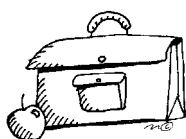


Childminding as a Profession

Childminding is a professional family day care service. As Childminders are self employed, they must consider the business aspect of their service as well as the quality of day-care they provide. *Childminding Ireland* is here to support our members in both.



As with any professional service, the Childminder must meet the standards expected by the client - in the case of Childminding, children and the parent. Parents choose to place their child with a Childminder rather than in another form of childcare because of the benefits family-based day care offers. These benefits include:

More attention to each individual child in a small mixed age group setting;

The flexibility and atmosphere of home life;

Parents can feel confident about leaving their children with you;

Family values and beliefs can be more easily understood by the Childminder;

The child can feel more secure in a childminding environment;

Parents feel involved;

Potential problems can be identified and discussed on a one to one basis with the Childminder.

There are a number of steps that every Childminder can take to ensure that her/his service gives minded children and their parents all of these advantages.

As a Registered Childminder with *Childminding Ireland*, you will have a

number of documents which can reassure the parent of your commitment to the practice of Childminding. It is a good idea to keep all documents relevant to your service in one folder which the parent can look through. The folder should include the following :

Sample Agreement between the Parent and Childminder;

Sample Information on a Minded Child record;

Medication Administration Consent Form;

Proof of Tax Compliance;

Any Certificates of qualifications;

Insurance Certificate;

Testimonies from other parents;

Health and Safety Policy;

Guide to Pre-School Regulations.

It is worth having monthly 'catch-ups' with the parents of the minded children. As no Childminding situation is ever static, these catch-ups are invaluable aids for the Childminder, the parent and, most importantly, the child. It

is always beneficial to take time out to reflect on the last month and to discuss any special plans for the following month. Issues can be more easily resolved if there is consistent communication between the Childminder and the parent. These sessions will also highlight any area of the contract that may need to be revisited and can pre-empt any potential difficulties.

