



**Childcare  
Committee**  
County Cavan

# Weekly Newsletter 24th - 28th March

## National News

[Click here to read all the national news this week!](#)

## Local News

[Click here to read all the local news this week!](#)

## Jobs Board

Please email all job ads to  
[mary@cavancce.ie](mailto:mary@cavancce.ie)

You can see all the up to date  
vacancies on our website here:  
<https://cavancce.ie/jobs-board/>



## Deadlines and Important Dates

**28th March 2025 TODAY**

Deadline for Parent & Toddler Group  
Grant applications

**31st March 2025 @12pm**

Final date for survey submission on  
Experiences of ELCs Supporting  
Ukrainian Families

**4th April 2025**

Deadline for Childminding  
Development Grant 2025

**7th April 2025**

EOI to attend Aistear National  
conference

**1st May 2025**

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund  
application process closes

**NEWS**

# National Aistear Conference

DCEDIY will host a national Aistear Conference on May 24th, 2025, from 10am to 4pm at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre.

This National Early Years Conference will provide a forum for educators, policy makers, academics, students and support organisations to collaboratively explore the updates, new concepts and key messages within the updated Aistear. In partnership with DCEDIY, Cavan County Childcare Committee is pleased to offer the following opportunity to Early Years Educators and Childminders in the county.

1. Entrance tickets to the event, which will include lunch and a conference bag containing a copy of the updated Aistear and other resources.
2. Transportation to the event.
3. A certificate of attendance, which will support your service's QIPP 2025.

**If you would like to attend, we invite you to complete this online expression of interest form to register your details:**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/nr5SxyrXBS>**

Please note, that places are limited to 10, and random selection will apply.





## Childminding Development Grant 2025



The Childminding Development Grant 2025 is currently open for applications. All current childminders and childminders planning to open in 2025 are eligible to apply. The grant aims to enhance quality and safety in childminding services and allows for the purchasing of IT equipment to assist with training and registration processes later in the year.

For further information about the Childminding Development Grant or the National Action Plan for Childminding, visit [www.gov.ie/childminding](http://www.gov.ie/childminding) or contact Cavan County Childcare Committee at [admin@cavanccc.ie](mailto:admin@cavanccc.ie) / (049) 4365856.

### Survey: Experiences of ELC services in supporting Ukrainian families Displaced by Conflict

Early Learning and Care (ELC) services across Ireland are invited to take part in a short survey exploring experiences in supporting Ukrainian families displaced by conflict. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

The final date for responses is 31st March at 12.00pm. Your experience and insight of the process will be greatly appreciated.

You can access the survey here: [ELC Survey](#).





## Nurturing Skills Learner Fund 2025 2026



The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) is now open to applicants for the academic year 2025/2026. NSLF is continuing, as a pilot phase, and will support Early Years Educators working in a Partner Service to undertake approved ELC Level 7/ 8 courses while they continue to work within the sector. NSLF will cover 90% of the course fees for successful applicants.

Attached you will find a Press Release from Minister Norma Foley announcing the opening of the NSLF and an information document detailing the Application Process and Timeline, Rules and Conditions, Eligibility Criteria, and Selection Criteria.

Applicants should contact [NSLF@pobal.ie](mailto:NSLF@pobal.ie) to request a link to register on the NSLF Student Portal, upload their employment details and complete the new application process. The application process closes on 1st May 2025.

# Understanding and Supporting Behaviour in Neurodivergent Children



**Saturday, 5th April | 📍 Cavan Crystal Hotel |**



**10 AM – 4 PM | 💰 €20**

A 1-day course for childcare practitioners on autism supports with Ciara Watson (Autism Supports). Gain practical strategies to support neurodivergent children and create an inclusive environment.

💡 **What to Expect:**

◆ **Part 1: Supporting Neurodivergent Children in Your Setting**

Discover why children may exhibit certain behaviour responses and how you can help reduce stress while fostering an inclusive space for every child to thrive.

◆ **Part 2: How to Introduce Visuals in Your Early Years Setting**

Looking for simple but powerful ways to enhance autism supports? Learn how to use visual aids to ease transitions, improve communication, and create a more structured learning experience—for all children!

☀️ Expect a day packed with practical tips, valuable insights, and plenty of lightbulb moments—all in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Plus, light lunch is included!

**Follow this link to register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/1285877236429?aff=oddtcreator>

# Critical Incident Briefing



 Monday, 28th April 2025

 Online

 3:00 PM

All ELC, SAC, and registered childminding services are required to have a Critical Incident Plan as outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services.

