



Parent & Toddler Group Initiative Grants 2023

Guidelines for Parent & Toddler Groups

Information on grants available:

Applications for funding under this scheme should only be made by Parent & Toddler Groups that are organised on a not-for-profit basis and involve the participation of parents/guardians to include recently arrived parents and children from Ukraine and other countries in the community. Grants will normally range from **€100 to a total maximum of €1,400**. New start up groups may apply for a grant of up to €1,100, existing Parent & Toddler Groups can apply for up to €800.

As well as grants for existing and new Parent & Toddler groups, an additional amount of up to €300 is available to provide an additional session. There is also a maximum of €300 available to operate/establish Buggy Walking Groups¹. Parent & Toddler Groups are advised to contact Kildare County Childcare Committee for further information in respect to these two additional funding options.

Funding will be available for:

- Toys, equipment and books for indoor and outdoor activities, including children's refreshments.

¹ . Buggy Walking Groups are organised social walks for parents, guardians, and their babies and toddlers. They provide a range of benefits including social interaction, physical activity and emotional, peer support. Buggy Walk Groups aim to give support to parents and guardians and their young children, allowing them to chat to each other, get exercise and fresh air and make friends in their local community. Groups are expected to be inclusive of all newcomers, where possible, but some groups may for example only be able concentrate on new and expectant mums and recently arrived parents and children from Ukraine and other countries.

- Storage for equipment.
- Training for parents, e.g. paediatric first aid, committee skills, parenting courses, facilitated sessions,
- Promotional Leaflets including any required translations.
- Children's activities, e.g. arts and crafts, music.

- Limited funding will be available towards insurance or rent, up to a maximum of **40%** of total funding for existing services.

- Limited funding will be available towards insurance or rent, up to a maximum of **70%** of total funding for new services.

- An amount of up to €300 is available for the establishment of buggy walking groups, it is envisaged that these groups, once established, will involve groups of parents/guardians and children meeting for organised walks on a regular basis (a minimum of 6 walking sessions) in their local community.

- Additional funding is also available to groups offering additional sessions, this funding is primarily for, but not exclusively aimed at, the inclusion of recently arrived parents and children from Ukraine and families from other countries.

Funding will not be available for:

- Groups operating out of private homes.
- One off events such as outings, parties and trips.
- Parent & Toddler Groups with a closing balance of €3,000 or more in the previous year (except where a Parent & Toddler Group can provide a signed declaration that the funding available to the Parent & Toddler group is under €3,000).
- Parent & Toddler Groups who received funding in previous years and did not return the Progress Report and receipts for items purchased.

Additional Information:

- Parent & Toddler Groups should have a Bank Account/Credit Union or Post Office Account. The money taken at each session, any grants received by the group or money received from fundraising should be paid into the account. It is recommended that spending on the group's behalf should be paid for by cheque/draft or electronic means. All transactions involving the group's money should be recorded and all receipts kept.

- Applications from Parent & Toddler Groups will only be accepted from groups known to Kildare County Childcare Committee. New Parent & Toddler groups should make arrangements to meet a Kildare County Childcare Committee staff representative prior to application deadline.
- Parent & Toddler Groups must submit evidence of appropriate insurance (not applicable to new groups). New groups should submit evidence of insurance within the first month of receiving the grant.

HSE / HPSC Advice to Parent and Toddler Groups

P&T Groups must familiarise themselves with the latest public health advice.

How to Apply:

- Please detach and fill in the attached application form, using clear block writing.
- **Please ensure that all sections are completed (Application form, Annual Income & Expenditure Account).**
- Simple financial records are important for groups in receipt of grants as they offer protection for all involved. However, newly formed groups do not need to provide a financial record until they are in existence for one year.
- Please ensure the application is signed by 2 committee members.
- Applicants are required to submit up to date bank statements/credit union or post office statement (no older than 2 months) with their application form.
- Forward evidence of insurance with application for existing Parent & Toddler Groups. For newly formed groups, if insurance is not available, evidence must be submitted within one month of the application being completed.
- Forward evidence of receipts for items purchased with last grant, along with progress report.
- Grant applications will not be recommended if they do not include adequate information, i.e. all sections of the application form must be completed.

Post Approval Information:

- Successful applicants are required to submit receipts as evidence of expenditure and comply with any funding conditions as set out in the Grant Agreement letter.
- If a Parent & Toddler Group wishes to change their approved expenditure, they must apply in writing to Kildare County Childcare Committee prior to purchasing new item. Kildare County Childcare Committees' decision will be confirmed in writing.
- Successful applicants may receive a support visit from Kildare County Childcare Committee.

What Kildare County Childcare Committee can do for you:

Kildare County Childcare Committee is available to support anyone wishing to set up a P&T Group or those currently running one. We can provide information which promotes the provision of a quality service that runs smoothly and conveniently for all the children and parents attending. We can assist you in choosing toys and activities which are developmentally appropriate; encourage adult child interactions or we may be able to put you in contact with relevant agencies or organisations.

Important dates:

- Application forms to be returned by: **Friday 14th April 2023**
- Notification of decisions and payment of grants will be made by: **9th June 2023**

If required, this form may be photocopied. Please send completed application form to:

Grants for Parent & Toddler Groups,

Kildare County Childcare Committee
Unit 21 Thompson Enterprise Centre
Clane Business Park
Clane
Co. Kildare
W91 E6NY

Phone: 045861307 Email: info@kildarechildcare.ie

Website: <https://www.kccc.ie>