



KCCC News

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SUMMARY

- PIP will go live on the 6th October 2014
- Those thinking of retiring in the next 7 years can now apply for an exemption to obtaining their Level 5
- Beep Beep Day will occur on the 10th October 2014.

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A Word from the Manager

Welcome to the fourth edition of our 2014 newsletter. You will have been busy settling back into a new School year with a new in-take of budding enthusiasts eager to learn lots of new things.

One of the keys to implementing a successful pre-school and after-school curriculum is to ensure that you plan effectively for the year, months, weeks and days ahead and with this in mind we have included an article on page 3 to assist you in the planning process.

Parental involvement is key to any quality childcare programme and we at KCCC welcome all your ideas of how you successfully engage parents in your service. This issue we bring you a creative and innovative approach by Enquiring Minds featured on page 5.

The 2014/2015 academic year will see the phased incremental roll out of PIP (Programmes Implementation Platform) commencing with ECCE and TEC child registration on 6th October 2014.

PIP is a new online system which will streamline the administrative processes across the three national childcare funding programmes (ECCE, TEC and CCS). The objectives of PIP are to reduce paperwork and duplication of effort, simplify administration and enable the programmes to be managed more effectively and efficiently. PIP is an integrated web-accessible system which has been designed to enhance the service experience of childcare service providers.

Services will be instructed how to log into the PIP Portal and what steps to take when completing the 'Child Register'. All other processes will stay the same until they are phased into the PIP system. Kildare County Childcare Committee will be here to assist you and support you through the process should you require it. An Information evening is scheduled for 13th October in the Keadeen hotel and you can book by contacting KCCC offices.

The DCYA, as part of the 8 point quality agenda announced by the then Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald, in response to the Primetime Expose 'A Breach of Trust' have commenced implementation of the Learner fund to enable childcare practitioners to meet the minimum qualifications required (FETAC Level 5 for all practitioners and FETAC Level 6 for ECCE room leaders) by September 2015. Kildare had 126 applications from 58 services, with 101 applicants deemed eligible. KCCC are still in the process of matching applicants with qualifying Training providers. A second round of funding is due to be announced next month details of how to register your interest are included on page 2 and information on the grandfather declaration, for those who will be retiring from childcare are included on page 4.

KCCC are currently writing up our Local Implementation Plan for 2015 and thank you to those of you who completed our survey which will guide our plan along

with the DCYA priorities for 2015 which include the National Programmes and Quality.

The National Early Years Quality Support Service (NEYQSS) will be rolled out next year. Dr Margaret Rodgers has been appointed manager of the service. As you may be aware this new national initiative is being established to promote and develop quality in early years services through the implementation of Siolta, and Aistear, as part of a wider national quality development agenda. The NEYQSS will work in close partnership and collaboration with City and County Childcare Committees to support the development of quality throughout early year's provision in Ireland, to ensure best outcomes for children from birth to 6 years.

In terms of progress to date, NEYQSS are recruiting a team of Early Years Specialists who will take up their posts in October and following a period of training and induction will be available to work with early years providers to build their capacity to deliver high quality early childhood care and education experiences to children and families

Pobal as part of their commitment to quality conduct and Annual Beneficiaries Questionnaire (ABQ), KCCC are very pleased with the results for 2013 and we have included an article on page 6.

KCCC will keep you informed of updates, progress and happenings within the sector through our social media pages and our website.

Julie McManus

Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP) Update

PIP Child Registration for ECCE and TEC Programmes will officially launch on the 6th October 2014.

Services, in contract and who have submitted an up-to-date Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), have received ECCE ADVANCE PAYMENTS and so the change in date of official registration (previously known as the eReturn) will not affect payment.

