Dear Colleagues,

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week 27th February – 3rd March 2023.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Early Years Hive Maintenance 3-5 March 2023**

The Early Years Hive and the National Childcare Scheme website will be unavailable from 7am on Friday 3 March 2023 until 9pm on Sunday 5 March due to essential maintenance. There will be no impact to your weekly payments on Friday 3 March. After this maintenance, you may need to refresh your web browser to access the portal again. The Early Years Team apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation.

**Happy Talk March**

Attached is the Happy Talk Calendar Newsletter for March 2023. The theme for March is silly rhymes and stories.

**Graffiti: Beag – Little Peas Project**

The Graffiti Theatre Company have launched “The little Peas Project”. If you work with children aged 18 months to 3 years and are interested in participating in an ecological project centred around growing and learning please see poster attached with further detail. The project is free, but spaces are limited. The deadline for applying is March 20th, 2023.

**Childminding Business Information Sessions**

 Cork City & County Childcare Committee are offering a suite of free online Childminding Business information sessions.  These information sessions are relevant to existing or potential childminders.  The information sessions will be delivered on Wednesday mornings (10am – 11.30am) and evenings (7.30pm to 9pm) for 5 weeks, commencing on Wednesday 22nd February.  The weekly session topics are as follows:

* Setting your fees (Wednesday 8th March)
* Developing your childminding contract (Wednesday 15th March)
* Childminding and Revenue (Wednesday 22nd March)

Participation on all information sessions is not a requirement but is recommended.

Booking is essential.  Anyone who is interested in attending can book a place[here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.eventbrite.ie%2fe%2fchildminding-business-information-session-tickets-526338381267&c=E,1,qzA7xPsC12eMW2rPL6pUw6e8A_s_R6MoVM1a2oowSQJLhXVIZawmXDPLPZCkUN7CM2Htwzk2FmbDC0XnedPbDHpH_bU8Y7uBMCtZQgHnOs78x6CTTkOS&typo=1) or using the QR code below:

Qr code

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If you require further information or have any queries, please contact [info@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:info@corkchildcare.ie)

**Covid case advice**

ELC and SAC providers and Childminders that have positive cases and require support can contact the HSE ELC/SAC dedicated helpline on 01 511 9777.

For general Covid-19 queries you can contact HSE live on 1800 700 700 or 01 240 8787 or visit the First 5 website for the most up to date information and guidance. ([www.first5.gov.ie](http://www.first5.gov.ie/))

Should you have any queries on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us on 022-23880 or [info@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:info@corkchildcare.ie)

Kind Regards,

Cork County Childcare Committee