space.

Source: <http://aim.gov.ie/news/distribution-of-aim-inclusive-play-packs/>

AIM INCLUSIVE PLAY

[Download the Dark Den Cube/Pop Up Dark Den Activity Card](#)

Internet Safety workshop

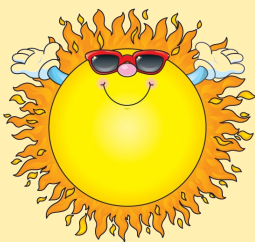
In recent research by the Children's and Young people's services committee, parents expressed that their children's safety online was a serious concern to them. In response, Sligo County Child-care Committee ran an Internet Safety awareness workshop for parents on June 19th.

The workshop covered areas such as

- Digital health,
- Digital identity
- Online deception
- Cyberbullying.

A second workshop is being planned for September

Just a reminder- if any service would like support with their child safeguarding statement please contact Karen at 0867978511 or email karen@sligochildcare.ie



PARENT & TODDLER GROUPS

Application packs for Parent & Toddler Groups will be available for September 2018. If you would like to register your interest in receiving please leave your contact details with the office.

Are you GDPR ready?!

As you are aware new data privacy regulations came into force in the EU on 25 May, giving users greater say on personal information they share and harsher punishments to firms who misuse it. We are advising all Services to update their knowledge through gdprandyou.ie and apply changes if you see necessary. There are hefty fines if you are found to be in breach so it is important to have a look!

Further info on GDPR can be found at www.gdprandyou.ie



Post graduate diploma/Master of Arts in Leadership and Advocacy for the Early Years

Fact sheet

Ireland's Early years sector has a dynamic, exciting and challenging future. To equip this sector to address these challenges, requires transformational leaders who will positively impact on the creation of the highest quality childcare services for children and their families. This Level 9 blended delivery programme recognises the importance of developing effective leadership and advocacy competencies while supporting participants pursue full time careers in the sector.

Career progression

Graduates of this two year programme have advanced their careers in the Early Years into a diverse range of leadership roles including: Managers of Early Years services, National Aistear Coordinator, Managers of County Childcare Committee, Better Start mentors. Lecturers/ QQI Tutors, Managers and Team Leaders of Early Intervention Family Support services.

Level 9 Programme Delivery

All applicants will complete the Level 9 Post Graduate Diploma and proceed to complete the Masters on successful award of the Post Graduate Diploma.
24 places available

Duration 4 Semesters Commencing September 2018 (Subject to demand)

Structure Post Graduate Diploma 6 modules, 2 modules,
Semesters 1.2 3 60 ECTS Credits *
MA -2 modules, Semester 4 30 ECTS Credits

Semester 1 *September –December*

Weekly 2 hour online lectures 7-9 pm

5 day residential workshops October on campus at IT Sligo

Semester 2 *January-May*

Weekly 2 hour online lectures 7-9 pm

5 day residential workshops May on campus at IT Sligo

Cost

Post Graduate Diploma €5000 .with a subsequent €2,500 for the Add on MA.

Flexible payment options can be negotiated.

Entry Requirements

2.2 BA Honours in ECCE or cognate discipline and will have a minimum of two years experience working in the early years or a related field on completion of the post graduate programme. All applicants will be interviewed on the 20th June.

For further information please contact

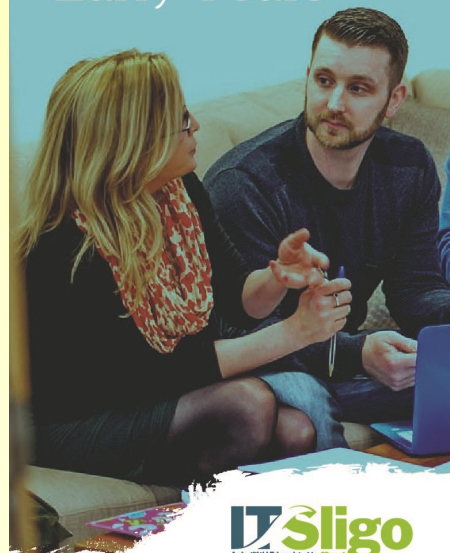
Roisin McGlone Programme Coordinator

mcglone.roisin@itsligo.ie

(* European Credit Transfer System)

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA /
MASTER OF ARTS in

Leadership
and Advocacy
for the
Early Years





National Síolta Aistear Initiative

The National Síolta Aistear Initiative supports the coordinated roll-out of Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework and Síolta: the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education.

Under the National Síolta Aistear Initiative, Sligo County Childcare Committee has a Síolta Mentor who can engage in providing onsite mentoring for early years' professionals working in early years' settings. The Síolta Mentor is available to work with all staff members to reflect on their practice, identify what is working well, support enhancement and further development in areas of practice, suggest new ideas for practice and create priorities for development with plans and actions for positive change. The Aistear Síolta Practice Guide is used as a resource tool and support during the mentoring process.

Under the National Síolta Aistear initiative, SCCC will offer a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme during July and August. This will include:

- CPD Training Day
- Cluster Group Support for Managers
- Workshop - An Introduction to Aistear Síolta Practice Guide

Certified CPD Training Day will take place in July and will be followed by two mentoring visits to the Early Years Services. The Mentoring Visits will be tailored to the identified needs of the service in consultation with the Síolta Mentor.

Cluster Group Support for professionals working in the management of Early Years services will also take place in July. The Cluster group support will focus on some of the varying aspects required of managers and will provide opportunity for sharing experiences of practice in line with Síolta Standards. There are also plans to offer the Cluster Group Support again later in the Autumn for managers who are not available to attend in July.

An Introduction to Aistear Síolta Practice Guide workshop will take place in August. This may be of interest to Early Years Educators/Practitioners who are newly qualified and entering into employment in the Early Years Sector for the first time or Educators/practitioners who would like to become more familiar with the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide to support them in delivering a high quality early years curriculum as partners to children in their learning.

Information on all of the above will be available on SCCC website and Facebook page during June





Thanks to all the Early Years Practitioners that participated in the various surveys during the 2017-2018 programme year. Your input is greatly appreciated.



Congrats to the 9 services in Sligo who received in excess of €143,000 in capital grants.

Best of luck to Nicola McCormack who finished up with us in February, we wish her all the best in her new roll with Foróige



A big Thank You to Sharon Harte for all the work she completed on her placement from Sligo I.T



Welcome to our new staff member Karen Folan, Karen's role with SCCC is as a Quality Worker. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and can be reached by email at Karen@sligochildcare.ie or by calling extension 4 on 07191-48860



GDPR CONSENT FORMS

Can we please remind people to return the GDPR consent form to us. It is important that we have your consent to contact you with any relevant information regarding the sector. Thank you to all who have returned the forms already.



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs



pobal
government supporting communities



An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Forbairt Cailíocht
Luathbhlíanta Náisiúnta
National Early Years
Quality Development