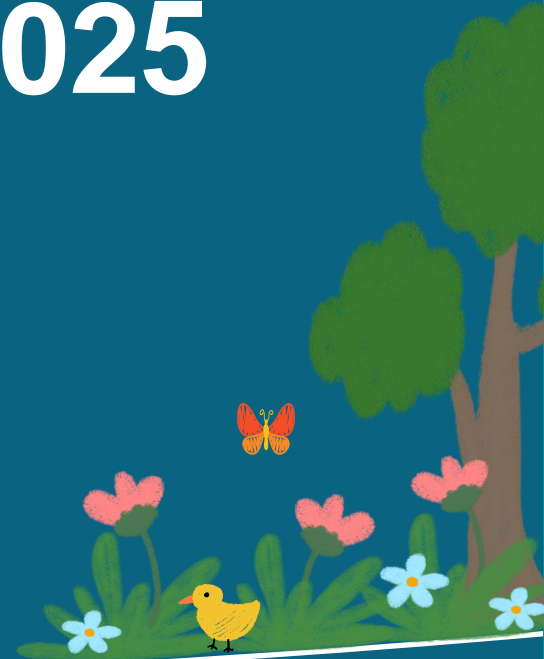
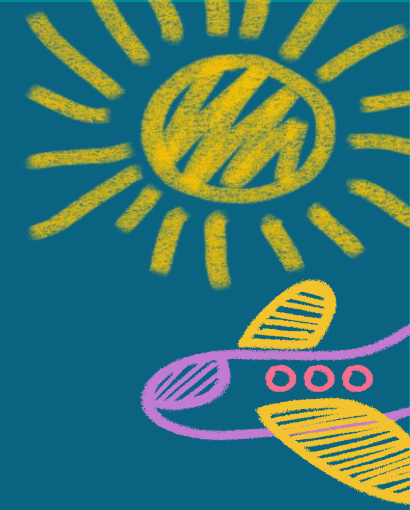
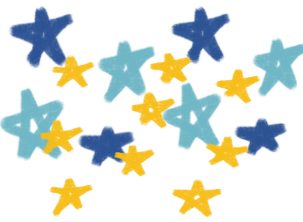












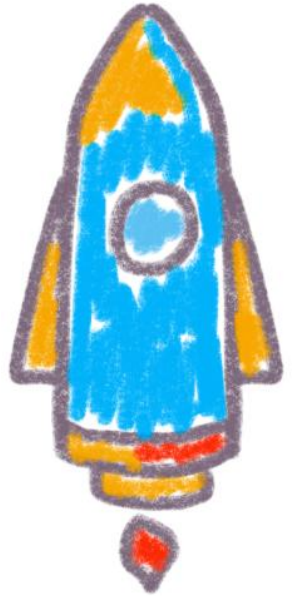
AIM Programme Readiness 2025



Objectives



-  Intro to AIM Programme Readiness 2025
-  Key Points: Service Profile / Sessions / Dates
-  AIM Level 5 FAQ & Resource Location
-  AIM Level 4
-  AIM Level 7 Standard
-  AIM Level 7 Plus & Non-Term
-  AIM Level 7 Standard Review & Confirm
-  Questions & Answers





Intro to AIM Programme Readiness 2025

‘Programme Readiness’ are the steps required each year to activate funding programmes.

‘Programme Call’ is the label given to distinguish each funding year, for example, ECCE 2025.

‘Access & Inclusion Model (AIM)’ has 7 levels. Today we will review Programme Readiness for Level 4, 5 & 7.



Programme Readiness Steps

1. AIM Service Profile

- The AIM Service Profile provides Better Start's Early Years Specialists (EYS) an overview of the service, for example, training qualifications, safeguarding policy, equality and diversity.
- Service providers must create their AIM Service Profile and AIM Sessions before creating an AIM application.
- Updates to the Service Profile can be made at any point throughout the year.



Programme Readiness Steps

2. AIM Sessions:

- AIM Sessions enable a service provider to inform Better Start & Pobal which Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessions a child applying for AIM will attend.
- Each year new AIM Sessions must be created or copied from the previous programme call.
- It is important for a service provider to enter the maximum staff and children information as per their Tusla registration. Maximum staff should not include AIM additional employees.
- To Note: an AIM Level 7 application cannot be submitted unless there are AIM Sessions available for the associated Programme Call, for example, if applying for AIM 2025, AIM Sessions must be available for AIM 2025.



