



OFFALY COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE



WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

10th April 2024



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Here you will find details and reminders of important upcoming deadlines e.g. R&C for core funding applications



OCCC UPCOMING EVENTS

Here you will find details of all our upcoming training events with links to bring you directly to Eventbrite.



HIVE NOTIFICATIONS

Here you will find the most recent Hive notifications and details on Compliance for ECCE and NCS.

CONTACT DETAILS



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IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

12th April 2024: Expenditure Return Required for Playing Outside Grant (POG) 2021

17th April 2024: Draft Regulations for Childminders Focus Group online meeting

16th April 2024: AIM Level 7 Compliance Training Process 2023/2024

27th April 2024: OCCC annual Seminar: Nurturing Social and Emotional Growth in Children and Supporting Positive Behaviour - Bridge House, Tullamore

21st May 2024: AIM Information Talk for ECCE Service Providers

29th April 2024: Portal will open on or before for service providers to register nominated accountants for Core funding Income & Expenditure report

2nd May 2024: Public Consultation closed at 5pm for Draft Childminding Regulations Submissions:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2071d-public-consultation-on-the-draft-childminding-regulations/>

5th May 2024: R&C for Core Funding opens

25th May 2024: Always Children First Child Safeguarding Awareness Training

31st May 2024: Portal will open on or before for submission of Core funding Income & Expenditure report

26th June 2024: Closing date for submission of Core Funding income & Expenditure report



SEMINAR 2024

NURTURING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH IN CHILDREN & SUPPORTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Saturday 27th April 2024

Venue: Bridge House, Tullamore **Time:** 9.30am - 4.00pm **Cost:** €10 (Includes Lunch)

This promises to be an engaging and informative day with Nicola Erasmus returning to Offaly to share her expertise and practical strategies that will support educators to enhance their professional development.

We are also delighted to have Zarah Doyle from AsIAM who will focus on Autism and Play Environments.

NURTURING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH IN CHILDREN THROUGH

- Positive Relationships and Interactions:
- Building secure attachments:
- Emotional Literacy:
- Empathy and Understanding:
- Problem-Solving and Conflict Resolution:
- Play-Based Learning:
- Emotional Regulation:
- Consistent Routine and Boundaries:
- Emotional Expression through Art and Music:

SUPPORTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR THROUGH

- Positive Reinforcement:
- Clear and Consistent Expectations:
- Modelling Behaviour:
- Effective Communication:
- Use of Positive Language:
- Teaching Self-Regulation:
- Social Skills Development:
- Individualized Support:

AUTISM AND PLAY ENVIRONMENTS

- Explore the intersection of autism and play environments.
- Learn evidence-based strategies to create inclusive environments.
- Support play environments that foster engagement, communication and well-being of Autistic children.
- Gain practical insights, tools and techniques to enhance play experiences and promote positive outcomes for Autistic children.



AIM INFORMATION SESSION FOR ELC EDUCATORS



21ST MAY 2024



VIRTUAL MEETING @ 7PM



Offaly County Childcare along with Better Start AIM Specialists will deliver an information session for Parents on the levels of support available to ensure that all children can participate and access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. AIM specialists will be happy to answer any questions that parents may have on the night relating to AIM.



Targeted Supports

AIM targeted supports cater to a wide range of abilities and are focused on the needs of the child and do not need a diagnosis of disability. However, some children may require one or more further supports to ensure that they can participate meaningfully in the ECCE programme.



Universal Supports

AIM universal supports benefit the whole pre-school environment through empowering pre-school providers to create a more inclusive culture in their settings.



AIM Inclusive Play

AIM Inclusive Play was introduced in 2018 as a set of sensory and educational play resources to support inclusive practice within Early Learning and Care settings.