Employers also have a legal duty to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of their employees under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

## ◆ What This Training Covers:

- Understanding regulatory and legal responsibilities
- Planning ahead for emergencies and critical incidents
- Learning how to respond professionally and appropriately in a crisis

**Follow this link to register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/1285900465909?aff=oddtcreator>

# Chatterbox Stammering webinar



 **Monday, 7th April 2025**

 **Online**

 **7.00PM – 8.00PM**

We are excited to invite all preschool practitioners to an essential webinar on “Stammering in the Preschool Years,” presented by Elizabeth Downey, Senior Speech and Language Therapist with the Chatterbox Service.

As early childhood professionals, your role in supporting speech and language development is crucial. This session will help you:

- Recognise early signs of stammering in young children
- Gain practical strategies for supporting children who stammer
- Enhance your skills in creating a supportive environment for language development in preschool settings

This webinar will provide you with the tools and knowledge to better support the children in your care, making a lasting difference in their speech development.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your professional skills!

**Follow this link to register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/1304137262659?aff=oddtcreator>

# Always Children First

The logo for Children First, featuring the words "Children" and "First" in a blue sans-serif font, with a stylized human figure icon in yellow and blue between the two words. The logo is set against a circular background with a green-to-blue gradient.

 17 **Saturday, 26th April 2025**

 **10:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

The Always Children First Foundation training raises awareness of Child Protection and Welfare in the Early Years sector. This six-hour session, facilitated by Cavan CCC, helps participants understand safeguarding and reporting concerns.

Prerequisite: Participants must complete the Tusla E-Learning Children First Programme (within the last 12 months) and the Tusla Mandated Persons E-Learning (new from 2024).

Certificates must be sent to CCC before training.

 Access training here:

[Children First E-Learning](#)

[Mandated Persons E-Learning](#)

**Follow this link to register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/1304074194019?aff=oddtcreator>

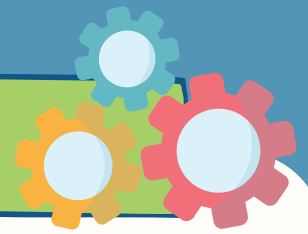
**NATIONAL CHILD  
SAFEGUARDING  
PROGRAMME**

for Early Learning &  
Childcare Services





## EC STEM project – request for support



OUTSTE(A)M is an exciting STEM project which aims to provide high quality STEM education in Early Childhood Education & /care settings and primary schools using a play-based hands-on learning approach in the outdoors. OUTSTE(A)M are seeking educator opinions about their draft materials before they are released to the public.

If you are interested in reviewing the materials then click on this [link](#) to complete the anonymous online questionnaire.

## Wibbly Wobbly Balance Bike Scheme

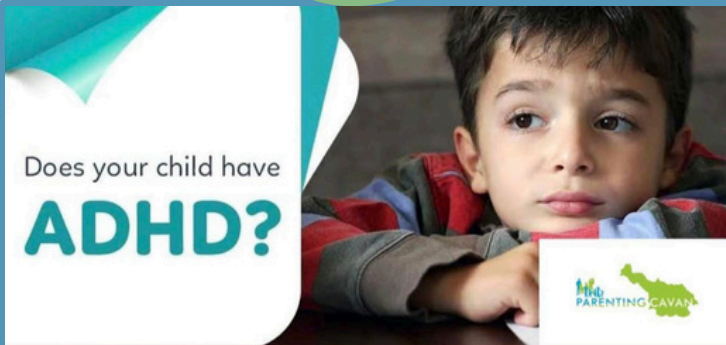
The Wibbly Wobbly Bike Programme is designed for pre-school children aged 2½ to 6 years to promote active lifestyles through fun balance bike activities.

The programme is subsidised by Cavan Sports Partnership and Cavan County Childcare Committee. Pre-schools must ensure adequate insurance for activities, and may be asked to complete evaluations.

**There is still some months available for your service to receive the bikes. If you would like a direct link to your area please contact us.**



# LOCAL NEWS



Does your child have **ADHD?**

## ADHD Children's Programme(6-12 Years)

A free parenting programme for parents of children aged 6-12 years with a diagnosis of ADHD and suspected ADHD who are awaiting an assessment. ADHD-( Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

**Topics Include:** Parenting a child with ADHD, responding positively as a parent, establishing routines, managing concerning behaviour, problem solving , long term supports, supporting siblings, manage stress, support child's education and learning

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Once a week for 6 weeks).

