



YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

11 March 2024

Upcoming task	Who should do it?	What do I need to do?	When do I need to do it?
National Sólta Aistear Initiative (NSAI) - Aistear and Play 2024	Services enrolled in Core Funding.	Click here to complete your expression of interest in taking this course, or visit the Better Start website for further information.	Application deadline: Monday 11 March at 5:00pm.
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Returns	Services offering NCS 2023/24.	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the Returns page of the Early Years Hive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-10 March returns due Tuesday 12 March. • 11-17 March returns due Tuesday 19 March.
Expenditure Return Required for Playing Outside Grant (POG) 2021	Services that received the POG 2021 grant.	If your service is subject to a verification check, relevant documentation (e.g. supporting invoices, bank statements) must be submitted on the Early Years Hive return portal.	Open 21 February 2024 to 21 March 2024 for completion by your registered Primary Authorised User (PAU).
Service Calendar Updates for Easter Break	All services planning to close for any dates during 25-29 March or 2-5 April (Easter break)	Services closing any of these dates must add the closure to their service calendar. Note: Good Friday (29 March) is not a bank holiday.	Deadline: Before the Easter break.
Building Blocks Expansion Grant Application Window Open	Partner services who wish to avail of the grant and meet the minimum criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grant terms and complete application on the Early Years Hive at Programmes - Building Blocks Application. • Full information available in the Application Guidelines, Technical Guide and Demonstration Video. 	Application deadline: Wednesday 3 April 2024.

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

You might have missed:	Who is it relevant to?	Where can I find it?
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Increase in Subsidies	Services offering NCS 2024/25: From 2 September, the minimum rate for NCS subsidies will increase. Awards will be recalculated and updated.	Refer to the announcement section on the Early Years Hive.