

## ECCE Scheme – Free Pre-school Year

### Overview:

Under this Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme, Childcare providers will be paid a fee by the state for each child registered for Early Child Care & Education so that it is free of charge to the parents of children in the qualifying age-group.

Childminders may participate in this scheme subject to certain conditions. Information on eligibility and the process can be found on the *Childminding Ireland* website at [www.childminding.ie/home](http://www.childminding.ie/home) . Queries may be directed to [childcare\\_mail@health.gov.ie](mailto:childcare_mail@health.gov.ie) while general information on the new scheme, together with answers to the most frequently asked questions can be assessed through the OMCYA website on [www.omcya.ie](http://www.omcya.ie)

*Childminding Ireland* will advise time frames for future applications.

### Update:

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs issued a press release which altered the details of the scheme as follows:-

- Children born on or between 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 and 30 June 2005 will be eligible to enter the scheme in January 2010.
- A higher capitation grant of €75 per week is available where the Pre-school Leader holds a Level 7 or 8 Early Years education related qualification.
- A Rates Exemption will apply to sessional services participating in the scheme which defray their costs wholly or mainly from State funding.