

# Parent Statement for Partner Services

## 1. Welcome to our Partner Service

**Play Together Childcare, C/O Carlow Educate Together Athy Road Bestfield Carlow Town R93TW74,** is a Partner Service, working together with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and parents to deliver high quality, affordable, inclusive Early Learning and Care (ELC) and/or School Age Childcare (SAC) services for children under Together for Better.

Together for Better is the new funding model for early learning and childcare that brings together three major programmes, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme - including the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Core Funding, with a fourth programme under development – the Equal Participation Model.

As a Partner Service, we offer subsidy schemes to parents and receive Core Funding. This Parent Statement outlines some of the important things you can expect from us, as a Partner Service. This Parent Statement is provided as a condition of the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement, the NCS, ECCE and CCSP Saver Funding agreements and informs the agreement in place between us Play Together Childcare and the parents/guardians that use our service. The Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is not a party to this agreement which is solely between the service and parent/guardian.

### 1.1 About Us

Here are some of the basic things to know about us:

A typical week for us is 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday for 51 weeks per year.

At Play Together Childcare we offer the following services to children and their families:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional Care for Early Learning & Care (ELC) excluding ECCE provision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional pre-school under ECCE (Free Pre-school)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full day care/part time care for Early Learning & Care (ELC)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term time School Age Childcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Out of term School Age Childcare

*[Choose all that apply]*

## 2. Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE), Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Community Childcare Subvention Plus (CCSP) Saver Programme.

This Childcare Service is in contract to deliver the:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Childcare Scheme (NCS)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Childcare Subvention Plus (CCSP) Saver Programme

*[Choose all that apply]*

### Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE):

ECCE provides for 15 hours per week of preschool provision over 38 weeks per year before children start primary school at no charge to parents. A child is eligible to start ECCE in the

September term once they have turned 2 years and 8 months of age on or prior to 31 August that year.

If you are availing of additional childcare, the balance of the childcare fees that you have to pay are the child's fees minus the 15 hours of ECCE per week your child is eligible for. The 15 hours you are awarded is paid by the Department to Play Together Childcare for your child. Any additional childcare hours you are using outside of ECCE are eligible for an NCS subsidy (see details below).

Play Together Childcare must provide you with written details of how the balance of your childcare fees are calculated (that is, the fee we charge less your free 15 hours per week of preschool provision).

Shauna Fitzsimons will support you in registering your child for the ECCE programme in our service if your child meets the eligibility criteria. Further information about ECCE is available here -

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2459ee-early-childhood-care-and-education-programme-ecce/>

**Please note:** In the ECCE Programme you are not required or obliged to select or pay a deposit for any optional extras.

If you do avail of any optional extra, should you, at any time, wish to withdraw from any of the optional extras selected, you must provide Play Together Childcare with 20 working days' notice.

### **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM):**

The goal of AIM is to create a more inclusive environment in pre-schools, so all children, regardless of ability, can benefit from quality early learning and care. The model achieves this by providing universal supports to pre-school settings, and targeted supports, which focus on the needs of the individual child, without requiring a diagnosis of disability.

Further information about AIM is available here - <https://aim.gov.ie/>

### Optional:

This service also has an Inclusion Coordinator, Ciara O'Connor who has a special qualification focused on supporting the inclusion of all children in the service.

### **National Childcare Scheme (NCS)**

NCS provides subsidies to parents and families to offset the costs of Early Learning and Care (ELC) and/or School Age Childcare (SAC). There are two types of subsidies available to apply for under the NCS - the Universal or Income Assessed subsidy. Both subsidies are available to families with children between 24 weeks and 15 years of age.

This service welcomes children who wish to avail of the National Childcare Scheme, including children referred under the sponsorship programme. Further information about the NCS, including how to apply for a subsidy, is available here - <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/> or contact the NCS Parent Support Centre on 01 906 8530 (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm).

