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## Early Year's Service Providers Newsletter

Welcome to Issue two of the Newsletter for 2016. The information in this newsletter is an attempt to keep the sector in Offaly informed and up to date. I hope you enjoy reading it and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

### Early Years Capital 2016

Dr James Reilly, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has announced the launch of capital funding totalling €4 million for Early Years services in 2016 (EYC2016).

Before commencing this application process please ensure that your service fulfils the following basic eligibility requirements:

- Be an existing private or community childcare provider i.e. have a Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Reference Number
- Be approved for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in 2015
- Be tax compliant with an up to date Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) or have a Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) and Tax Registration Number (TRN)
- Have no outstanding debt to the DCYA, unless there is an agreement in place with DCYA to repay the debt

The maximum grant an applicant can apply for is €10,000. The total cost of equipment applied for cannot be greater than €5,000. You can apply for a contribution toward the total project costs or 100% of the costs for the following:

- Build / fit out / refurbishment of an additional room /extension;
- Minor building alterations; and
- Additional play equipment to facilitate an increase in childcare places.

Applicants applying for a contribution towards their total project costs must demonstrate that the complete funding package is in place.

**For more information please log on to the PIP Portal or contact Offaly County Childcare Committee on 0579135878.**

### Awards Night

Offaly County Childcare Committee are hosting an evening of appreciation for Early Year's Practitioners in Offaly. The evening will include a motivational speaker, dinner, awards and light entertainment. This event will be held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 17th June 2016 at 7pm.

Please visit our website where you will find the criteria for each nomination and the form to nominate a team or individual for any of the following.

- Practitioner of the Year Award
- Promoter of Parent Partnership
- Most Engaged Practitioner Award
- Innovation Award
- Commitment and Leadership in the Childcare Sector Award
- Team Work Award

Please contact Offaly County Childcare Committee if you have any questions about this event or the nominations. Please complete the booking form if you wish to attend this event.

### Cluster Workshop Planning

The cluster meetings provide a more informal setting for practitioners to share their work and talk at length with other providers. A member of Offaly County Childcare will be present to facilitate and answer questions. By sharing ideas and experiences practitioners can support each other and take fresh information back to their own childcare setting. The theme of the May cluster groups will be Planning. Please bring examples of planning formats along with you. The clusters are open to all practitioners at any stage of professional development.

### Topic Boxes and Story Sacks

This workshop has been developed in order to support services in developing an emergent curriculum. It will explore planning from children's interests supported by the topic boxes resources. The topic boxes can be borrowed from the Tracey Buckley Resource Library at short notice to provide easy, no preparation resources to follow interests such as Minibeasts, Dinosaurs, Seasons and many more. Each topic box is linked to Aistear and provide some activity ideas as well as some display materials.

### Speech and Language

Katharine Bulbulia who is a private Speech and Language Therapist within Clane General Hospital has agreed to deliver a workshop to childcare practitioners within Offaly. This will be a fun and informative session with practical strategy suggestions.

### Booking Forms

Please obtain your booking form from [www.offalychildcare.com](http://www.offalychildcare.com). Please complete both sides and send it to the office with the appropriate payment.

### E-Newsletters and E-Calendars

This will be the final newsletter and calendar received by post. OCCC will now distribute the mail shot through email. Please contact the office if you need us to update your email address or if you can not access email.

### Better Start

Better Start Early Years Specialists will be attending each of the cluster meetings in May. They will do a short presentation at the start of the cluster to explain their process and the supports available through the programme. There will then be an opportunity to ask questions and talk to the specialists on the evening.

### Behaviour Management Workshop

This workshop has been developed to support services when managing behaviour. It aims to consider factors influencing behaviour, setting behaviour standards, strategies in practice and addressing incidents of challenging behaviour. It will draw on theory, legislation and frameworks and will assist services in setting up a behaviour support plan. This workshop will be delivered by the Midlands Positive Parenting Partnership.

### Basic Financial Workshop

A two night workshop is currently being developed for services to support them to do basic financial projections, basic book keeping, income & expenditure and bank reconciliations.

The workshop will be delivered over two evenings. If services require one to one support after the workshops this will be facilitated and a staff member of Offaly CCC will visit the service to assist with the setting up of spread sheets etc.

### Child Protection

Any services who have yet to complete child Protection Training need to contact the office as a matter of urgency as it is imperative that at least one person from each service has attended the training. Please contact Sheena on 057 9135878.

### Duty Social Worker

Please contact the Duty Social Worker on 0578692567/ 0578692568 regarding any child protection concerns as per the Child Protection Training delivered through OCCC.

### Offaly County Childcare Committee

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