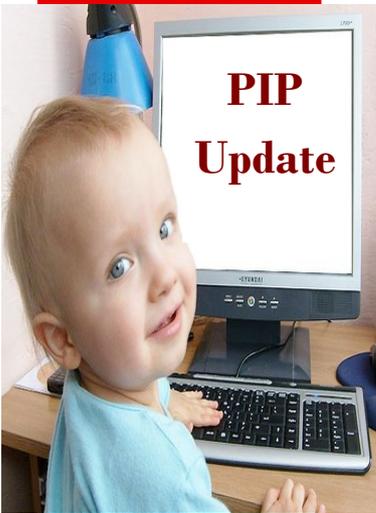
This is the first part of Phase I of PIP. Usernames and Passwords will be

issued to services by the end of September 2014. Information on the launch of PIP Child Registrations will also issue and Kildare County Childcare Committee will be available to provide services with assistance and support.

In the meantime please follow the instructions as per the information packs provided (complete Child Registration Forms) and maintain the information in a safe and secure place

until you are instructed to use the PIP Child Registration System.

PIP Child Registration for the CCS Programme will launch closer to the end of October before 'snapshot week'. The dates of the CCS Snapshot Week are to be confirmed.



DCYA Learner Fund Round 2

The DCYA Learner Fund will be available in October 2014 for a **second application round** for childcare employees who may have missed the first application round and will still need to upgrade their required childcare qualifications for compliance in September 2015.

Kildare County Childcare Committee are opening an Expression of Interest list for any childcare employees who missed the first round of applications but still wish to be considered for a second round. Please contact

KCCC as soon as possible with your name and email address if you wish to be included in this list.

The Learner Fund provides funding for a two-year period specifically to assist existing staff working directly with children in registered early years services, to gain certain accredited qualifications which are soon to become mandatory. From September 2015 all staff in Early Years Services will need to have a full Level 5 qualification, and all Preschool (ECCE) Room Leaders will need a full Level 6 qualification.

The fund will be used to subsidise the cost for eligible learners to undertake accredited Level 5 and Level 6 courses provided by certain approved training providers. It cannot be used to up-skill practitioners other than to meeting the new requirements.



learner fund



**Childcare Provider
who intend on retiring
in the next 7 years will
can apply for an
exemption to
obtaining the Level 5
qualification
requirements from
September
2015**



Grandfathering Declaration: Level 5 Qualification Exemption

A Grandfathering Declaration gives the Signee an exemption, after September 2015 from the requirement to have a Level 5 (only) qualification. The declaration is **not applicable to the requirement for the Level 6** i.e. for the ECCE room Leaders.

Any Early Years staff member (other than the ECCE room Leader) who as yet does not have a Major award at Level 5 and who intends to retire from working in the sector within 7 years (i.e. before September 2021) will be eligible to sign this declaration.

You can get this declaration by;

Making an appointment to come into the Kildare CCC office (Kildare CCC cannot email it or post it) with your PPSN Number

(please bring proof of PPSN), completing the Grandfathering Declaration form, signing and dating it and witnessed by the CCC staff member who also signs it and Kildare CCC also stamps the original.

Kildare CCC keeps a scanned copy of the signed declaration (as a soft copy for our records) and the practitioner takes away the original signed and stamped Declaration.

The practitioner is responsible for their own original signed declaration.

The practitioner can give a copy to their employer. The inspectorate or compliance officer can be shown a copy or the original as evidence of an exemption for the Level 5.

This signed and stamped

declaration can be presented to an Inspector or Compliance Officer in lieu of a Level 5 Major Award Certificate. i.e. a service will not be considered to be non compliant on the basis that this staff member does not have a Major Level 5 qualification, as this declaration will exempt the Signee.

At a later date when the practitioner is actually retiring from the sector, they confirm this with Kildare CCC, who will add this information to their records: Confirmed (Date of retirement) as confirmed by (Name) on (Date confirmed) to their own records.

If you have any question on the above or would like to make an appointment please call Marie or Fidelma on 045-861307

Play2Read at Kildare Libraries.

Play2Read is a Kildare Library Services project where library staff, parents and pre-schools work together to prepare children for learning to read at school. These sessions are designed to help children and their parents/carers to recognise and master 6 key pre-literacy skills. Research has shown that children with these skills, and who have positive reading role models have significantly higher reading levels than children who don't. It is a vital head start for children in the year before school and prepares them for formal education.

