

Merry Christmas



Childcare Committee
County Sligo
Coiste Cúram Páistí Chonta Shligeach

A note From Sharon



As we come to the end of 2018, this year has seen major e announcements for the Early Years Sector. As you will see throughout this newsletter we have provided information on some of the announcements that have happened this year.

The publication of First 5, The National Early Years Strategy will have far reaching implications for the role of Early Years Educators into the future. As highlighted by Minister Zappone, "Early Years is precious and has enormous impacts on a child's future" and this Minister Zappone states, is not just the responsibility of one Government Department but a whole of Government responsibility. It is also a responsibility of the early years sector to provide quality experiences for the children and families in our care and I am delighted to see a specific section within the document that looks at the needs of the sector, including reform of the Early Learning and Care system including supports for the professional development of the workforce as well as supports for employers to provide favourable working conditions for staff.

https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/earlyyears/19112018_4966_DCYA_EarlyYears_Booklet_A4_v22_WEB.pdf

The Quality and Regulatory Framework has also been published and as a sector we need to study this framework and have an excellent understanding of the document. Sligo County Childcare Committee will be supporting our services to engage with the framework in the coming months. <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-quality-and-regulatory-framework/>

The affordable Childcare Scheme will be launched over the first quarter of 2019 and as with the Quality & Regulatory Framework Sligo County Childcare Committee will be hosting events that will support you as a sector to understand and engage with the scheme. It is important for you as an early years provider and educator that you take advantage of the information and training sessions that will be provided. We will be publishing a list events early in the new year. <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/EN/Affordable-Childcare-Scheme/212/4402.htm>

As Manager of Sligo County childcare Committee, I would like to thank all of you for the amazing work you all do in providing quality early years experiences for the children you work with on a daily basis, the staff team here are always full of praise for the work they see when they come into your places of education and care. I would also like to thank you all for working in such a proactive way with all the members of our small team. We appreciate the time you take to come out to training, the phone calls and input you provide to us and always done with a smile or cheery note.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working with you in which promises to be a busy and successful 2019.

Happy Christmas

Sharon

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Manager:
Sharon Boles

Development Team:
Viola Craig, Joan
McGrath & Karen Folan

Administration:
Suzanne Scanlon, Laura Norman, .

Receptionists:
Barry Sullivan & Kerrie Aldridge



First 5 AT A GLANCE

Goals

A

Strong and supportive families and communities

B

Optimum physical and mental health

C

Positive play-based early learning

D

An effective early childhood system

Objectives

1. Balance working and caring

2. Information, services and supports for parents

3. Practical and material resources

4. Positive health behaviours

5. High-quality health services

6. Positive mental health

7. Positive home learning environment

8. Affordable, high-quality Early Learning and Care

9. Supported transitions

1

**Building Block 1:
Leadership,
governance,
collaboration**

Strategic Actions

- 1.A Implementation and governance
- 1.B Early childhood system leadership
- 1.C Collaborative projects

2

**Building Block 2:
Regulation,
inspection, quality
assurance**

Strategic Actions

- 2.A Develop, enhance, implement standards
- 2.B Reform regulation and inspection



New Affordable Childcare Scheme to open for applications in October 2019



From October 2019 everyone will be able to apply for the new Affordable Childcare Scheme. To ensure a smooth transition for both parents and providers, the current childcare subsidy schemes will remain in place for the 2019/20 programme year. People will be able to register for the current schemes as normal, from August 2019 up until the new Affordable Childcare Scheme launches. After the launch date, people can choose to move over to the new Scheme or to remain on their old scheme for the remainder of the programme year. This will provide certainty for current scheme beneficiaries, offer ample time to apply for the new scheme and ensure that no family is worse off during the transition period. Once the Affordable Childcare Scheme is in place in October 2019, registrations under the existing schemes will cease.

