Dear Colleagues,

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 17th – 21st April 2023.

**DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Friday 21st April**

Closing date for Parent and Toddler Grant Applications **\*TODAY\***

**Monday 24th April**

AIM Information Session for parents

**Wednesday 26th April**

AIM Information Session for providers

**Wednesday 26th April**

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest for Communities of Practice - ReCreate Ireland

**Thursday 27th April and Friday 28th April**

Pobal AIM Refresher Training

**Friday 28th April 2023**

Deadline to apply to join Early Years Inspectorate proposed development of inspection report template

**Friday 12th May**

Closing date for applications for CYPSC Train the Trainer workshop

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative 2023**

Closing date for receipt of applications is **TODAY** 21st April. If you have any queries with the application form, please contact [codriscoll@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:codriscoll@corkchildcare.ie) or call 022-23880.

**AIM Information Sessions**

Cork City and County Childcare Committees together with Better Start are running AIM information sessions for parents and providers.

The information session for **parents** will take place on **24th April 7pm-8pm**

The information session for **providers** will take place on **26th April 4pm-5pm**

Please see leaflets attached which include details to book on through Eventbrite. We would be grateful if you could share the leaflet for the parent information session with your parents on noticeboards or via your childcare app.

**Pobal AIM Refresher training session**

Pobal are also running AIM sessions for providers covering the following areas:

* Level 4: Expert Educational Advice and Support
* Level 5: Equipment, Appliances and Minor Alterations
* Level 7: Additional Capitation

For further information on topics covered please refer to the announcement section on the Hive.

The webinars will take place at the following dates and times:

AIM 4, 5 and 7 Refresher SP1

*27/04/2023 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm*

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2380998358094374485](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2380998358094374485)

AIM 4, 5 and 7 Refresher SP2

*28/04/2023 from 10:30am – 11:30am*

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4623609553106642272](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4623609553106642272)

**Core Funding ‘Review & Confirm’**

The ‘Review and Confirm’ window closed on Friday 7th April 2023.

It is important to note that although the window has now closed, services who have not yet completed the ‘Review and Confirm’ are still required to complete the process and the ‘Review and Confirm’ form will remain open on the Early Years Hive.

Core Funding payments **will be placed on hold** until such a time as the process is completed. However, once your ‘Review and Confirm’ is approved, Partner Services will receive payment on the next available catch-up payment.

If you have not completed your ‘Review and Confirm’ or are unsure, please contact your Development Worker for assistance.

Please refer to the Hive announcement section for further information and guidance.

**Communities of Practice- Recreate Ireland**

Cork County Childcare Committee are delighted to collaborate with ReCreate Ireland and Cork County Council as part of our first Communities of Practice event. The focus of this first event is on embedding a ‘creative sustainability’ mindset in the early years and school age childcare sector across Cork County. This community of practice programme, funded by Cork County Council and facilitated by Recreate Ireland creative consultants and artists alongside the Cork County Childcare Committee team, will support ELC and SAC services to develop confidence in their creativity and curiosity skills, explore inclusive open-ended play and provocations in the setting, all within the context of creative sustainability.

Please see leaflet attached for more details on the programme and for information on how to complete an Expression of Interest to take part in this exciting initiative.

**Aistear- The Journey Continues**

On Saturday 6th May 2023, you are invited to discuss, share and engage with research and practices that emerged from the recent review of literature to support the updating of Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework completed by researchers and academics at DCU Institute of Education.

This engaging and interactive event will include seminars, small group workshops and showcasing of practice that provide an opportunity to consider how research and evidence informs and enhances curriculum development in an Irish context.

An exciting day of knowledge exchange, critical reflection, practical workshops and connection with

friends and colleagues in early childhood care and education.

DATE: Saturday 6th May 2023

TIME: 9.30am- 2pm

WHERE: DCU Institute of Education, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Please see attached to this bulletin a flier which includes a link to register for this free event.

**Cork CYPSC Supporting Parents Subgroup; Train the Trainer workshop**

Cork CYPSC Supporting Parents Subgroup are offering a free training workshop for state, voluntary or community organisations in Cork City and County for professionals who regularly support parents in their day-to-day work. This training is open to all ELC and SAC services in Cork County.

Please find the leaflet attached for full details.

**Early Years Inspectorate proposed development of new inspection report template**

Early Years Inspectorate is proposing to develop a new early years inspection report template.

Tusla would now like to get the views of key stakeholders on the changes they are proposing. Participants will be asked to complete 2-3 online questionnaire surveys, the first online questionnaire in May and the second in June 2023.

Participants should:

* have knowledge about Early Years inspections and / or reports and/or the findings documented in the early years inspection report which may be directly relevant to you.
* be available to respond to the questionnaires
* be willing to take part.

If you would like to take part, please email [rpdt@tusla.ie](mailto:rpdt@tusla.ie) as soon as you can and no later than **Friday 28th April 2023.** Please include your name, your role and your organisation in your email.

Tusla are keen to have input from people from a range of areas / disciplines / roles so if there are a large number of responses from some areas, participants will be identified accordingly.

**NCS hours**

Parents availing of the NCS scheme will be receiving a notification on their parent portal from DCEDIY to clarify the NCS attendance rules. These were outlined to providers in the [Early Years Sector Bulletin March 2023.](https://e.sensorpro.net/run/V4.aspx?vsid=0GGaqjdKExB5k6r2I2ouPlJwvRRt2PawweihFRnzV3fo816Qqf3ckAzdTlZy1E8y_zes7) To view the notice parents will receive please refer to your own announcement section on the Hive, as parents may come to you with queries.

**Early Years Sector E-Bulletin April 2023**

In case you haven't read it yet here is the link to this month's DCEDIY Early Years Sector E-Bulletin [E Bulletin April 2023](https://e.sensorpro.net/run/V4.aspx?vsid=%2FJgJSWk2kjpOnWv6AJb9S8FnF2LmfjH2yP5guWpCWS%2FtSYkaPDCY02eck3UKLDVF_zes7)

**Cork County Childcare Committee Facebook Page**

We invite you to like our Facebook page Cork County Childcare Committee Ltd for lots of updates and relevant content. [Cork County Childcare Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079059495356)

**Covid case advice**

ELC and SAC providers and Childminders that have positive cases and require support can contact the HSE ELC/SAC dedicated helpline on 01 511 9777.

For general Covid-19 queries you can contact HSE live on 1800 700 700 or 01 240 8787 or visit the First 5 website for the most up to date information and guidance. ([https://first5.gov.ie](https://first5.gov.ie/))

Should you have any queries on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us on 022-23880 or [info@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:info@corkchildcare.ie)

Kind Regards,

Cork County Childcare Committee