The story time takes the form of 4 sessions in the pre-school, with the final session in the library. Our aim is to encourage parents to make reading and the library part of their routine and also to introduce the library to non-users. We also aim to

show parents and children that libraries are positive, fun and free!

Library staff will facilitate the sessions and incorporate stories, songs and games with participation from the parents. It is important that parents/carers are engaged and commit to attending as these sessions illustrate ways to enjoy stories in the home.

The skills range from types of books, sounds, vocabulary, rhymes to narrative skills – The children will enjoy the sessions and library staff will share some tips about these skills and their importance.

Books have been chosen specifically to highlight these skills, and also to reinforce the Aistear curriculum.

After the 4 sessions the parents/carers will be equipped to continue teaching the skills in the home through

various activities. Hopefully the importance of the skills and the way they can be mastered in a fun way will be shown. We also hope that the role of the library and it's services can be high lighted especially to those who may not have a reading culture. Parents as reading role models and a culture of reading in the home is the best start a child can have in preparation for formal learning. Above all we strive to show reading as a positive and fun activity that parents and their children can enjoy together.

If you would like your pre-school to get involved or would like more information, please contact Trina Coyne (tcoyne@kildarecoco.ie) or 087 9695524



Kildare County Council
Library and Arts Services
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Seirbhísí Leabharlainne agus Ealaíon

Planning for the New school Year



Listening to children and incorporating what they say into practice will ensure that their curriculum experiences are more meaningful to them.



It's that time of year again. A brand new set of children for their Free preschool year, maybe a brand new set of children who have just started Primary School and are coming to your Afterschool service for the first time. How can you make the settling in process easier for the children. With very effective planning.

What is planning?

"Planning is an on-going, cyclical process. It involves you in thinking about and being organised about what, why, how, and when things are going to happen" (Aistear 2009, User Guide)

Planning involves organising people, materials, resources and equipment, and includes organising and timing events such as outings and festivals.

Planning helps you to identify what resources are needed and leads to interventions and support programmes where necessary.

In order for to plan for the new children in your service, both preschool and afterschool. You must get to know every child as a unique individual. Every child is different and special. The best way to plan the curriculum for the children in your care now, you must first understand them. Children need to know that you respect and value them, which is the message they get when you take the time to talk with them, observe them, and learn about them as people. Find out what makes each child tick. What are

their interests, temperaments, and learning styles? What motivates them? How do they learn best? What skills and talents do they have? What are their challenges? What special circumstances are there that affect them? With this knowledge you can teach children in a way that capitalises on their strengths and builds their confidence and competence.

Good plans are flexible, allowing children's changing interests and responses to learning to be incorporated over time. Assessment information is, therefore, at the heart of planning.

Planning is usually organised over three different time scales – long-term, medium-term and short-term – all of which link and follow on from each other.

Once you have an idea of the types of activities that your children are interested in you will be able to start developing **short term plans**, which allow you plan experiences and activities for children for a week or fortnight. Short term plans are also useful to organise activities for children who require additional support. A **short term plan** will include what resources are needed, how to change and adapt the play environment, what time in the day particular activities will take place, who will be there and what his/her role might be, and how the learning will

be assessed.

Involving children in the **planning process**, particularly in short-term, daily, and activity plans is also very important. Listening to children and incorporating what they say into practice will ensure this happens and that their curriculum experiences are more meaningful to them.

Medium-term plans can focus on a term or a month. This plan sets out goals for a fixed period of time and gives a broad outline of activities, at the same time being flexible in order to take account of children's ideas and interests.

Long-term plans look at the big picture and outline the overall aims and objectives for learning and development over a long period. You usually draw up the long-term plan for a year and this helps ensure that you offer a broad and rich curriculum to children. The long-term plan provides a sense of purpose and direction in the curriculum being offered to children, and shows progression over time.

For more information on Assessment and Curriculum planning for your service, contact one of the Development Officers on 045-861307

Pobal ABQ 2013 results for Kildare

...96.5% of services providing a positive rating for Kildare CCC around support to develop a fee payment policy.



