



Childminding



A Guide For Parents/Guardians

Conclusion

Parents can have mixed feelings about someone else caring for their child. It is intended that the information in this booklet will help to promote a positive relationship between you and your chosen childminder. As this information is a guide only, parents may wish to receive more advice on childminding.

Introduction

Childminders create a home from home environment by offering a quality, valuable and flexible childcare service.

The provision of family based childcare is personal, unique, consistent, flexible and family friendly. Parents should feel confident that the childminder provides a safe and stimulating setting for their children.

This booklet has been developed as a guide for parents/guardians to assist in choosing a childminder.



What is a Childminder

A childminder offers home-based care, where children are treated with respect and are shown love, affection, security and friendship.

A single-handed childminder should care for no more than six children including his/her own who are under 6 years of age and no more than 3 of these should be under 1 year of age in accordance with the Childcare (Pre-School Services) Regulations 1996.

A childminder is allowed to care for three pre-school children before he/she is required to notify the Health Board.



Skills of a Childminder

The Childminder should:

- ✿ Understand the developmental needs of each child and relate well to both children and parents;
- ✿ Respect and acknowledge that parents are the primary carers of their children;
- ✿ Be aware that children need to feel welcome, respected, safe and secure in the childminders home;
- ✿ Have knowledge and experience of working with children;
- ✿ Be sympathetic, tolerant and kind;
- ✿ Have first aid training and be able to deal with emergencies.



Questions to be Considered

What are the ages and numbers of children being minded?

Does the childminder provide a contract detailing opening hours, fees, payment for holidays/non-attendance and notice of termination?

Is there insurance cover?



Does the insurance cover outings and car travel?

In the event of an emergency what procedures has the childminder in place?

What toys and activities are offered for indoor and outdoor play?

What sleeping facilities are provided?



Is the food varied, nutritious and sufficient?

What does the childminder consider to be acceptable/unacceptable behaviour and how would he/she deal with it?

Is the childminder notified to the Mid-Western Health Board?



Introduce your Child

Gradually build up the time your child spends with the childminder

Ensure that your child's enrolment form is completed in full
Discuss and agree with the childminder the individual routine of your child

Make sure your child has a favourite toy or comforter as a link with home

Observe whether there is a sense of warmth and friendliness between your child and childminder

Agree the terms and conditions for the care of your child

How to Find a Childminder

- ❁ Childminding Advisory Officers are available through the Health Board or City/County Childcare Committees
- ❁ Pre-School Inspection and Information Services provide public listings of notified childminders.
- ❁ Contact Childminding Ireland, the National Voluntary Childcare Organisation
- ❁ Word of mouth - ask family, friends and neighbours
- ❁ Answer or place an advertisement in a local newspaper or in a post office

Contact details can be found at the back of the booklet



Contact Details

North Tipperary County Childcare Committee,

North Tipperary County Council,
Friar Court,
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 44888
Email: childcare@northtippcoco.ie

North Tipperary Pre-School Inspection & Information Services,

Mid-Western Health Board, Annbrook,
Limerick Rd,
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 38309
Email: childmindingnorthtipp@mwhb.ie
Website: www.mwhb.ie

Clare County Childcare Committee,

1 Kilrush Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 6864862
Email: info@clarechildcare.ie
Website: www.clarechildcare.ie

Clare Pre-School Inspection & Information Services,

Mid-Western Health Board
Auganteeroe, Gort Road
Ennis, Co. Clare
Tel: 065 6863902
Email: childmindingclare@mwhb.ie
Website: www.mwhb.ie

Limerick City Childcare Committee,

C/O Limerick City Development Board,
The Granary,
Michael Street,
Limerick.
Tel: 061 407547 / 407546
Email: childcare@limerickcity.ie

County Limerick Childcare Committee,

32 Main Street,
Croom,
Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 600918
Email: clcc@eircom.net
Website: www.clcc.ie

Limerick Pre-School Inspection & Information Services,

Mid-Western Health Board
87 O'Connell Street
Limerick.
Tel: 061 483591
Email: childmindinglimerick@mwhb.ie
Website: www.mwhb.ie

Childminding Ireland,

Wicklow Enterprise Park,
The Murrugh,
Wicklow Town,
Tel: 0404 64007
Email: childm@indigo.ie
Website: www.childminding-irl.com