



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## When can I apply for AIM targeted supports?

Applications should be made as early as possible - ideally 3 months before the planned start date. The application process for the upcoming ECCE programme year opens in May and remains open throughout the pre-school year. In the case of children with more complex needs, parents and pre-school providers are encouraged to apply early.

Full details can be found on the AIM website [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).



## Where can I find more information?

More detailed information on AIM can be found at [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).

Your local City or County Childcare Committee (CCC) will also be able to provide further information and guidance. Links to all CCCs can also be found on [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).



## Does your child need support to access pre-school?

AIM supports can help your child reach their full potential.

An initiative of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



## What is AIM?

The **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** is a model of supports designed to promote inclusion and to ensure that children with disabilities can meaningfully participate in the **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** free pre-school programme in mainstream pre-school settings.

AIM is a child-centred model, offering a range of universal and targeted supports. It offers tailored, practical supports based on need and **does not require a formal diagnosis of disability**.



## AIM Universal Supports – promoting inclusive settings

Universal supports are designed to promote and support an inclusive culture within pre-school settings.

Training to support inclusive practice is available for pre-school managers and staff. This training in disability and inclusion includes courses in sensory processing, sign language and caring for children with more complex medical needs.

The LINC (Leadership for Inclusion in Early Years) Programme is a Level 6 Special Purpose Award qualification funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

## AIM Targeted Supports

For many children, AIM universal supports will be sufficient to ensure inclusion. However, some children may require one or more further, specific supports to ensure that they can participate fully in the ECCE programme.

These might take the form of specialist advice and support, **specialist equipment or appliances, minor building alterations, therapeutic intervention or extra assistance** in the pre-school room.

While AIM does not fund Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), in some cases funding may be provided either to **reduce the child-to-adult ratio** in the pre-school room or to fund an extra staff member as a shared resource with other children in the ECCE setting.



Applications can be made from May each year for the ECCE Programme Year beginning in September

Go to [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie) to find out more



## How can I apply for AIM targeted supports?

**Applications** for AIM targeted supports can only be made through a pre-school setting. Pre-school settings and parents/guardians make applications together.

**Advice and support** from Better Start Early Years Specialists can be accessed by phone (01-511 7222), e-mail ([eypc@pobal.ie](mailto:eypc@pobal.ie)).

**Expert advice from the Better Start Early Years Specialist Service (EYSS)**, applications for **Therapy Services and additional capitation** and applications for **specialised equipment, appliances or a grant towards minor alterations** can be applied for by pre-school providers, in partnership with parents, guardians or carers via the application form on the Early Years Hive platform.

Applications will be assessed by Better Start, whose Early Years Specialists will consider the strengths and needs of both the child and the setting.