



Press Release: *Childminding Ireland* calls on Childminders to Defend Childminder Tax Relief!

October 8th, 2009

The recent Commission on Taxation report includes the recommendation that the Childminder Tax Relief on childminding earnings up to €15,000 be discontinued. This tax relief enables small scale Childminders to be tax compliant, without maintaining detailed expenditure records. It stands completely independently of other income earned by the Childminder or spouse. It enables self-employed RSI benefits of the contributory pension and maternity leave by paying the annual contribution to the Dept. Social & Family Affairs. The logic of the introduction of this tax relief has not changed and in this economic climate it is a vital requirement for Childminders to continue.

The Childminders Tax Relief means that– Childminders availing of it would not have a taxable net income and therefore experience no loss of revenue. It assists in improving the Quality of Childcare – by encouraging Childminders to avail of the Childminder advisory services, grants, training and supports and improves accessibility for Parents ensuring that tax compliant Childminders can freely advertise their services.

Prof. Francis Douglas of the Early Childhood Studies in UCC highlighted his concerns that the Government is looking to cutback spending, services, facilities and supports for young children as an ‘easy option’ when ‘What we spend on young children is remarkably low compared to other countries and there needs to be an injection of cash into helping the childminders make the most of this experience for children because society is either going to reap the benefit or reap the whirlwind down the line’ during the recent International Family Day Conference.

Patricia Murray, CEO, of *Childminding Ireland* is urging all Childminders to contact their TDs and voice their need to retain the Childminders Tax Relief. ‘This Tax Relief was hard fought and recognized the vast number of Childminders in Irish society supporting working families’.

A consequence of any reduction or abolition of Childminders Tax Relief could mean an increase in childcare costs to the parent at a time when parents countrywide are already under extreme financial pressure. A recent Childcare Survey undertaken by Rollercoaster .ie of Parents in Ireland declared that 4 years ago 45% of parents complained that their childcare fees were their biggest concern – this figure has now risen to 52%.

Childminders Contact your TD today – write, phone or e-mail [name] Leinster House, Dublin 2

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