**Time:** 7pm- 9pm ( Wednesday evenings).

**Where:** Cavan County Local Development Building, 6A Corlurgan Business Park, Ballinagh Road, Cavan, H12DP86.

Click on [www.parentingcavan.ie](http://www.parentingcavan.ie) select MENU- Scroll down through the programmes, click on ADHD Children and submit an enquiry form to reserve a place, or phone Joanne on 0877529948



## Storytime Johnston Central Library

Every Saturday

11 - 11.30 am

For Ages  
3-7



## REGULAR EVENTS

at Virginia Library **APRIL - JUNE 2025**

- Weekly**  
Saturday Afternoon  
2.30pm-3.00pm  
**Family**

**Saturday Storytime**  
Settle in for a story with library staff. Stories suitable for 3-7 yr olds but all the family are welcome. Just come along.
- Weekly**  
Saturday Morning  
11.00am - 12.45pm  
**Adults**

**Craft Group**  
This relaxed gathering is for anyone who enjoys crafting and would like to share skills, chat and have cuppa with a likeminded bunch.
- Fortnightly**  
Thursday Morning  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
8, 22 Apr & 22 May  
5, 19 June  
**Adults**

**Savvy Scrabble Club**  
Enjoy the challenge of this word game and meet people along the way. All welcome – just come along.
- Fortnightly**  
Tuesday Morning  
11.15am - 12.00pm  
8, 22 Apr & 20 May  
5, 19 June  
**Families**

**Teeny Tummy Time with Magic Table**  
New babies and their parents/guardians/carers are invited to meet over a cuppa while the little ones enjoy some tummy time together!
- Fortnightly**  
Friday  
3.30pm-4.30pm  
11, 25 Apr & 25 May  
6, 20 June  
**Families**

**LEGO Freeplay** Children 4+ yrs  
Come along to free play with LEGO. We provide the LEGO and kids build their own designs! Children must be accompanied by an adult
- Monthly**  
Thursday Evening  
6.00pm-8.00pm  
3 Apr, 1 May, 5 June  
**Adults**

**NeuroGarden**  
Neurogarden is a social group dedicated to help neurodivergent adults socialise and make new friends. Board games and card games. 18+ only. All welcome!
- Monthly**  
Thursday Evening  
7.00pm-8.00pm  
3 Apr, 8 May, 5 June  
**Adults**

**Drop-in BorrowBox Clinic**  
Learn how to use our Online Library to read a book on your tablet, listen to an audiobook on your phone or read the latest issues of magazines and newspapers online (inc. the Anglo Celt!) Staff will be on hand to get you started and show you how to use this FREE service.
- Monthly**  
Thursday Evening  
6.00pm-7.00pm  
17 Apr, 15 May, 19 June  
**Families**

**Quiet Time**  
We create a calm environment for children & adults in our Junior Library. We dim the lights, turn off all phones, use quiet voices & prioritise library users with extra sensory needs
- Monthly**  
Thursdays from  
2.15pm - 5.00pm  
24 Apr, 22 May, 26 June  
**Families**

**Sensory Toy Family Session**  
Book a 30 minute slot for family playtime. Try out a selection of toys and aids from our Sensory Toy Collection or the Magic Table Sensory Experience in a quiet, private room. **Booking Essential.**
- Quarterly**  
Friday Morning  
11.00am-12.30pm  
6 June  
**Adults**

**Memory Lane Reminiscence Cafe**  
Come along to share childhood memories, remember days gone by, swap stories and have a cuppa. All welcome – just come along.

TO FIND OUT ABOUT SEASONAL EVENTS AT VIRGINIA LIBRARY  
VISIT [WWW.CAVANLIBRARY.IE](http://WWW.CAVANLIBRARY.IE) OR [FACEBOOK.COM/CAVANLIBRARIES](https://www.facebook.com/cavanlibraries)

t: 049 8548456 e: [virginialibrary@cavancoco.ie](mailto:virginialibrary@cavancoco.ie)

**Family Boardgame Fun!**

**Johnston Central Library**  
**Saturday 29th March**  
**3pm-4:30pm**

**Come along and challenge your family in Kluster or chess!**

**This is a FREE event, no booking required**



**Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with everything Childcare related!**



**Remember you can also send on any job vacancies you have and anything else about your service that you would like us to share to:  
[admin@cavanccc.ie](mailto:admin@cavanccc.ie)**



**We love sharing positive stories! If your service has a recent success, inspiring initiative, or uplifting update, why not feature it in our weekly newsletter?**

**It's a great way to highlight the incredible work you do, celebrate achievements, and connect with the community. Send us your good news, and let's spread some positivity together!**

## **Covid Case Advice**

Please see below links to relevant information:

- [Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE](#)
- [Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings \(2012\)](#)
- General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid 19](#)

**As usual, if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on:**

**Tel: 049 436 5856**

**Email:**

**[admin@cavanccc.ie](mailto:admin@cavanccc.ie)**

**Regards, Cavan  
County Childcare  
Committee**