



## Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme

# Your Free Pre-School Year

**How can I help my child's learning?**

### Play is a child's work...

Parents & carers are the key to how children learn. You can help your child by supporting them in their play.

There are lots of services available to you locally so give us a call or have a look at our website to find out more.

[www.southdublinchildcare.ie](http://www.southdublinchildcare.ie)

*'The South Dublin County Childcare Committee would like to acknowledge our colleagues in Kerry County Childcare Committee for their assistance with this guide'*

For enquiries and information please contact:

### South Dublin County Childcare Committee

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Transforming Ireland

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## Is my child eligible for the ECCE scheme?

### When was your child born?

**Between 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

*You are eligible for a free place from January 2010 to June/August 2010*

**Between 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

*You are eligible for a free place from September 2010 to June/August 2011*

### How do I get a place?

- Contact South Dublin CCC for a list of services in your area
- Contact your local childcare facility to see if they have a place available and arrange to visit the service – A guide to Choosing Childcare in South Dublin will help with your decision; contact us to receive a free copy.
- From October 2009 - a list of childcare facilities in the scheme will be available from South Dublin County Childcare Committee.

### What if my child is not eligible for a place?

You may still be able to reduce your childcare costs through the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme – contact South Dublin County Childcare Committee for more details.

## What will my Child's Pre School Place cost me?

Some full time or part time services will provide the following free of charge

**2 hours 15 mins free  
5 days per week  
50 weeks per year**

*You will be charged by the service for the additional hours you need. Your fee will be reduced by €48.50 per week.*

If you need a shorter session you will normally get

**3 hours free  
5 days per week  
38 weeks per year**

You will have to talk to your childcare provider to see what service they have on offer & you can also check with South Dublin CCC.

### Will there be any extra charges?

A service may charge you for some additional services but these are optional.

If you don't pay for the additional activities the childcare service must provide an alternative for your child.

## How will I know if it's a high quality service?

- ✓ A good quality service will provide positive experiences for children by supporting them in their own interests and desire for independence.
- ✓ It will have qualified staff to work with the children
- ✓ It will be notified to the Pre School Inspection Team in the HSE or registered with the Irish Montessori Education Board.
- ✓ It will help you to understand how your child learns and how you can support your child's learning and development
- ✓ It will use play as a key way in which to help your child learn and develop.
- ✓ Use ***A Parent's Guide to Choosing Childcare in South Dublin County*** to help with your decision.