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eventbrite.ie



Children First



ALWAYS CHILDREN FIRST: CHILD SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS TRAINING

This accredited training course will enable participants to

- **Gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of how to recognise and respond to child protection and welfare concerns.**
- **Consider child-centred practice as a key part of child safeguarding and how you might implement child centred practice.**
- **Gain a clear understanding of your role and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and promoting their welfare to enable them to achieve their full potential**

Booking Conditions

- ✓ Training participants must complete the Tusla eLearning programme prior to attendance of this course.
- ✓ Open to all early years practitioners working in a childcare service in County Offaly, including those in DLP or Mandated Person roles
- ✓ Maximum booking of 2 people per service, service must be based in Offaly
- ✓ Cost per participant: €10

Date:

- **Saturday 25th May 2024**

Venue:

- **O'Connor Square, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 Y2T5**

Time:

- **9.30am - 4.00pm**

Register Now on Eventbrite



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Hive Notifications

AIM Level 7 Compliance Inspections – 2023/2024 Programme call

Dear Provider,

We are writing to advise you that compliance checks will be commencing on AIM Level 7 payments from the week beginning 22 April 2024. This will involve a series of standardised checks on AIM Level 7 approved capitations relating to additional assistance in the pre-school room and the maintenance of reduced ratios.

The compliance checks are aimed at confirming adherence with AIM Level 7 rules and contract conditions as set out by the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration & Youth (DCEDIY).

To ensure the compliance checks can be conducted at unannounced inspections, please ensure that the person in charge on-site has access to the following records to present to the Visit Officer for review:

- The child attendance records for each of the ECCE sessions attended by child/ren benefiting from AIM Level 7
- The Staff Qualifications for staff working in these ECCE session/s

The Pobal compliance team have uploaded additional compliance support documents to the Hive in order to assist services in preparing for a compliance inspection. The documents, which are listed below, are available under the Resources section and can also be accessed through this link

- AIM Level 7 Approved Provider Compliance Checklist 2023/2024
- AIM Level 7 Compliance Guide for Approved Providers 2023/2024
- AIM Level 7 Rectification Actions Guide 2023/2024

Please note - these documents are only supports, intended to assist you. There is an onus on each provider to familiarise themselves with their responsibilities under the AIM Rules (AIM Level 7 included) and contractual conditions.

As a further support, two webinars on the AIM Level 7 compliance process 2023/2024 have been scheduled for providers on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 2.30pm and 6.30pm respectively. Each webinar will cover the same content. We encourage you to take the opportunity to attend one of these webinars. Following the conclusion of the webinar sessions, a recording of a session will also be made available on the Hive with the PowerPoint slides. Invites to the webinars will issue shortly.

We want to take this opportunity to thank services in advance for your continued co-operation with compliance checks.

Regards

DCEDIY & Pobal Compliance Teams

AIM Level 7 Compliance Training Process 2023/2024

Dear Service Provider,

You are invited to attend a training session on the AIM Level 7 Compliance Process 2023/2024

Compliance checks on AIM Level 7 approved capitations are commencing week beginning 22 April 2024.

The training has been scheduled for the following date and times:

- Tuesday 16/04/ 2024 @ 2.30pm
- Tuesday 16/04/2024 @ 6.30pm

To support Service Providers in meeting AIM Level 7 compliance requirements, AIM Level 7 compliance resources have been developed in advance of the compliance checks commencing i.e. AIM Level 7 Provider Checklist, Guide and Rectification Actions documents. These documents have been uploaded to the Hive in advance of the training session.

In summary, the PowerPoint Presentation will cover the following AIM Level 7 related topics:

- Resources
- What is involved in the compliance inspection process?
- Rectification actions for AIM Level 7 non-compliant findings
- Key messages to support compliance with AIM Level 7 requirements

Please find the GoTo Webinar Registration links below to register for the training.

AIM L7 Compliance Process SP1

16/04/2024 from 2.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2767101769180352343>

AIM L7 Compliance Process SP2

16/04/2024 from 6.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2558401268088998231>

We encourage you to attend a webinar in advance of compliance inspections commencing on these programmes. A recording of one of the sessions will be published on the Early Years Hive along with a copy of the presentation once all sessions are completed.

Regards

The Pobal Compliance Team