Examples of the Subsidy amounts can viewed below

<https://www.affordablechildcare.ie/>



Family Scenario	Possible Gross Income	Weekly Subsidy under old ACS proposals	Weekly subsidy under new ACS proposals	Annual Increase
Lone parent on net annual income of €26,000 with one child aged 2 years in need of 40 hours of childcare per week	€26,500	€148	€175	+€1,404
Family with a net annual income of €30,000, with two children aged 1 and 2.5 years and in need of 25 hours of childcare per week	€34,500	€187	€220	+€1,716
Family with a net annual income of €34,600, with a 1 year old and 2 year old twins in need of 40 hours of childcare per week	€41,000	€442	€522	+€4, 160
Family with a net annual income of €35,000 with two children aged 1 and 2.5 years and in need of 25 hours of childcare per week	€41, 000	€149	€192	+€2, 236
Family with a net annual income of €47, 500 with two children aged (40 hours childcare per week) and 5 years (17 hours out of school care per week) (Making 10% pension contribution)	€64, 000	€52	€128	+€3, 796
Family with a net annual income of €53, 000 with two children aged (40 hours childcare per week) and 5 years (17 hours out of school care per week) (Making 10% pension contribution)	€87, 000	€20 (universal subsidy)	€93	+€3, 796
Family with a net annual income of €60, 000, with a 1 year old and 2 year old twins in need of 40 hours of childcare per week	€90, 000	€60	€176	+€6, 032
Family with a net annual income of €60, 000, with three children aged 2 years (40 hours childcare per week) and 5 years (17 hours out of school care per week) and 7 (17 hours out of school care per week) (Making 10% pension contribution)	€102, 000	€20 (universal subsidy)	€92	+€3, 744



Important Information

CCS Bands

Bands have now been awarded to 2018 registrations. Please review all registrations and if you need to appeal, you have till 31/12/2018.

For any bands that have come back approved and are lower than what you proposed then check the comment in the status to see what further information Pobal have requested.

All evidence from Parents should be between 10/09/18—12/10/18.

ASCC eligibility weeks

As per the programme rules for ASCC 'ASCC is available for A ONCE OFF MAXIMUM OF 52 WEEKS – (refer to page 60 of the Rules For DCYA Childcare Funding programmes, issued 09/08/18). This is 52 weeks in total per child, not 52 weeks each programme year.

ECCE Exemptions

If your service requires a Minimum Numbers ECCE Exemption request form, the form can be located on Pip. Once completed, please email to sligochild-care@gmail.com for processing.

FAR Training

First Aid Response (FAR) training announcement

From May 2020, all services will be required to have at least one person on the premises who is trained in Pre-hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) First Aid Response (FAR). As a response to this Minister Zappone announced funding is to be made available to provide one free place (worth €250) on a First Aid Response training course for every registered childcare service.

More information on this training will be available in the New Year.



PIP

PIP Portal User Guide .

New features include the Funding tab on your PIP page. This new enhancement will make it easier to see your payments for each of the programmes that you are in contract for. For the new 2018/2019 programme year, a breakdown of payments can still be requested from Pobal.

Learner fund bursary

Sligo CCC had 5 successful applications for the Autumn learner fund bursary

Kee an eye on the monthly

e-bulletin published by DCYA which will be emailed to all PAU's with updates on operational matters relating to the administration of the Department schemes and initiatives.



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



The Department of Children and Youth Affairs has commissioned a new website to signpost childcare providers and parents to their local City/County Childcare Committee. The primary aim of this website is to raise awareness of the range of services and training provided by local CCCs. The new website is now live and can be accessed at the following address www.myccc.ie

Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017/2018



Minister Katherine Zappone has launched the **Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017/2018**, developed and published by Pobal for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA).

The comprehensive findings are based on the largest ever survey of the early years sector, with responses from a total of 3,928 childcare services (88% of childcare facilities) providing significant insight into current childcare numbers, fees, staff qualifications and wages.

Overall, there are estimated to be 202,600 children attending early years services nationwide (an increase of 9%). While the total capacity within the sector has grown by approximately 6%, this has not kept pace with increased demand, with the total number of vacant childcare places reducing by 31%.

Nationally, the cost of a full-time childcare place has increased by just below €4 (to €177.92), compared to a €7 increase last year. Over the last 12 months, fee increases have been more prevalent in community based services and in those located in rural areas. Despite this increase, fees remain more expensive in affluent areas, in cities, and in private facilities.

Currently, the childcare sector employs over 29,500 staff, almost 26,000 of whom work with children. The average qualification level of childcare staff has increased, with 65% to Level 6 (up 2%). The 2017/2018 report also revealed 47% of all staff work part-time, 3% less than last year.

On average, staff working with children earn €12.17 per hour; almost half of these are early year's assistants, earning an average of €11.20 per hour. The staff turnover rate in the last 12 months was 24.7%, down slightly from 28% the previous year.