AIM Sessions

Programme Call ▲	Session Name	Max. No. of Children	Session Type	Start Time ▲	End Time	Modified On	
ECCE 2025	Purple Room Standard AM	22	AM	09:00	12:00	22/04/2025 13:18	▼
ECCE 2025	Green Room Plus AM	22	AM	09:00	12:00	22/04/2025 13:20	▼
ECCE 2025	Purple Room Non-Term	22	Non-Term	09:00	15:00	22/04/2025 13:23	▼
ECCE 2025	Green Room Non-Term	22	Non-Term	09:00	15:00	22/04/2025 13:23	▼
ECCE 2025	Purple Room Standard PM	22	PM	13:00	16:00	22/04/2025 13:19	▼
ECCE 2025	Green Room Plus PM	22	PM	13:00	16:00	22/04/2025 13:21	▼

Copy Sessions

New Session

View

Edit

Copy Session

Deactivate



Key Points: Service Profile & Sessions

- ♥ An AIM Service Profile must be completed when a service initially avails of AIM.
- ♥ Sessions must be created or copied before an AIM Level 7 application can be submitted & a child must be ECCE age eligible.
- ♥ An ECCE registration is not required to apply for AIM Level 4 & 7 but is needed to make AIM Level 7 payments which commence mid August.
- ♥ Please pay special attention to, the AIM Sessions field '**Maximum number of staff in session**' and '**Maximum number of children in session**' as per your service's TUSLA registration. These need to be kept up to date for compliance.
- ♥ AIM Standard and AIM Plus Sessions cannot overlap.





Key Dates

AIM Go Live	Date
AIM Level 1 Application Process for Existing LINC Graduates	22 July 2025
AIM Level 1 Application Process for New LINC Graduates	September 2025
AIM Level 1 Back Dating Cut Off	23 October 2025
AIM Level 4, 5 and 7 Standard Initial and Review and Confirm Applications	06 May 2025
AIM Level 7 Plus and Non-term Applications	June/July 2025



AIM Level 5

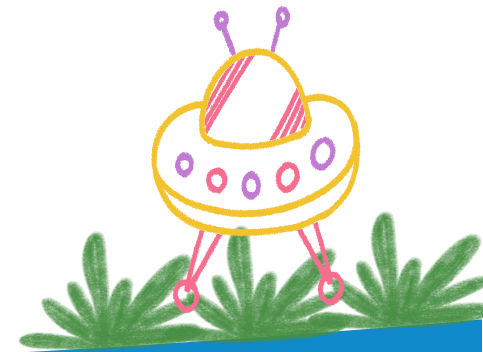




AIM Level 5



- ★ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document
- ★ Hive Resource Location
- ★ Programme Call Open Dates: **06 May 2025**
- ★ Transfer of Ownership: **Current Programme Call is Open**



AIM Level 4





AIM Level 4



AIM Service Profile and AIM Sessions need to be created before a service provider can complete an AIM Level 4 application.



There are 2 options of completing the '**Parental Acknowledgement**': option one is the **document upload** AIM application acknowledgement or option two is the **online** AIM application acknowledgement.



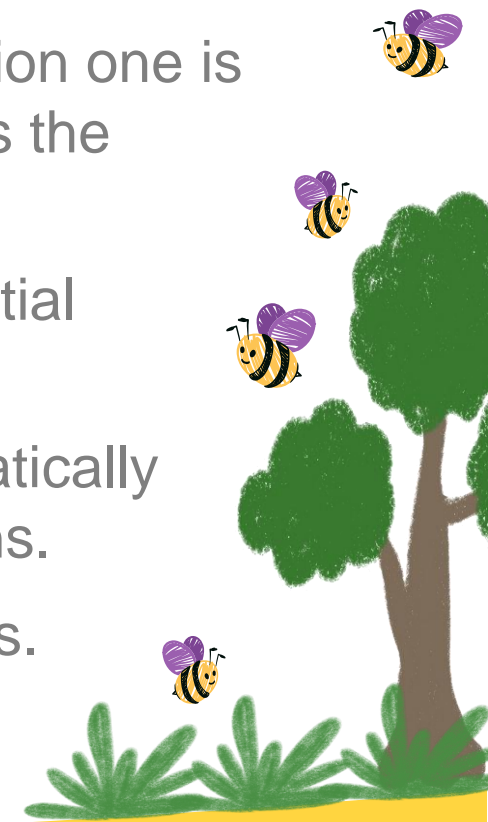
An AIM Level 4 application must be submitted before an AIM Level 7 initial application can be submitted.



If a service provider withdraws an AIM Level 4 application, it will automatically withdraw a child's AIM Level 7 Standard, Plus and Non-term applications.



Once an AIM Level 4 application is created it remains valid for two years.