Your NCS award includes a unique CHICK (Childcare Identifier Code Key) and information on the maximum number of hours you can claim. To use your award, you must:

- 1) Receive a CHICK by applying to <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/> or contacting the NCS Parent Support Centre.
- 2) Bring the CHICK to Play Together Childcare and register your NCS subsidised hours of care. The hours that you will agree should be based on the hours you need and what Play Together Childcare can offer you.
- 3) After Play Together Childcare has registered your hours, **you must confirm** that these details are correct. These details must be confirmed at <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/> or in writing to National Childcare Scheme, PO Box 13105, Southside Delivery Office, Cork, depending on whether you originally applied online or by post to receive your award.
- 4) **Your NCS subsidy can only be paid once your CHICK has been registered by Play Together Childcare and you have confirmed on the system that all details are correct.**

The amount that you must pay to Play Together Childcare is called the 'co-payment'. The co-payment is Play Together Childcare's fee for your child minus the NCS subsidy paid by the Department to Play Together Childcare for your child.

Play Together Childcare must provide you with details of how your co-payment amount is calculated (our fee less your NCS subsidy). We will always notify you within 20 days if and when your co-payment amount changes, including details on how it has been calculated.

### **Community Childcare Subvention Plus (CCSP) Saver Programme**

The CCSP Saver Programme is available to eligible children up to the age of 15 years, for low income families who had eligible children registered prior to the CCSP Saver Programme's closure in November 2019. This programme is no longer available to new applicants.

The CCSP Saver Programme funds providers to charge reduced childcare costs to eligible parent's/guardians based on bands of subvention awarded. The CCSP Saver Programme can run for up to 52 weeks of the programme year.

The balance of childcare fees that you have to pay are the child's fees minus the subsidy you are eligible for. The subsidy you are awarded is paid by the Department to Play Together Childcare for your child.

**Play Together Childcare** must provide you with written details of how the balance of your childcare fees are calculated (our fee less your CCSP Saver Programme subsidy).

**Jessica Peters - Account Manager** will assist you in registering your child for the CCSP Saver Programme in our service if you and your child meet the eligibility criteria. **Further information about the CCSP Saver Programme is available here ([CCSP Saver Programme Rules](#)).**

### **Calendars**

Play Together Childcare will provide you with a separate letter indicating the days our service is closed over the programme year. We will provide you with a minimum of 20 working days written notice period of our intention to change this.

## **3. Fees Policies**

As an Approved Provider, we operate a Fees Policy that is transparent and understandable to our parents. Please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Peters - Account Manager who will provide additional clarification as required.

**3.1 Fee Management – As a Partner Service**, we operate our Fees Policy in accordance with the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement, which in programme year 2023/2024 involves no increases of fees on those charged to parents on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, called a 'fee freeze'. In order that you can understand what this fee freeze means for you, we have outlined our fees and associated fees policy below.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>a) Our service was in existence in September 2021</b></p> <p>As a Partner Service, we are committed to operating the 'fee freeze' for Programme Year 2023/2024. This means that we will not charge our parents more for the same service than what we were charging in September 2021.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>b) Our service has been established since September 2021</b></p> <p>As a Partner Service, we are committed to operating the 'fee freeze' for Programme Year 2023/2024. This means that we will not charge our parents more for the same service than what we were charging when we first became a Partner Service.</p>

**3.2 Donations** - We will not request or accept any donations, voluntary or otherwise from parents/guardians, in respect of the ELC/SAC services being provided.

**3.3 Deposits** - We will not charge any non-refundable deposits<sup>1</sup> to parents/guardians in the respect of their ELC/SAC service where the parent/guardian takes up the service for which the deposit was paid.

**3.4 Discounts** – We will keep all discounts that were available on 30 September 2021 in place, provided that they are available to all children in our service. Any discount relevant to you will be applied to your normal fee before any subsidy is applied.

**3.5 Optional Extras** – The term ‘Optional Extra’ is only applicable to any extra services or activities we offer under the ECCE/CCSP Saver Programmes which are not funded by the Programmes but which are voluntary with optional charges to you. These optional extras are very limited in nature and there is a copy of the DCEDIY-approved optional extras list available in Appendix 1 of the [ECCE programme rules](#), which are also available on the Early Years Hive.