Please click on the Pobal Icon for the full report





Compliance Announcement **2018/2019 Programme cycle**

Unannounced compliance visits have commenced since October 2018 and will continue to the end of August 2019. **Note:** Services operating ECCE only sessions will not be visited outside of the ECCE programme

cycle.

As previously, the compliance process will involve a series of standardised on-site checks aimed at ensuring adherence with certain programme rules and contract conditions as set out by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA). To ensure compliance with each programmes requirements, services must familiarise themselves with the following:

- Relevant programme Grant Funding Agreements
- Rules for DCYA Childcare Funding Programmes
(including Appendix 2 “Good Practice Guide—Attendance records”)
- PIP “How to Guides”
- Announcements available on the PIP Portal (and Pobal and DCYA websites).
- Letter from the DCYA for CCS services 2018 regarding the snapshot window.

Compliance visits will comprise checks on records held on site in respect of the following Early Years Programmes i.e.

- Free Pre-school Year in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme
- Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programmes
- Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme
- Community Childcare Subvention (Plus) including Universal (CCSP/U) Programme
- Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement/ Transitional (CCSR (T)) Programmes

It is advised that services prepare for an unannounced compliance visit by collating relevant Information for review e.g. in a Compliance Folder File which can be made readily available to the Visit Officer on arrival. This will ensure minimum disruption and expedite the compliance visit. It is acknowledged that some services file their records in alternative ways which is acceptable, but it should be noted that records must be available to enable the Visit officer to complete the compliance visit in a reasonable timescale. In this regard we request that there is always a staff member on site with access to the Compliance Folder/records in the event of an unannounced visit. Please only maintain compliance related information in the Compliance Folder.

Please see the link to the [Service Provider Checklist 2018-2019](#) which is also available on the PIP Portal, to assist services in collating the relevant information to meet compliance requirements. Please note that this checklist contains a separate section for each of the Early Years programmes.

For any queries regarding compliance you can contact [Joan McGrath](#) or [Viola Craig](#)



Parent & Toddler Groups

Parent & Toddler Groups receive funding to support their work within communities at local level.

SCCC, in collaboration with the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and Pobal were delighted to announce that € 5,267 in funding has been allocated to 7 Parent & Toddler groups in County Sligo.

This year we also had the pleasure of funding 2 new Groups.

SCCC would like to congratulate these Parent & Toddler groups, and acknowledge the effort that went in to preparing the applications. SCCC will be following up with all groups who received the funding to further support them in their Parent & Toddler groups.

Childminder Development Grants 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.

SCCC have processed 4 successful childminder development grants (CMDG) in 2018.

If you are interested in availing of a grant for 2019 please register your interest with the office who can put you on a list for an application when they become available!



The Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF)



The Early Years Inspectorate has developed a Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF), to support registered Early Years Services to comply with the 2016 Regulations. The QRF does this by setting out the core regulatory requirements in a transparent way, bringing together evidence-based, national and international research and best practice in Early Years. The QRF aims to support registered providers in achieving compliance with the regulations and enhance the safety and care of children who attend these services. The QRF is child-centred, with a specific focus on the quality and safety of the care provided directly to children using the services.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, launched the Quality and Regulatory Framework on Wednesday the 5th of September 2018 in Dublin

Policies, Procedures and Statements in Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

The guidebook, policy samples/templates and other documents provided below have been developed by Barnardo's in collaboration with Tusla to support you, as an early years provider, to develop your own set of policies, procedures and statements to meet the requirements of the **Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016**

How to use the sample Policies and Templates

The samples/templates provided here are to support you, as an early years provider, to develop your own set of policies, procedures and statements to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. The samples/templates offer an additional support to the information provided on the core requirements in the appendices of the Tusla: Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF). It is essential that you refer to the QRF when writing and reviewing any of your policies, procedures and statements.



Sample Policy | Polasaí Samplach Um Thurais Bheaga

This sample policy provides information on the structure used for the sample/policies

Sample Policies and Templates.

It is essential that a set of policies, procedures and statements is developed particular to the service setting, the type of service operated, the families who use the service and to the particular context of the service.

Refer to the QRF when writing any of the policies that are required.

QRF webpage and web link

www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-quality-and-regulatory-framework/

www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-quality-and-regulatory-framework/



National Siolta
Aistear Initiative



National Siolta Aistear Initiative

During 2018 Sligo County Childcare Committee has engaged with the National Siolta Aistear Initiative through a Siolta Mentor, who's role has included delivery of various workshops and mentoring supports.