AIM Level 7 Standard





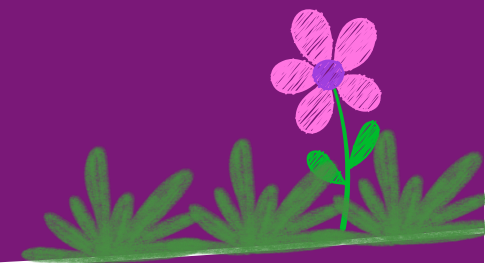
AIM Level 7 Standard



-  Where a child requires AIM Level 7 support in a service for the first time, an AIM Level 7 Standard initial application must be submitted.
-  AIM Level 7 applications can take up to 12 weeks to process. We encourage providers to submit their application as soon as possible to ensure appropriate support is in place for the child.
-  Once approved AIM Level 7 support will remain in place for the duration of the child's participation in the ECCE programme in the same service where no changes occur to what is initially awarded.
-  The application process for AIM Level 7 Standard remains the same as last year.



AIM Level 7 Plus & Non-Term



AIM Level 7



AIM Level 7	Hours	ECCE Payable Week	ECCE Non-payable Week
Standard	1 hour minimum / 3 hours max per day 15 hours max per week	✓	—
Plus	1 hour minimum / 3 hours max per day 15 hours max per week	✓	—
Non-term	1 hour minimum / 6 hours max per day 30 hours max per week	—	✓





AIM Level 7 Plus & Non-Term



AIM Plus applications can only be applied for on payable ECCE weeks.



AIM Non-term applications can only be applied for on non-payable ECCE weeks, for example, Halloween, mid-term, summer.



AIM Plus and Non-term applications can be applied for while the AIM standard is in progress.



Before submitting an AIM Non-term application, the relevant ECCE calendar must be created.



AIM Plus and Non-term applications must have a confirmed NCS claim to receive a payment.





AIM Level 7 Plus & Non-Term



Maintenance of a reduced ratio does not apply to AIM Plus and AIM Non-term; additional assistance staff only applies.



Where a child is splitting the 3 hours of AIM Plus, we advise service providers to input the number of hours the child is availing of AIM Plus into the session where the child will spend most of their hours.



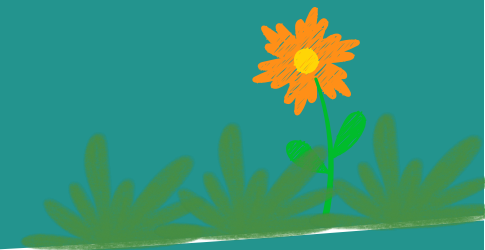
Applicants are encouraged to submit all Non-term time support required at the beginning of the year. If throughout the year, the child no longer requires that support for a particular period, the service can advise Pobal of this by completing a Change of Circumstance (COC) review.



AIM Non-term is available for any child who has commenced ECCE and has availed of Level 7 support. AIM Non-term funding is available from September to August.



AIM Level 7 Review & Confirm





AIM Level 7 Review & Confirm



- ☀ Previously known as the AIM extension application.
- ☀ Requires services to review the AIM Level 7 supports awarded as part of the child's previous application and confirm whether changes have occurred or not.
- ☀ Where no changes are submitted, supports will remain in place as per the previous year.
- ☀ Where changes are expected these must be recorded on the application.
- ☀ The AIM Review & Confirm process cannot be completed for a child where there is an AIM Level 7 Review in progress for that child.
- ☀ An AIM Level 7 Review cannot be submitted for a child where the AIM Review and Confirm is in progress for that child.





Review & Confirm Process



Below are the changes which must be recorded:

- Child moving session
- Increase or decrease in the number of days that a child attends
- Changes to a shared support, for example, one child leaves the service or session
- Changes in the adult to child : ratio in the session
- Changes to the additional assistance awarded from another source which impacts the AIM Level 7 award, for example, Enable Ireland, Home Tuition, or attendance at a specialised preschool.









Where any of the above changes occur throughout the year, after you have reviewed and confirmed, you must inform Pobal by submitting an AIM Level 7 Review within 10 working days advising of the change(s) that have occurred.

2025 Sessions must be in place before you do the Review and Confirm



Recap: Key Points



-  EAMA was previously a document upload on the Service Profile, however, is now done online.
-  AIM Service Profile and AIM Sessions must be created prior to creating an AIM Level 7 application.
-  Once an AIM Level 4 application is created it remains valid for 2 years.
-  AIM Level 7 applications can take up to 12 weeks to process, submit applications as soon as possible.
-  AIM Plus applications can only be applied for on payable ECCE weeks.
-  AIM Non-term applications can only be applied for on non-payable weeks.
-  AIM Plus and Non-term applications must have a confirmed NCS claim to receive a payment.
-  Applicants are encouraged to submit all the Non-term time support required at the beginning of the year.



Questions & Answers

