



Galway City & County
Childcare Committee

Coiste Cúram Leanai
Chontae & Chathair na Gaillimhe



Spring
2015

TUSLA: The newly revised Focused Inspection Tool will focus on areas identified as requiring improvement; Governance, Welfare and Safety. The inspection protocol and process remains unchanged however, pre-school services can anticipate a concentration of focus on the aforementioned Pre-School Regulations (2006). **The revised Inspection Tool can be download on the GCCCC website and all pre-school services are encouraged to review this documentation and evaluate their performance within these thematic areas.**

Galway City and County
Childcare Committee
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DCYA Programme Update

Note: Tax Clearance Certificates and change in bank details should be sent to: pipdocuments@pobal.ie

CCS Payments: As the PIP CCS Registration window was extended to support services with more time to submit registrations, the Verification process and final Band Approval is not expected to be completed until the end of February 2015. To ensure CCS Services receive adequate payments until such time as final approval is completed a further CCS Preliminary Payment will issue to CCS Services. This payment will be the balancing payment due up to the end of February 2015, based on the 'PROVISIONAL' bands applied for through the PIP CCS Registration process. Payments will be made by Friday 6th February and are subject to Tax Clearance Certificates being in date .

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Network Meetings: Updates on the DCYA Progs, PIP, Tusla Focused Inspection Tool and Better Start.

Pillo Hotel, Galway City	18 th Feb	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea	19 th Feb	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Station House Hotel, Clifden	26 th Feb	7.30 - 9.30 pm

ACT for Meningitis will present an information session about Meningitis.

Please email mail@galwaychildcare.com or phone 091-752039 to book a place.

Qualifications in the ECCE Sector

Reminder: From September 2015, the pre-school leaders in ALL services participating in the ECCE programme will be required to hold a certification for a major award in childcare/early education at a minimum of level 6 on the NFQ, and all staff working with children in the service will be required to hold a certification for a major award in the childcare/early education at a minimum of level 5 on the NFQ.

Circular Updates: [Suite 6 qualification at NFQ Level 6 awarded prior to the introduction of the Common Award Standards](#) & [Early Years Practitioners working in special needs pre-schools](#):

Circulars are available under *Latest News* on GCCCC website.

Easter Activity

PAPER BUNNY CUP Treat Holders

You will need:

white paper cup, white card
pink felt or pink card
2 wiggle eyes
small pink pom-pom
medium white pom-pom (for tail)
white chenille stems/pipe cleaners
scissors, glue, glue dots or a stapler



Directions

From the white card, cut 2 large white ovals for the bunny ears. Trim one side of the oval off so it's squared off at the bottom.

Cut 2 smaller oval shapes from the pink felt (or paper) for the inner part of the ear. ••• Glue the pink ovals in the center of the white ear shapes and set aside to dry.

Cut white chenille craft stems into short pieces for the whiskers. Use craft glue or glue dots to attach the whiskers to the cup, then glue the pink pom pom on top for the nose.

Attach the ears to the back rim of the cup with a stapler or glue dots. Glue the white pom pom to the back of the cup to create a cotton tail.

Fill with a colorful Easter grass and sweet treats!

Thank you to Anna and the children from Sunny Isle childcare service for sending in these fabulous photos of their handmade Snowmen. Well Done !!!!



Better Start National Early Years Quality Development is a national initiative of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) collaborating with the Early Years Education Policy Unit of the Department of Education and Skills (DES), to ensure a coordinated approach to early years quality in Ireland. It encompasses the broad suite of quality supports provided under DCYA through City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and Voluntary Childcare Organisations to the Early Years Education and Care (ECEC) providers throughout the country, to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children they serve

[Download here for information sheets for Parents and Service Providers](#)

[Information for Parents](#)

[Information for Service Providers](#)

You can also access the information sheets on our website *No. 2 Headline (Homepage) and under Latest News*

First Aid Training. Please be reminded *places are only booked on receipt of payment* into us and payable to the Irish Red Cross Galway. As these fill up very quickly, places are offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. **FIRST AID (2-day course)** –Please send cheque for €80 made payable to Irish Red Cross Galway to our office to book a place.

Places are on a 'First come, First Served' basis on receipt of payment.

Venue	Dates & Times
Loughrea Hotel & Spa, Loughrea	28 th February & 1 st March 10.00am - 5.00 pm
Station House Hotel, Clifden	7 th & 8 th March 10.00am - 5.00pm

FIRST AID REFRESHER COURSE: (21st March: Clayton Hotel - 1-day course). *Only for childcare workers holding a current Red Cross First Aid Certificate with an expiry date no later than 21st March 2015* A copy of this certificate must be presented to the trainer on the day. Please send a cheque for €50 made payable to Irish Red Cross Galway to our office to book a place. Places are on a 'First come, First Served' basis on receipt of payment.

Child Protection Training: For services whose designated person has not availed of Child Protection Training, Please email your details (including name of service) to Lorriane at mail@galwaychildcare.com

Pobal Compliance Checklist

Pobal Compliance Checklist for 2014/15 is available on the GCCCC website under *Latest News*. If you have any questions in relation to your Pobal Compliance Checklist please contact your Development Officer (091 752039)

You can download the 2014/15 [Compliance Checklist](#) on GCCCC website under *Latest News*.

In-service Training Distribution List:

Childcare Staff who wish to be included on the in-service training distribution list. Please email Lorrienne at mail@galwaychildcare.com

Charitable Status

The Charities Act was passed in 2009 and due to the economic recession was not implemented till now. As of 16/10/2014 all charities that had a CHY Number will formally become registered charities under the 2009 Act and their names and addresses will be published on a new CRA Register of Charities. CHY Charities do not have to do anything they are automatically registered.

Over the coming months all CHY charities will receive a letter from the CRA inviting them to create an online account to supply additional information for the Register, including annual reports, accounts and governing documents. There is no prescribed format or content for reports and accounts submitted during this process. Annual reports and accounts will fall due 10 months after the charities first financial year end date after registration on 16th October, 2014. This means that the earliest that any charity will have to submit a report and accounts is August 2015 by which time it is likely that regulations will have been made by the Minister to set the standards for these reports. The CRA will advise charities on what is expected in advance. Charities are not required to take any action until the CRA has written to invite them to do so. If you want to check for your childcare service on the register see:

<https://www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie/Website/CRA/CRAweb.nsf/CharitySearch?OpenForm>

If you have any query contact Pdraig in the offices of GCCCC.

New Food Labelling Legislation

On the 13th December all food businesses will need to comply with new food labelling legislation which was introduced by EU law in relation to non-pre packed foods. All food business serving non-pre packed food must list the potential allergens used in the food.

Who does this law effect?

This new legislation includes and effects all early childhood care and education service that serve non-pre packed foods. It requires all childcare services providing food for the children to list the potential food allergens contained in the meal which is being offered.

Why is this information important?

It helps protect individuals from suffering potential allergic reactions or more dangerous going into anaphylactic shock. Please visit <https://www.fsai.ie/faq/allergens.html> or the Latest News on the GCCCC website for more information and the list of potential food allergens