The workshops delivered included, Introductory and Awareness Workshops relating to Siolta and Aistear, These have been accessed by

- A total of 276 participants over 26 workshops.

The onsite mentoring visits allowed educators to focus on specific aspects of practice relating to the early years curriculum offered including,

- Content of the Aistear Siolta Practice Guide.
- 16 Siolta Standards.

Educators engaging under this initiative have been supported to further understand the principles and content of Aistear and Siolta. This has helped to further enhance educators in supporting children in their care, towards becoming competent and confident learners.

CPD Payment Update

CPD Payments will be issued to all services for participants who completed **Hanen** and/or **Lámh** trainings between August 2018 and 24th of November 2018 no later than 21st of December 2018.

Payment for those participants that complete trainings after the 24th of November 2018 will be issued at a later date.

Please note that each staff member can avail of a maximum of 18 hours of paid CPD training per calendar year and payments are calculated on this basis. Payments for all participants will be made to the employer/childcare setting and NOT to the individual. Re-imbursement by way of payment or time worked is the responsibility of the employer.



Online 'GDPR for Management' training

As you are all aware, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018 and all organisations are responsible for ensuring that they are meeting their obligations under the GDPR. Of course, Data Protection legislation has been in force for quite some time and there is an obligation on all of us to ensure that we are compliant with all relevant legislation.

However, in response to concerns within the Early Years sector relating to GDPR readiness, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is offering complimentary online General Data Protection Regulation Training to all childcare services to support you in meeting your Data Protection obligations. This training is designed and delivered by iHasco.

Course content:

This training will take approximately 40 minutes to complete and consists of tutorial videos and a separate test at the end. Slides may be viewed as often as you wish. Each service has only **one credit** for the course (i.e. the test may only be completed once) so only one email address may be used to access the course. Each service should consider who is the most appropriate person to complete the test at the end of the training. Each service can come in and out of the training as required until you have passed the test at the end. The default pass mark for the test is 60%.

Once that mark is achieved you cannot retake the test. Each service will get a certificate on successful completion of the test.

Accessing the training:

The training is available on the following link until 23 October 2019: <https://app.ihasco.co.uk/zd32d3>. Only an email address is required to log in. Each service should ensure they read iHasco's Privacy Notice and Terms and Conditions.

Disclaimer:

DCYA hold no responsibility for the content of the course. It is at the discretion of each service whether they choose to complete the training. DCYA is not in a position to provide individual GDPR advice. Further details on GDPR and Data Protection can be found on the website of the Data Protection Commission:

<https://dataprotection.ie/docs/Home/4.htm>

This online training is offered as a support for services in relation to GDPR obligations, and provides a high level overview of the principles of GDPR. Services will need to assess what further actions they may need to take to ensure they are fully informed of their responsibilities in relation to GDPR in an early years context.



Click on the link below to visit the AIM website for further information

<http://aim.gov.ie/>



An information session was held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Monday evening the 26th November on the AIM Model. This was facilitated by Nicola Kee National Service Co-Ordinator supported by Fiona Helbert and Ciara McNally from the Better Start AIM team and Natasha Philips Community Facilitator for Children with Disabilities with the Early Intervention Team was also present.



The **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. Its goal is to empower pre-school providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can meaningfully participate in the ECCE Programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education.

AIM is a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, moving from the universal to the targeted, based on the needs of the child and the pre-school service. For many children, the universal supports offered under the model will be sufficient. For others, one particular discrete support may be required to enable participation in the ECCE Programme, such as access to a piece of specialised equipment. For a small number, a suite of different services and supports may be necessary. In other words, the model is designed to be responsive to the needs of each Individual child in the context of their pre-school setting. It offers tailored, practical supports based on need and does not require a formal diagnosis of disability.

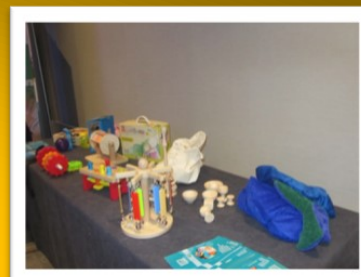


What supports are provided under AIM?

AIM provides a suite of universal and targeted supports across 7 levels.