**3.6 Additional Service** - Is when something additional to a service type/fee option is offered to parents/guardians. Take up of the additional service must be entirely optional to parents/guardians. For example a service provider may offer school collection services in addition to their SAC Service Types, or a service providing ECCE only may offer 2 weeks of camp during Easter, these would be entirely optional to parents and charged for additionally.

**3.7 Fee Review Process** - Core Funding is a payment to Partner Services designed to support quality, sustainability, and enhanced public management, with associated conditions in relation to fee control and cost transparency, incorporating funding for administration and to support the employment of graduate staff.

Partner Services must uphold their contractual obligations regarding their fees charged to parents/guardians as laid out in the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement.

Where a parent/guardian identifies a potential breach of Core Funding fee rules by a Partner Service, they may seek to have this examined and a conclusion reached through the Core Funding Fee Review process.

A parent/guardian who has identified a change to a Partner Service’s fee policy potentially breaching the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement, may address the issue in the first instance by using the Partner Service’s complaints policy. In certain cases, this step may allow for the quick resolution of the case between the Partner Service and the parent/guardian without engagement with the CCC, Pobal or the Department. This pre-fee review stage is optional and where a parent/guardian does not wish to engage with the service with their concerns or questions around Fee Management, a parent/guardian can move straight to Stage 1 and raise the case directly with the relevant CCC.

**Play Together Childcare will display this Parent Statement at all times in an area accessible to parents/guardians as well as on any online platform maintained by the Play Together Childcare for the purpose of advertising its service or providing information to parents/guardians. Play Together Childcare will print and co-sign a Parent Statement for each family. A copy signed by [Insert service name] and the parent/guardian will be retained on file. Any changes to Fee Policies will require that an updated Parent Statement is displayed and Play Together Childcare will issue updated Parent Statements by email to our parents/guardians and retain proof of the associated email.**

### 3.8 Fee Policy

Fee policy is the same as the fee policy that we had in place on September 30, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Non-refundable deposits include administration/registration fees or other such charges.



### 3.9 Fee Tables

#### 3.9.1 - Section A: Fee Tables

Fee Name	Type	Age Range	School Age / Early Years	ECCE Available?	Session Start Time	Session Finish Time	Incorporated Services?	Choose Incorporated Service	Additional Information	Hrs per Day	Days per Week	Hrs per Week	Full Fee	Fee (including ECCE – 3 Free Hours)	Effective From	Effective To
Preschool Plus - 8:45am to 1:15pm		2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	08:45	13:15	No		Preschool Plus session runs from 8:45am to 1:15pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Snack and lunch to be brought from home.	4.5	5	22.5	€102	€37.5	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
Preschool Camp - 9:00am to 1:00pm		2y - 5y	ELC	No	09:00	13:00	No		Preschool Camp session runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas.	4	5	20	€100	€	21/08/2023	25/08/2024
Long Day Preschool - 8:00am to 1:15pm		2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	08:00	13:15	No		Long Day Preschool session runs from 8:00am to 1:15pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Snack and lunch to be brought from home.	5.25	5	26.25	€114.5	€50	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
Preschool Extra - 8:45am to 2:30pm		2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	08:45	14:30	No		Preschool Extra session runs from 8:45am to 2:30pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Snack and	5.75	5	28.75	€127	€62.5	28/08/2023	30/06/2024

