

## When can I apply for AIM targeted supports?

Applications should be made as early as possible - ideally 3 months before the planned start date. The application process for the upcoming ECCE programme year opens in May and remains open throughout the pre-school year. In the case of children with more complex needs, parents and pre-school providers are encouraged to apply early.

Full details can be found on the AIM website [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).



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



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## Where can I find more information?

More detailed information on AIM can be found at [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).

Your local City or County Childcare Committee (CCC) will also be able to provide further information and guidance. Links to all CCCs can also be found on [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).



## Does your child need support to access pre-school?

AIM supports can help your child reach their full potential.

An initiative of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

**AIM**  
ACCESS &  
INCLUSION MODEL

## What is AIM?

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

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



## AIM Universal Supports – promoting inclusive settings

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

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

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

## AIM Targeted Supports

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

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

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



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

Go to [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie) to find out more



## How can I apply for AIM targeted supports?

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

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

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

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