Some of the resources which we explored on the night and a small selection from the equipment that is available to borrow from their Resource Library from the Better Start office in Sligo





Healthy Ireland Smart Start



This Pre-school Health Promotion training programme is the result of collaborative working led by the HSE Department of Health Promotion and partnership with National Childhood Network, to ensure children in the pre-school settings are supported to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviours in early childhood. The Training Programme reflects the aim of the Healthy Ireland Framework, to bring all people together into a national movement with a single aim to ensure the best possible health and well-being of our nation.

11 Early Years services in Sligo are availing of the opportunity to engage in Healthy Ireland Smart Start training programme. Educators from each of the services attend a 21 hour training programme which covers the following areas – Health Promotion, Physical Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Literacy, Nutrition, Oral Health and Health and Safety.

Following completion of the training programme Early Years services are required to implement the programme through their early years' curriculum. Additionally Educators and the Early Years' service are required to share their learning and practice with parents by hosting a parents evening/meeting.

In the year following the training, Early Years services are invited to carry out a self evaluation on their implementation of the programme, which can then be submitted to HSE for validation towards receipt of Healthy Ireland Smart Start award.

Further information on the programme can be accessed through



<https://www.ncn.ie/index.php/healthy-ireland-smart-start>



CAREERS FAIR AT IT SLIGO

In October we were invited to take part in the Careers Fair in IT Sligo. It was a good opportunity to meet and talk with the students.

On the day, we found a lot of parents had queries regarding what help was out there for them with their childcare costs. We spoke about the affordable childcare scheme and the changes that had just been announced in the budget. Also spoke and gave Parents information on the different childcare funding programmes available.



Training Room for hire

Please note that Sligo County Childcare Committee have a new training/conference room which is available for hire.

Ring the office on 07191-48860 for further details



Balance Bike Training



Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership in partnership with Sligo County Childcare Committee are supporting a new programme for preschools with funding provided from Healthy Ireland.

Between February and March 2018 we piloted the new Balance Bike programme with six preschools in Sligo.

We are pleased to say that we are now in a position to work with further pre-schools from those who applied at the start of the year. Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership will be getting in touch with those services for the next round for inclusion in the Programme over the coming weeks.

The training aims to give childcare practitioners the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to effectively deliver fun and practical sessions with children age 2 to 5 years. All childcare practitioners will be provided with lesson plans on the day that they can utilize with their class. Following training preschools will have the opportunity to avail of the use of Balance Bikes for a two week period.



About The Balance Bike Programme

The Balance Bike programme is for children aged 2 to 5 years and is the fundamental starting point for children's cycling and an excellent opportunity to promote active lifestyles at the earliest possible age. Each session will incorporate fun activities to help children develop gross motor skills, spatial awareness, bilateral co-ordination and enhance their physical literacy.

The Balance Bike programme combines unique ergonomic balance bikes with a variety of fun activities that build confidence, spatial awareness and dynamic balance skills enabling young children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers.

A balance bike is a lightweight, pedal-less child's bike which facilitates balance and propulsion. Children run along whilst seated, push off the ground to create forward movement and use their feet to slow down and stop safely.

The Balance Bike Training will be delivered on-site, under the direction of a qualified Balance Bike Instructor. Balance Bikes and helmets will be provided for a maximum of 10 children. Bikes will remain on-site at your facility for a 2 week period following training.

At the end of the 2 weeks your centre will get to keep a balance bike for continued use.

Balance Bike Programme Structure

2-hour training course delivered on site – this will show the childcare practitioners three 30minute sessions they can deliver to children.

3 support hours in the first week where the balance bike tutor will attend the sessions to support the childcare practitioners in delivery

Week two the childcare practitioners will deliver a minimum of 3 balance bike sessions to the children

At the end of week two the balance bike tutor will return for a fun challenge session where the children will complete a number of tasks and receive their Balance Bike Licence





PARENTS PLUS Parenting When Separated

A practical and positive evidence-based course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce.