Kildare CCC is well positioned to support the development and sustainment of early education and childcare services locally

Survey finds that Kildare County Childcare Committees providing high level supports

Kildare County Childcare Committee welcomes the Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Survey 2013 and in particular key findings in relation to supports provided to childcare services' by local CCCs. The report notes that *'... in line with previous years, responses represent a very positive statement from childcare services about the supports provided to them by their local CCC ... CCC's are providing valued supports across the whole sector ...'*

Kildare County Childcare Committee supports over 200 early childhood services and are the first point of contact for service providers seeking approval for childcare places under childcare programmes administered by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). In addition to this, Kildare CCC staff provides a wide variety of services locally including; a range of supports, on-site visits, advice, information and training to new and existing childcare services, parents and students in Kildare

The questionnaire which provided the results is considered to be an honest appraisal of Kildare CCC from the perspective of childcare services as

responses were submitted anonymously. Childcare service providers were asked to rate supports provided by Kildare CCC in a variety of areas including preparing service returns to the DCYA, training, information meetings and printed information, sustainability and financial planning, fee payment policies and site visits. The annual report highlighted that 90% of childcare services surveyed had received at least one form of support from Kildare CCC during 2013.

Every category of support or interaction between service providers in Kildare and Kildare CCC was rated positively by over 90% of early childhood services who responded. 90.6% of services who had received training from Kildare CCC gave the training a positive rating. A similar result was reported in relation to on-site visits with 86.8% of Kildare service providers providing a positive rating for receiving on-site support from a Kildare CCC Development Officer. Kildare CCC have played a fundamental role in supporting their childcare services to prepare annual service returns to DCYA, and this was reflected in the survey results where 96.8%

of respondents gave a positive rating to the support provided by Kildare CCC in this area. A similar high level of support was reported in relation to fees policies, with 96.5% of services providing a positive rating for Kildare CCC around support to develop a fee payment policy. Kildare County Childcare Committee welcomes the survey as an important monitoring mechanism of trends and changes in the early childhood sector in Ireland and members are delighted that the important and high level work of Kildare CCC has been acknowledged at local level. Overall, it is clear that the local focus and knowledge held by Kildare CCC means that Kildare CCC is well positioned to support the development and sustainment of early education and childcare services locally and collectively as a national structure.





Beep Beep day will take place during Irish Road Safety week, Friday 10th October 2014. If you would like to order resources - posters, Simon and Friends Parents Guide and high vis vests as part of the Beep Beep Day pack - you can do so by logging on to www.rsa.ie

- Please **click** Road Safety and then **click** Orders Online
- You will be prompted to **register** your details to create an online ordering account.
- You will be prompted as to how to **activate** your account and once you have done so, you may request promotional materials from the site.
- Under event type please insert **“Beep Beep Day”** from the drop down menu
- After you have **placed your order**, it will be sent for approval by the RSA.
- Once the RSA **approves** your order you should receive it within a few days.
- If there are any queries in relation to your order, you will be contacted by the RSA team by e-mail / phone

Should you encounter any difficulties, please contact **1890 532532**.

Pre-schools can also order Child Safety in Cars leaflet, booklet and DVD

ROAD SAFETY WEEK: LIVE BY THE RULES OF THE ROAD

A Parent's Evening with a Difference

As childcare professionals we all know how important play is to the developing child, how pretend play will help a child develop social skills and norms, and how rough and tumble type games encourage the development of physical skills, and dressing up builds confidence and imagination. But do our parents know and understand how important it is to allow our children the time and space for free play?

At Enquiring Minds recently we had our yearly Early Childhood Care and

Education Scheme information evening for our parents, and to demonstrate our passion for play we invited our parents get together in groups and come up with a hero or cartoon character and make a costume out of newspaper and masking tape. (We had seen this activity done as part of a workshop by Steve Goode, on behalf of Kildare CCC) We have never seen so many adults have so much fun at school!

This exercise demonstrated how incredibly important play is in encouraging team building, following and executing instructions, imagination, and social interaction. Along with all of these skills, our parents got to know each other in a way they would never of thought! All in all, a great ice breaker and a fun way to start our parent's information evening.

Thank you to Clare from Enquiring Minds for the submission

