

Learner Fund Childminder Bursary 2025

In 2025, 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 or 2025.

Local City/County Childcare Committees (CCC) 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.

Applicant Rules

1. Applicants must currently be a Tusla registered Childminding Service. Applicants must provide Tusla Registration number.
2. The qualification must have been achieved in 2024 or 2025.
3. The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be a Level 5, or 6 award in early childhood care and education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

or

be a Level 7 or 8 qualification, on the Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) approved list of ELC courses. The QAB List of approved courses can be accessed via the following Link: [list-of-approved-programmes-for-adherence-to-the-professional-award-criteria-and-guide.pdf](#)

4. The bursary amount will be €1,000.
5. The qualification must be a full, major award; the bursary cannot be paid in respect of partially completed awards.
6. 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.
7. The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be one that qualifies a person to work in an Early Learning and Care service.
8. Applicants must provide a Copy of Fees Statement from their course provider.
9. 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.

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

11. Application must be made by the holder of the award and not by any third party on their behalf.

12. Applicants must apply with the name used on the certificate or transcript.

13. Photographic identification must be provided.

14. Applicants will be required to declare that this is the sole application they have made for the Learner Fund Bursary

Timeline: Applications will open on 15th September and close at 5pm on 17th October 2025.

Learner Fund Childminder Bursary 2025 Application Form

Application for Learner Fund Childminder Bursary

Information provided by the applicant will be used only for the purpose it was intended and will be retained by the CCC for financial audit purposes.

Name of Childminding Service:		Tusla Registration Number	
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Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Address:	

Course Name	Course Provider	Level	Graduating Year

Beneficiary Pay Details: If approved, the bursary will be transferred to your bank account. In order to facilitate this, please provide the following details.			
Account name:			
Bank Address:			
BIC:		IBAN:	

Please ensure you have attached a copy all documentation as listed in Appendix 1

Declaration: I,

_____, declare that:

1. I am currently a Tusla registered Early Learning and Care Childminder.
2. I have not previously received a Learner Fund bursary from this, or any other CCC
3. I have not previously received public funding in support of my completion of this award.
4. This is my sole application for the Learner Fund Childminder Bursary, and I have not applied for a Learner Fund Childminder Bursary in any other CCC.
5. I have read and agree with the rules of the learner fund childminder bursary.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

Application Checklist.

Before applying, please ensure **ALL** of the following documents are enclosed. Any incomplete applications will be returned for attention which may lead to an applicant missing the application deadline which will not be extended.

1. Application Form	
2. 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. Screenshots or downloads from student accounts / portals will not be accepted.)	
3. Copy of Photo ID (copy of current id/ passport/ driving licence/ PSC card are acceptable)	
4. Copy of Course Fees Statement from their course provider (final year)	
5. Signed Declaration	