CHILD CARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SUPPORT (CETS) PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PARTICIPANTS

In Budget 2014 it was announced that the Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) Programme is being expanded from 1 January 2014 to include Community Employment (CE) Participants.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR CETS?

A CE Applicant who needs childcare in order to take up a place on a CE scheme is eligible for a CETS Place.

There is one exception. Where a CE Applicant/Participant has a child/children who is/are participating in the ECCE Programme (the free Pre-School Year) they will not be considered for the CETS Programme. The ECCE Programme is open to all children aged between 3 years and 3 months and 4 years and 6 months on 1st September each year.

HOW DO I SECURE A CETS PLACE ON CE?

1. The CE Sponsor will tell you about the CETS programme and give you a list of Childcare Providers participating in the CETS programme.
2. You should then contact a Childcare Provider in your area to book a CETS place. You can use your letter of offer of a CE place to do this.
3. If you are already on CE your Sponsor will give you a letter stating this.
4. The Childcare Provider will accept your letter and offer you a place, if there are places available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- Places will be allocated to children over 1 and under 5 years of age.
- CE participants in receipt of the One Parent Family Payment (OFP) prior to starting on CE will be particularly welcome to take up a CETS place.
- The CETS place will be provided on a part-time basis only for CE participants.
- The parent contribution is €15 per week.
- Places will be approved for 50 weeks in a 12 month period.
- Places will be open to existing participants as well as new entrants.
- There is no provision for a participant to continue to access a CETS place if they are absent from CE for a prolonged period.