



YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

9 February 2026

Upcoming Tasks

National Childcare Scheme (NCS) attendance returns

Who	Services offering NCS 2025/2026.
What	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the returns page.
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-8 February returns due Tuesday 10 February 2026.• 9-15 February returns due Tuesday 17 February 2026.

February Core Funding Review and Confirm

Who	Partner services that have submitted their original Core Funding application module on or before 31 January 2026.
What	Complete the February Review and Confirm process.
When	The February Review and Confirm window is open from 1-14 February 2026.

Force majeure applications

Who	Service providers affected by severe weather or other events falling under force majeure guidelines.
What	Services that close due to severe weather (or other events falling under the force majeure guidelines) can submit an application for force majeure.
When	Applications for force majeure, including supporting evidence of the requirement to close the service, must be submitted via request on the Early Years Hive within 5 working days.

February mid-term maintenance

Who	Services offering NCS, ECCE and CCSP Saver programme 2025/2026.
What	Reminder to make necessary important changes on the Early Years Hive as soon as possible (e.g. service closures, requests for bridging provisions). Refer to the announcement on 9 February for detailed information.
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closures to service calendars are due in advance of the closure.• Bridging provision requests are due one week prior to the scheduled closure.

The above are for general guidance only. You may have additional tasks outstanding. Check the announcements and notifications pages of the Early Years Hive regularly.





You may have missed...

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 1 application reminder

Who	Services with new and existing graduates of the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) programme wishing to avail of AIM Level 1 support for eligible children for 2025/2026.
What	Services currently employing a qualified LINC graduate as an Inclusion Coordinator, that have not yet submitted an AIM Level 1 2025 application, may still apply for the 2025/2026 programme call. AIM Level 1 funding will start from the Monday following application approval.

Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan (QIPP) report template open for completion

Who	Core Funding partner services 2025/2026.
What	The QIPP report template 2025/2026 is now open on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements Reporting System Portal: https://www.cfcrrs.ie/ . Progress can be documented and saved as you go. For step-by-step guidance, see the QIPP Annual Report Return technical guidance video. The deadline to complete the 2025/2026 QIPP Report is Friday 31 July 2026. More information can be found in the announcement posted 23 January 2026.