								lunch to be brought from home.							
Full Day Care - 8:00am to 6:00pm	2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	08:00	18:00	Yes	Meal	Full Day Care session runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Snack and lunch to be brought from home. Hot dinner and afternoon snack provided.	10	5	50	€180	€115.5	21/08/2023	30/06/2024
Infant/Junior Hour - 1:30pm to 2:30pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	13:30	14:30	No		Junior Hour runs from 1:30pm to 2:30pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year.	1	5	5	€25	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
Infant Afterschool - 1:30 to 4:30	4y - 12y	SAC	No	13:30	16:30	Yes	Meal	Infant Afterschool session runs from 1:30pm to 4:30pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Afternoon meal is provided.	3	5	15	€75	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
Infant Afterschool - 1:30 to 6:00	4y - 12y	SAC	No	13:30	18:00	Yes	Meal	Infant Afterschool session runs from 1:30pm to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Afternoon meal is provided.	4.5	5	22.5	€100	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
Infant Wraparound SAC - 8:00 to 6:00	4y - 12y	SAC	No	08:00	18:00	Yes	Meal	Infant Wraparound session runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year. Afternoon meal is provided.	5.5	5	27.5	€125	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024
First Class + Afterschool - 2:30 pm to 4:30pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	14:30	16:30	No		First Class + Afterschool session runs from 2:30pm to 4:30pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of	2	5	10	€50	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024

								the year.Afternoon meal is provided.								
First Class + Afterschool - 2:30pm to 6:00pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	14:30	18:00	Yes	Meal	First Class + Afterschool session runs from 2:30pm to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year.Afternoon meal is provided.	3.5	5	17.5	€75	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024	
First Class + Wraparound SAC - 8:00am to 6:00pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	08:00	18:00	Yes	Meal	First Class + Afterschool session runs from 8:00pm to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 38 weeks of the year.Afternoon meal is provided.	4.5	5	22.5	€100	€	28/08/2023	30/06/2024	
Preschool Camp - 9:00am to 12:00pm	2y - 5y	ELC	No	09:00	12:00	No		Preschool Camp session runs from 9:00am to 12:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas.	3	5	15	€75	€	21/08/2023	25/08/2024	
SAC Camp - 9:00am to 3:00pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	09:00	15:00	No		SAC Camp session runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during school closures and one week closure at Christmas.Lunch and snack to be brought from home.	6	5	30	€125	€	21/08/2023	25/08/2024	
SAC Camp - 8:00am to 6:00pm	4y - 12y	SAC	No	08:00	18:00	Yes	Meal	SAC Camp session runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas.Afternoon meal is provided.	10	5	50	€155	€	21/08/2023	25/08/2024	



								Lunch and snack to be brought from home.								
Early Start - 8:00am to 9:00am	4y - 12y	SAC	No	08:00	09:00	No		Early start from 8:00am to 9:00am. Service runs for 51 weeks of the year with one week closure for Christmas.	1	5	5	€25	€	18/09/2023	25/08/2024	
Sessional ECCE with Early Start - 8:00am to 12:00pm	2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	08:00	12:00	No		ECCE session with early start from 8:00am to 12:00pm five days a week. Service runs for 38 week's.	4	5	20	€100	€25	18/09/2023	07/07/2024	
ECCE Only - 9:00am to 12:00pm	2y 8m - 5y	ELC	Yes	09:00	12:00	No		ECCE only session runs from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Service operates 38 weeks of the year. Snack to be brought from home.	3	5	15	€75	€0	25/09/2023	14/07/2024	
Preschool Camp - 9:00am to 3:00pm	2y - 5y	ELC	No	09:00	15:00	Yes	Meal	Preschool Camp session runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas. Afternoon meal is provided.	6	5	30	€150	€	25/09/2023	25/08/2024	
Preschool Camp - 8:00am to 6:00pm	2y - 5y	ELC	No	08:00	18:00	Yes	Meal	Preschool Camp session runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas. Afternoon meal is provided. Lunch and snack to be brought from home.	10	5	50	€180	€	25/09/2023	25/08/2024	
Preschool Camp -	2y - 5y	ELC	No	08:00	13:00	No		Preschool Camp session runs from 8:00am to 1:00pm	5	5	25	€125	€	25/09/2023	25/08/2024	

8:00am to 1:00pm								five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas.							
Preschool Camp - 8:00am to 12:00pm	2y - 5y	ELC	No	08:00	12:00	No		Preschool Camp session runs from 8:00am to 12:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas.	4	5	20	€100	€	25/09/2023	25/08/2024
Preschool Camp - 8:00am to 3:00pm	2y - 5y	ELC	No	08:00	15:00	Yes	Meal	Preschool Camp session runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm five days a week. The service runs for 13 weeks during the year during ECCE closures and one week closure at Christmas. Afternoon meal is provided.	7	5	35	€175	€	25/09/2023	25/08/2024