**A 6 week course taking place every Wednesday
from 16th January to 20th February 2019.**

**It will take place in Northside Community Centre from 10.00a.m.
to 12.00p.m.**

**Open day 9th January @ 10.00 a.m. to 12.00p.m. in Northside
Community Centre**

**The course will be facilitated by Yvonne Lynch Zoschke and Karen Folan
From Sligo County Childcare Committee.**

**For more information or to reserve your place, please contact:
Karen or Yvonne on 071 9148860**


ParentsPlus
Empowering Professionals to Support Families

Parents Plus is an Irish charity that develops practical, evidence-based parenting and mental health programmes. We train professionals working with children and families to deliver the programmes in communities and clinical settings. Our programmes support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome emotional and behavioural problems.
www.parentsplus.ie

Parent Plus

We are running a Parent Plus – Parenting when Separated course in North side Community Centre in January.

Parent Plus is a practical and positive evidence-based course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce.

If you would like more information or to book a place please call 0719148860 or email

karen@sligochildcare.ie



SCCC successful in accessing Peace IV Funding

SCCC have been successful in being awarded Peace IV Funding towards the development and rollout of a Cultural and Inclusion programme.

This programme includes:

An accredited training of the module QQI Level 6 - Training Delivery and Evaluation Component, a One day Cultural and Inclusion programme provided by SCCC which will focus on Cross Community and multicultural education to peers and children age 0 – 12 years. Engaging Early Years services will also receive resources and materials for engagement and use by children in relation to gaining an understanding and further knowledge on cross community and multicultural education, including faith based and cultural education.

This programme of training and activities to children will be rolled out in the early part of 2019 and all engaging educators and Early Years services will be supported throughout the programme by SCCC Development Team.



Programme Payments over the Christmas Period

ECCE

Please find details below of the ECCE Payment schedule and an update on registrations over Christmas:

ECCE Payment Dates:	ECCE Payable To:	Covering Maximum:
07 December 2018	28 December 2018	5 weeks
14 December 2018	28 December 2018	5 weeks
21 December 2018	28 December 2018	5 weeks
07 January 2019	01 February 2019	5 weeks
11 January 2019	01 February 2019	5 weeks

Weekly catch-up payments for ECCE will continue until **Friday 21st December** - this will be the last payment before Christmas.

The first ECCE payment in 2019 is due on **Monday 7th January** and will cover a maximum of 5 payable weeks to **1st February 2019**.

ECCE Payments made on a Friday will cover **registrations approved** by close of business on the previous Monday.

CCS/P

Please find details below of the CCS/P Payment schedule over Christmas:

CCS/P Payment Dates:	CCS Payable To:	CCSP Payable To:
07 December 2018	04 January 2019	21 December 2018
14 December 2018	18 January 2019	04 January 2019
04 January 2019	01 February 2019	18 January 2019

TEC

Please find details below of the TEC Payment schedule over Christmas:

TEC Payment Dates:	TEC Payable To:
14 December 2018	11 January 2019
11 January 2019	25 January 2019



Parent Plus Programmes

Following on from Dr. Eddie Murphys talk, a number of Parent Plus programs have been organised for the Sligo region.

Parent Plus is an evidence based parenting programme which aims to support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome behavioural and emotional problems.

The courses are free and available to all parents who wish to attend.



Childminders Network Event

On the 6th December, Sligo County Childcare Committee hosted a Childminders Network event in conjunction with Sligo Library. Brenda from Sligo Library led a delightful session of nursery rhymes and stories before both adults and children enjoyed some delicious baked treats courtesy of our colleague Kay Duffy! It was a lovely opportunity for childminders to connect and build friendships while the children enjoyed themselves. A very special thank you to all of the staff at the Library for being so welcoming to us. We hope to deliver more of these events in 2019 in



Sligo so keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page for details.



WELCOME

Please make sure all TEC Top Up's are entered on PIP in a timely fashion to ensure no delay in payment are incurred

Sligo CCC would like welcome the new ECCE/SAC service **Bright Minds** who are located in the Avalon Centre. The **New Ballytivnan Afterschool Service** on Clarion Road and **Strandhill Afterschool Service** located in Strandhill Golf Club and wish them the very best in the future.



Follow Sligo CCC on Twitter for the latest news in Childcare

<https://twitter.com/SligoCCC>

Our Office will be closed from the 21st of December and will re-open on the 3rd of January



Force Majeure

Services unable to open safely due to any weather conditions this Winter or in the event that services may suffer storm damage or a disruption to utilities that force them to close should invoke Force Majeure by downloading and completing the Force Majeure form from PIP and send onwards to pipdocuments@pobal.ie within Three weeks. Should you require support with this process please contact Online Support by emailing onlinesupport@pobal.ie or call

01 511 7222



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

