



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Learner Fund Childminder Bursary 2026

Applicant Rules

In 2026, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality will open the Learner Fund Bursary for Childminders who are registered with Tusla and have recently graduated with either a Level 5, or 6 award in early childhood care and education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), or Level 7 or 8 on the Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) ELC list of approved courses for the academic years 2024,2025 and 2026.

Roscommon County Childcare Committees (RCCC) will process Learner Fund Childminder Bursary applications, before appraisal from DCDE.

Particular attention is drawn to the Rules below, which align the Learner Fund eligibility and selection criteria in line with those of the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund and ensures equity in assessment of application in both schemes.

1. The award must be placed either at Level 5 or Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and achieved in the academic years *2024,2025 and 2026* or at Level 7 or 8 Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) approved ELC course achieved in the academic years *2024,2025 and 2026*. The QAB List of approved courses can be accessed via the following link [20260409_List_of_Approved_Programmes_for_Adherence_to_the_Professional_Award_Criteria_and_Guideline...](#)

2. The bursary amount will be €1,000.

3. The qualification must be a full, major award; the bursary cannot be paid in respect of partially completed awards.

4. The graduating certificate must be provided with the application form. If not available, a full and confirmed statement of results will suffice. The statement of results must indicate that the qualification is awarded. Letters from training providers which state that a partially completed award is equivalent to a full award will not be accepted.

5. The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be one that qualifies a person to work in an Early Learning and Care service.

6. Applicants must provide a Copy of Fees Statement from their course provider.

7. Applicants may only apply once and cannot be granted the Learner Fund Bursary for a second time if they have already received either the Graduate Bursary or Childminder Bursary before.

8. The applicant cannot have received any public funding in support of their completing the award relating to this application.

9. Applicants must currently be a Tusla registered Childminding Service. Tusla registration number must be provided.

10. Application must be made by the holder of the award and not by any third party on their behalf.
11. Applicants must apply with the name used on the certificate or transcript.
12. Photographic identification must be provided.
- 13.. Applicants will be required to declare that this is the sole application they have made for the Learner Fund Bursary

Timeline for applications:

Completed applications for the 2026 Learner Fund Childminder Bursary must be received by Roscommon CCC by 5pm on Friday 9th October 2026.

Link to List of QAB approved courses can be found at the following link:

[20260409 List of Approved Programmes for Adherence to the Professional Award Criteria and Guideline...](#)

Childminder Bursary Funding Applications should be returned to Maria Corrigan on the following email; maria.corrigan@roscommonchildcare.ie

If you have any queries, please call the office on 094 96 22540 for further information.