



Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme

Letter to Parent/Guardian

Dear Parent/Guardian,

To register for the ECCE Programme your service provider must submit your details through the online Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP).

As announced in the Budget last year the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) programme was expanded for up to 2 years pre-school for children depending on dates of birth. There are three different eligibility entry points for children under the ECCE programme for this preschool year. These are as follows:

- Children born between 1st January 2013 and 31st August 2014 (dates inclusive) may register from 28th August 2017.
- Children born between 1st January 2013 and 1st January 2015 (dates inclusive) may register from 1st January 2017.
- Children born between 1st January 2013 and 2nd April 2015 (dates inclusive) may register from 2nd April 2018.

Your service provider may request that you complete a 'pre-registration form' until such time as they can submit your details on the PIP System. Providing this information requested is a condition of funding under the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) programme.

The following information is required:

- Your name and the name of the pre-school service your child will be attending
- Your child's full name, date of birth and gender
- Your child's Irish Personal Public Services Number (PPSN)
 - * Your child's PPSN can be found on documentation regarding your claim to Child Benefit, or by contacting the Department of Social Protection at their Lo-Call Number 1890-60-50-40.
 - ** Your service provider may require proof of the child's PPSN, your child's full name and date of birth before registration, as any errors will result in payments being delayed. It is important that you use the correct PPSN, and not that of another family member.
- The total number of days per week and the childcare start and end dates you have agreed with your childcare provider that your child will attend the pre-school service.

From the 21st August 2017 your service provider will enter the information onto the PIP Child Registration system.

When this has been done, the service provider will print off a copy of the form with all the information entered. This is called a 'PIP Declaration Form'.

You must sign and date the 'PIP Declaration Form', confirming that the details shown on it are correct.

Your service provider will provide you with a copy of the signed 'PIP Declaration Form' and will keep a copy on file for inspection in the course of compliance visits by the Department and/or its agents.

Participating services are required, under the Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2015, to make reasonable accommodation for children with additional needs. If your child has additional needs please log onto www.preschoolaccess.ie for further information.

Information relating to the ECCE programme and FAQs is available to download from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs website at www.dcy.gov.ie

Early Years Policies and Programmes

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

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