

### **Learner Fund Bursary**

The Learner Fund was introduced in 2013, and since then has provided financial assistance to thousands of Early Years practitioners in upskilling to a Level 5/6 in Early Childhood Care and Education. This has assisted in further professionalising the EY sector. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs recognises that there are a number of practitioners who have upskilled to a Level 7/8/9 in Early Childhood Care and Education during the same period and have not received any financial support. Therefore, in recognition of this commitment to further professionalisation, the DCYA plan to pay a Bursary (of approx. €750) to EY practitioners who have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7, Level 8, or Level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications since the inception of the Learner Fund (2013). This qualification must be on the DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list.

To be considered eligible for the Learner Fund Bursary, an applicant must:

- Have graduated with a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7/8/9 on the National Framework of Qualifications in 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016 \*. (Qualification must be on DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list);
- Have been working in a registered Early Years Service prior to beginning their course;
- Be currently working in a registered Early Years Service;
- Not have received any state funding to assist in completing their listed course. (skillsnet, CCC funding, etc.);
- Have completed and forwarded the application form (along with all relevant documentation) to their local CCC for consideration by 5 pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

\*Funding permitting, it is hoped in future years to establish a learner fund for qualifications at levels 7/8/9. In the meantime, the Department intends to make this bursary available next year to staff who graduate at any of these levels in 2017.

### Application for Learner Fund Bursary

Name:	
Contact Details:	Phone:
	Email:
Current Early Years Service	Service name:
	DCYA ref no. :
Course:	
Graduating Year:	
<b>Declaration:</b>  I, _____, declare that:  (i) I was working in a registered early years service at the point when I began the above course  (ii) I am currently working in a registered early years service.  (iii) I have not previously received any State funded subsidy I received related to my listed qualification e.g. Skillnets, CCC bursaries, etc	
<b>Beneficiary Pay Details:</b> If your application is approved, the bursary will be transferred to your bank account. In order to facilitate this, please provide the following details.	
Account name:	
BIC:	
IBAN:	

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach:**

- Copy of photographic identification.
- A copy of your graduating certificate.

**All forms must be fully completed and returned BY POST OR BY HAND to your local CCC by 5PM on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. Late applications will not be accepted. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. All required documents must be attached to the form**