



June 2009

A Note From The Coordinator

The Free Preschool Year Scheme – Don't Panic

Whilst I am sure everyone agrees that this new undertaking by the Government to introduce a years free preschool for every child in the country is a fantastic initiative – I know we weren't the only ones to be thinking this is all going a bit quickly and are we really ready to do this, would the Government not give us a year or so to get our ourselves organised? I am delighted that the OMCYA pushed ahead with this we need to get the scheme up and running and we'll polish it as we go along.

However we are getting lots of calls and enquiries about similar issues so I would just like to take this opportunity to clarify some of them. If at any time you wish to check the details of the scheme you can either call us or go to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs homepage where you can find all the information regarding the new scheme www.omcya.ie

If you are going to apply to be part of the scheme starting in January 2010 you must ensure that: You are constituted as a legal entity – in other words you must be registered as a sole trader, partnership, limited liability company and demonstrate your tax compliance by providing an up to date Tax Clearance Certificate. It is not sufficient to be self-assessing for tax purposes. Updating your status can be done online – go to www.revenue.ie and click on the Business & Self Assessment tab. Alternatively you can contact your local revenue office. Revenue's leaflet IT48 gives more information and can also be found on line or in your local revenue office.

Your preschool year leader – the person responsible for delivering your preschool activities – must be qualified to a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland (NFQ). For the first two years of the scheme if the preschool year leader has an award in ECCE that includes significant content relating to early learning and child development and has at least two years experience of working in a position of responsibility with children aged 0 – 6 this will meet the requirement. This will have to be proved at the contract stage so if you haven't completed your Level 5 you will have to sign up to complete it by 2012.

I apologise for anyone who was informed that they would have to commit to level 6 by 2012, this was the original information we received but it has recently been amended.

If you have any further queries do not hesitate to contact us.

Karen McDonnell

Síolta

Síolta is a quality assurance process which addresses all aspects of practice in early childhood care and education services. It is designed to support practitioners to develop high quality services for children aged birth to six years and is relevant to all settings where children spend time out of their home environment.

Detailed information on Síolta can be found at www.siolta.ie. The Cork County Childcare resource library also has a great deal of information on Síolta, for details call us on 022 23880

Aistear

Aistear is the Framework for Early Learning supports practitioners in planning for and providing enriching, challenging and enjoyable learning opportunities for children from birth to six years. The aim of the Framework is to help every child to grow and develop as a competent and confident learner within loving and nurturing relationships with adults and peers.

Detailed information on Aistear can be found at www.ncca.ie/earlychildhoodframework

ATTENTION TO ALL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

NEW E-NEWSLETTERS

If your group has an email address and would like to receive the newsletters via email please Email us on info@corkchildcare.ie - Please include your name and the name of your service.

Thank You!

How to positively promote the Irish Language

Last year a pilot initiative was carried out in North Cork on how to positively promote the use of the Irish Language within their preschool setting. Following on from the success of this initiative; Cork County Childcare Committee hope to organise a similar workshop for childcare staff in West Cork later this year. This training will involve three half-day facilitated workshops. Each service participating will receive a follow-up support visit by the facilitator, a resource pack and will participate in an evaluation. The aim of this training is to facilitate childcare providers to develop practical ways to positively promote the use of the Irish language. Full details of this training should be available in the next issue of the Cork County Childcare Committee Newsletter.

NERA Inspectors are visiting Childcare Services

The National Employment Rights Authority (NERA) is a government agency which provides information to employees and employers through its information service. It monitors employment conditions through its labour inspectorate and can enforce compliance and seek redress.

Cork County Childcare staff members have been informed by Childcare services that NERA Inspectors are currently visiting childcare services in the county.

In general Inspectors have the following powers under legislation to:

- enter any premises at a reasonable time
- request sight of records
- inspect records
- take copies of records
- seek and require information from any relevant person

Record Keeping

The following list sets out the standard records which employers must keep and a Nera Inspector will require access to during the course of an inspection. (sourced from www.employmentrights.ie)

1. Employer registration no. with the Revenue Commissioner
2. List of all employees including full name, address and PPS no for each employee (full and part time)
3. Terms of employment for each employee
4. Payroll details (gross to net, rate per hour, overtime, deductions, shift and other premiums and allowances etc..)
5. Evidence that employer has provided payslips to employees
6. Employees job classifications
7. Date of commencement and relevant, termination of employment
8. Hours of work for each employee (including starting and finishing times, meal times and rest periods)
9. Register of employees under 18 years of age
10. Whether board and lodging are provided and relevant details
11. Holidays and public holidays entitlements received by each employee
12. Any documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with employment rights legislation.

Additional records may be required to be held depending on the sector / business involved. For further information lo- call 1890 808090 / www.employmentrights.ie

The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

The ECCE Scheme will be introduced from 2010 and services will be asked to return their completed application forms to us by Friday 10 July 2009.

The Development Workers are able to give advice and information about this new scheme. Thus please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish us to provide you and your group one-to-one support or would like us to participate to any group meetings around this scheme.

If you wish please come along to one of our information sessions where we answer any queries you might have and provide information about the scheme.

Date	Time	Venue	Contact
29.06.2009	5.00pm	Brookelodge Community Centre Glanmire, Co. Cork	087 9398905/Minna
29.06.2009	7.30pm	Cork County Childcare Committee office Unit 12, Underhill Commercial Park Underhill, Dunmanway, Co. Cork	0877931899/Noreen
01.07.2009	7.30pm	Carrigaline Court Hotel Carrigaline, Cork Heron Room	087 7931899/Noreen

Please find below the details of our Development Workers who are more than happy to answer any queries you might have.

Electoral Areas

Fermoy/Midleton
Mallow/Blarney
Kanturk/Macroom
Bandon/Carrigaline
Bantry/Skibbereen

Development worker

Aileen Carey / 087 793 1903
Minna Laaksonen / 087 939 8905
Carol Hickey / 087 793 1897
Noreen Brazier / 087 739 1899
Karla O'Connell / 087 793 1898

Cork County Childcare Committee

Main Office

The Market House, Buttevant, Co.Cork
Tel: 022 23880

West Cork Office

Unit 12, Underhill Commercial Park, Dunmanway, Co.Cork
Tel: 023 8855962

Email: info@corkchildcare.ie

Web: www.corkchildcare.ie



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



European Union
Structural Funds