**3.9.2 - SECTION B - FEES EXTRAS: DEPOSIT / DISCOUNT / OPTIONAL EXTRAS\* / ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

Type	Extras	Amount	Description	Additional Detail / Conditions	Effective From	Effective To
Additional Services		€25	Little Vista Software - €25.00 per annum	Fee for annual subscription to Little Vista software which is used to record attendance and NCS requirements for each individual child. This service is not applicable to ECCE sessional only attendees.	28/08/2023	18/08/2024
Discount		€0	No Discount	No discount	28/08/2023	18/08/2024
Deposit		€50	Booking Deposit	Deposit to be paid when booking place in afterschool. Deposit will be held towards final fees when four weeks notice has been given to end service.	21/08/2023	18/08/2024
Deposit		€50	ECCE Deposit	ECCE deposit to be paid when booking child into ECCE session. Deposit refunded within upon registration for ECCE sessional attendance only. For extra hours outside ECCE only,	18/09/2023	18/08/2024

				the deposit will be held and utilised towards the final weeks fee when four weeks notice has been given to end service.		
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**3.9.3 - Section C – Other Additional Information**

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\* These are entirely optional to parents

**3.10 The changes to our Fees Policy as applicable on September 30, 2021 are as follows:**

**3.10 (a) The following new Service Types ARE available:**

Fee Type Name	SAC/ ELC	Age Range	Min Age	Max Age	ECCE available for ECCE Eligible Children	Session Start time	Session finish time	Incorporated Services ?	Choose incorporated Service	Additional Information	No. hours per day	No days per week	No. hours per week	Fee (less ECCE 3 Free Hours (€))	Full Fee
														€	€

**3.10 (b) The following Service Types are NO LONGER available:**

Fee Type Name	SAC/ ELC	Age Range	Min Age	Max Age	ECCE available for ECCE Eligible Children	Session Start time	Session finish time	Incorporated Services ?	Choose incorporated Service	Additional Information	No. hours per day	No days per week	No. hours per week	Fee (less ECCE 3 Free Hours (€))	Full Fee
														€	€

**Queries** -If you have any queries or wish to discuss any of the above, please contact **Jessica Peters - Account Manager**. Alternatively, you could address queries to your local **City/County Childcare Committee (CCC)**. A list of CCC contact details is available from [www.myccc.ie](http://www.myccc.ie)

**4. Quality measures**

As a Partner Service, we are committed to delivering quality for children and families. There are number of ways we can show this.

**4.1 Our staff have the following qualifications:**

Room/Session	Qualification
Pod 2	Level 8 Degree Early Education and Care
Junior Hour Pod	Level 6 Advanced Certificate Early Years Care and Education
Early Start	Level 8 Degree Early Education and Care
Pod 3	Level 6 Advanced Certificate Early Years Care and Education
Room 1 Preschool	Level 8 Degree Early Education and Care
Pod 1	Level 8 Degree Early Education and Care
Room 2 Preschool	Level 8 Degree Early Education and Care

**4.2 Our staff have the following qualifications:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>We are actively working to implement our Quality Action Plan and we will report on progress at the end of the year to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and our parents.</b>
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**Play Together Childcare will display the end of year QAP report in an area accessible to parents/guardians as well as on any online platform maintained by the Play Together Childcare for the purpose of advertising its service or providing information to parents/guardians.**

This Parent Statement, which is an agreement solely between the parent/guardian and the provider, sets out what is on offer at Play Together Childcare and the applicable fees. If these terms conflict with the terms of any other agreement between Play Together Childcare and the parents/guardians then this takes priority, however any parts of any existing agreement that do not conflict remain in force and are not affected by this Parent Statement.

Signed on behalf of : Play Together Childcare	
Signed – Parent/Guardian	
Date	