

## Updates

### Single Affordable Childcare

On Tuesday 11th October 2016 it was announced that an additional €19m has been agreed in Budget 2017 to enable the introduction of a new Single Affordable Childcare Scheme from September 2017. **This will replace the existing childcare subsidisation schemes (excluding the free pre-school scheme) from September 2017** with a single, streamlined scheme which is more user-friendly for both parents and providers. The new scheme will make childcare more affordable, and will enable both universal and targeted subsidies for parents towards their childcare costs.

Please click [here](#) for more information

### Pobal Compliance

Most services will already be familiar with the compliance process, which involves a series of standardised on-site checks aimed at ensuring adherence with certain programme rules as set out by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA). Unannounced compliance visits will commence in November 2016 and continue to August 2017. Note: Services operating ECCE only will not be visited outside of the ECCE programme cycle. Compliance visits will comprise checks on records held on site in respect of the following Early Years Programmes i.e.

- Please click [here](#) the announcement
- Please click [here](#) for checklist

### Early Years Capital

**Expenditure Report-** Each grantee is required to submit an EYC 2016 Expenditure Report via the PIP Portal before the 31<sup>ST</sup> of December 2016. Once the report is submitted correctly, the grantee will be reimbursed the final 10% of the grant. Please note any expenditure post 31st December 2016 will not be eligible and will not be reimbursed.

- Please click [here](#) for guidelines on completing the expenditure report.

**Change Requests-** Please note that no further change requests can be facilitated as of the 16/11/16.

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### Inside this Issue:

DCYA Updates	1
Better Start	2
Tusla Regulations	2
Qualifications	2
AIM	3
Activity	4

## Better Start

Please note the quality development service referral criteria has changed as of the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

- (1) Services catering for 20 full and/or part-time children with at least 40 children overall
- (2) Group or chain providers with services under the same ownership
- (3) Sessional services for children (birth to 6 years) with at least 40 children in total

Please click [here](#) for further details.

### Tusla Regulations

Please click [here](#) for CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) REGULATIONS 2016.

Please click [here](#) for the inspection tool.

Please click [here](#) for the FAQ document.

## Qualifications in the ECCE Sector

### Update from DCYA:

- The Child Care Regulations will require all staff working directly with children in early years services to hold a minimum qualification of Major Award Level 5 or equivalent by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- The requirement under the ECCE contract that all pre-school leaders must hold a Major Award Level 6 qualification will also come into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, and not 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 as previously advised.

The Published list of **DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications** can be downloaded [here](#).

## AIM



## AIM

The Better Start **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. The GCCCC provided four network meetings around the county in September/October 2016 in relation to AIM. Also the GCCCC are the providers of training for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) (2016) *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education* as a part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). By January 2016, we have been asked to deliver this training to 60 service providers. Each of the courses facilitates 15 people and the course consists of one full day (6 hours) and three evening (3x3 hours) sessions (15 hours altogether). The DCYA's aim is to have two people in every service trained in the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education.



## DINO DIG – MELTING ICE WITH SALT AND WATER

What you'll need for your ice block:

- toy dinosaurs
- stones
- shells
- large container

You can freeze the ice in layers, over the course of a couple of days, adding a few items to the water, placing the container in the freezer, and repeating with another layer when the previous one was frozen.



**Equipment:** set out an assortment of 'science' tools for the children to dig their frozen treasures out of the ice:

- salt coloured with a few drops of blue food colouring
- a shaker container for the salt
- small pate spreaders
- syringes
- plastic test tubes
- turkey baster
- Tweezers
- bowl of hot water

<http://happyhooligans.ca/melting-ice-with-salt-and-water/>



From all of us here at Galway City and County Childcare Committee, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!