



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 for targeted supports should be made by May so that they are in place for the start of the pre-school year, however, they can be applied for year-round.

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.



Where can I find more information?

More detailed information on AIM can be found at 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.



Does your pre-school need support to deliver an inclusive experience for all children?

AIM supports can ensure that all children, regardless of ability, can fully participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme

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 benefit the whole pre-school environment through empowering pre-school providers to create a more inclusive culture in their setting. This is achieved through Continuous Professional Development (CPD), an inclusion charter and guidelines for pre-schools and a Level 6 qualification in Inclusion (LINC). Pre-schools employing a qualified Inclusion Coordinator are eligible for an increase of €2 per child per week in ECCE capitation.

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.

AIM Targeted Supports

For many children, AIM universal supports will be sufficient to ensure inclusion. However, where a pre-school provider, in partnership with a parent, guardian or carer, considers that some additional support may be necessary to meet the needs of a particular child, they can apply for one or more targeted supports under levels 4 – 7 of AIM.

Additional targeted supports could be for expert early childhood care and educational advice and mentoring (level 4), for specialised equipment, appliances and minor alterations (level 5), therapeutic supports (level 6) or additional capitation to fund extra assistance in the ECCE pre-school room (level 7). This does not support funding for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), but allows for either the reduction of the child-to-adult ratio in the pre-school room or the funding of an extra staff member as a shared resource 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 to find out more



How can I support parents in applying for AIM targeted supports?

Applications for AIM targeted supports are made by the pre-school provider in collaboration with the parent on the Early Years Hive platform.

Where a pre-school service provider needs advice on what supports are required to enable a child's participation in ECCE, they can contact the Early Years Specialist Service based in Pobal at

EYPC@pobal.ie or (01) 511 7222. Completing the online Access and Inclusion Profile with the parent, guardian or carer will also help in highlighting and clarifying the need for any additional supports.

Pre-school providers can also contact their local City or County Childcare committee (CCC) for information about AIM or for help in submitting applications for supports under AIM.

An Informed Consent form, which can be completed by a child's parent, guardian or carer, is part of the Access and Inclusion Profile and can be downloaded from the AIM website. The consent form can be printed and signed when the profile is being completed. The pre-school provider should then upload the signed consent form and submit it with the completed online Access and Inclusion Profile.