

# CHILDCARE

## A Partnership Approach

**\*Details for September 2017 ECCE if a child is attending optional additional hours and more than 38 weeks:**

Example:

- September 2017 a child attends more than **3 hours per day** for **48 weeks** of the year.
- Government pays for 3 hours per day for 38 weeks so parents must pay for the remaining hour(s) per day for 38 weeks.
- Remaining 10 weeks (48-38 weeks) are fully paid for by the parent.

**Please speak with your local Childcare Leader on the specific fees for your local service.**

### Childcare Centre Leaders Details:



**Head Office:** (01) 8832551  
John's College, The Folly, Waterford  
Eircode: X91 V090.  
**Web:** [www.respondsupport.ie](http://www.respondsupport.ie)  
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Community Buildings are located on many Respond! estates where services such as childcare, youth activities, training programmes, social events and Day-care are provided.

Throughout Ireland, Respond Support provides childcare services to almost 700 children in more than 20 Respond! Community Buildings. Ranging from full day childcare to morning, afternoon, pre-school and after-school services, Respond Support employs almost 200 childcare professionals to run the various centres. As Community Childcare Providers Respond Support Childcare Services are part funded and operate through two main Government Schemes; the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme and the Community Childcare

Subvention Scheme (CCS). Some Respond Support Childcare Services are in a position to provide the Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programmes which incorporates the Childcare Education and Training Support Programme (CETS) After School Childcare Programme (ASCC) and the Community Employment Childcare Programme (CEC). Through all schemes, Respond Support aims to provide quality accessible affordable childcare services. Pobal administers the funding for all programmes and may conduct on-site visits and checks of service providers participating in programmes on behalf of the DCYA. This leaflet explains all schemes. Please read the information and contact your local Childcare Leader to discuss the best options available to you.

This leaflet is based on information available on all schemes as at September 2017.



## The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) provides a free 3 hour pre-school place for children from 3 years of age to school going age (max 5 years 6 months at the end of the Pre-school year). ECCE Pre-school places run from September to June similar to a school year; therefore 3 hours a day for 38 weeks are provided for free. Any optional additional hours required will be charged for (\*see back page for further details). To make sure that Children can benefit from Free pre-school as soon as they are eligible there are three different enrolment points September, January and April. Which are subject to availability of places and capacity of the service. The table below highlights according to date of birth (DOB) when a child can enter into ECCE for the Programme term September 2016 to June 2017:

### ECCE September 2018 Scheme Eligibility Criteria:

Birth date between	Eligible enrolment date(s)
1st Jan 2014 and 31 Aug 2014	1st Sept 2017 & 1st Sept 2018
1st Sept 2014 and 31 Dec 2014	1st Jan 2018 & 1st Sept 2018
1st Jan 2015 and 31 Mar 2015	1 Apr 2018 & 1 Sept 2018 & 1 Sept 2019

Children born between the 1st January 2014 and 31st August 2014 will meet criteria for September 2017 enrolment.

## The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme 2017 – 2018 (CCS)

The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme has been running since 2008 and we will participate again from September 2017 to September 2018. This scheme can apply to children aged between 6 months and 12 years. The CCS Programme supports parents in receipt of social welfare payments and parents in low paid employment and training and education by enabling qualifying parents to avail of reduced childcare costs. The Scheme offers a choice of services ranging from sessional to full day care; optional number of days per week; and between 46 and 50 weeks per year. Discuss with your Childcare Leader which options are available in your local Respond Support Childcare Centre

The level of subsidy you receive will be determined by you providing personal information and proof of eligibility. The information you provide, see below, confirms whether you are Band A, AJ or B which defines the level of subvention you receive.

The table on the opposite page outlines the CCS eligibility criteria for Bands A, AJ and B, based on the type of service the child is availing of. (The list of payments under Band A/AJ in the table is not exhaustive). A Medical Card is required with Band A and Band AJ payments.

CCS Band Eligibility		
Band A (with medical card)	Band AJ (with medical)	Band B
One Parent Family Payment Widows/Widowers Pension Pre-retirement Allowance Farm Assist State Pension Blind Pension Guardian's Payment Illness/Injury Benefit Disability Allowance Carer's Benefit/ Allowance Back to Work Enterprise/Education Allowance Community Employment / Rural Social Scheme Domiciliary Care Allowance Family Income Supplement (FIS) Secondary School students Invalidity Pension Disablement Pension	Job Seekers Benefit/ Allowance Supplementary Welfare Allowance Tús Part-time Job Incentive Scheme Gateway	Medical Card GP Visit Card (over 6yr+ only) Parents who are in receipt of Social Welfare payments listed under Band A/AJ but have no medical card Parents who no longer qualify for Band A/AJ this year but who were verified as being on Band A/AJ at the end of the previous school year
Official Tusla Referrals (no medical card required) HSE Public Health Nurse referrals (no medical card required)		

For more details please see the Department of Children and Youth Affairs website; [www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie)

## Training and Employment Childcare Programmes

TEC Programmes support parents on eligible training courses and eligible categories of parents returning to work, by providing subsidised childcare places. These programmes are administered by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) on behalf of the Education & Training Boards (ETB) / Solas and the Department of Social Protection (DSP). Allocation of the places is managed by the DCYA, via the City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs). A letter may be required from your education or training provider to be given to the childcare leader to establish eligibility.

**TEC comprises of 3 Strands, as follows:**

- Childcare Education and Training Support Programme (CETS) provides childcare for children of eligible parents taking part in ETB / Solas (formerly VEC / Fás) training courses.
- After School Childcare Programme (ASCC) provides afterschool care for primary school children for eligible working parents and parents on DSP employment programmes (not incl. Community Employment) – parents are informed by their Local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Office that they are eligible for ASCC places.
- Community Employment Childcare Programme (CEC) provides childcare for children of eligible parents taking part in Community Employment schemes.