YOUR Early Years hive SNAPSHOT

20 April 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	• 13-19 April returns due Tuesday 21 April 2026. • 20-26 April returns due Tuesday 28 April 2026.

Applications for the 2026/2027 Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) closing 1 May	
Who	All services.
What	The NSLF aims to help early years educators pursue level 7 and 8 early learning and care (ELC) qualifications that have been approved by the Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) while they continue to work in the sector. A NSLF registration, employment record and application training webinar can be reviewed on the Early Years Hive.
When	Applications for the NSLF 2026/2027 academic year are open from 10 March to 1 May 2026 and can be submitted via the NSLF student portal. To register for the portal, send a request to NSLF@pobal.ie.

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…

2025/26 Annual Early Years Sector Profile (AEYSP) survey opening soon	
Who	All services.
What	The 2025/26 AEYSP survey is expected to launch on the Early Years Hive at the start of May. Services will have three weeks to complete the survey.

Reminder: Bank account information on the Early Years Hive	
Who	All users of the Early Years Hive portal.
What	As per European Union Verification of Payee (VoP) regulations, bank account names listed on the Bank Account page of the Early Years Hive must match the recipient organisation's full legal or trading name. Please make sure the name you have used on the Early Years Hive matches the name the receiving bank holds for that account.

Reminder: Unique Early Years Hive user roles for all users	
Who	All users of the Early Years Hive portal.
What	It is important that a unique user role is created for all individuals who use the Early Years Hive portal. This ensures that anyone who contacts the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) from a service will be supported, as they will be listed as a user on that service's Early Years Hive account. Otherwise, the EYPC may not be able to fully assist due to data protection governance. Guidance on adding user roles can be found on the Early Years Hive.