

Childminding in Ireland



Childminding – Who benefits?

- Children benefit
- Parents benefit
- Childminders benefit
- Communities benefit
- The Economy benefits

What is a Childminder?

Childminders provide a childcare service in their own homes. They are self employed

Childminders cater for children's physical, educational and emotional needs by providing a warm caring family environment, with stimulating play and learning activities.

What is a Registered Childminder?

Childminders registered with *Childminding Ireland* are self employed, working in their own home, are committed to Quality, have clearance from their family doctor and are adequately insured to provide a Childminding Service.

A Childminder can avail of a special Tax Relief Scheme and earn €15,000 tax free!

70% of parents of pre-school children who use childcare use a Childminder.

Childminding in Ireland An Overview

Childminding is by far the most common form of Day Care in Ireland.

The overwhelming majority of children in childcare are minded by a Childminder.

Childminding in no small way, contributed, and contributes to the growing economy in Ireland, enabling the huge growth in female participation in the workforce.

83% of parents of primary school children who use childcare use a Childminder

Type of Childcare For Pre-School Children	% of parents
Unpaid Relative	29
Paid Relative	11
Paid Carer	30
Group Setting	25
Other	5
Total	100

Type of Childcare For Primary School Children	% of parents
Unpaid Relative	45
Paid Relative	12
Paid Carer	31
Group Setting	6
Other	6
Total	100

Source: CSO Quarterly National Household Survey Special Module: published 2006



Why join *Childminding Ireland*?

Become part of your Professional Organisation

Information on Fees

Sample Agreements between Childminders and Parents

Group Insurance Scheme designed specifically for Childminders (choice of cover at very competitive rates)

Vacancy matching service

Access to a help-desk

Regular newsletters and briefings

Information on best practice and changing legislation

Support with tax compliance

Information on grants

Links to local networks and County Childcare Committees

Display Certificate and Membership Card

Distance Learning Programme

Childminders Handbook

Children Benefit

- Childminding Family replicates/mirrors a family, with a range of ages, promoting empathy rather than competition.
- Continuity of care from one person, often for years (most Childminders mind for >5 years)
- Children experience the world in a real way with opportunities for regular outings
- Siblings minded together have opportunities to interact every day
- Children don't become commuters

Childminders Benefit

- Opportunity for home based employment
- Opportunity to be at home with your own children
- Contribute to your own pension.
- Free / low cost training opportunities available
- Access to Networks
- Professional support available
- Access to grants

Parents benefit

- Flexibility
- Consistency
- Communications
- Cost

Communities Benefit

Children remain in their own communities, interacting and making friends locally, fostering a sense of identity.

Legislation Governing Childminding

Childminding in Ireland is governed by the Childcare (1991) Act and the Pre-School Services Regulations (2006).

Childminding is regulated only where four or more children under the age of six are minded.

There is no regulation of school age (6+) childcare services

A single handed Childminder can mind up to five children under the age of six.

A Childminder can mind no more than two children under 15 months (except in the case of siblings).

Childminders **must** notify their local Health Service Executive if they mind four or more children under the age of six.

Childminders who are not required to notify may voluntarily notify to their County Childcare Committee to avail of tax allowances, grants and training.

Grants Available to Childminders

A **Capital grant** of up to €5,000 per full-time child minded to improve the quality of a Childminder's service is available. Childminders should apply in first instance via Expression of Interest form to County Childcare Committee.

A **Childminder's Development Grant** of €1,000 is available to Childminders to assist towards the cost of safety items, books, toys or equipment enabling the delivery of a safer, stimulating environment for the children you mind. Grants are available to insured Childminders: who mind at least one child full-time, or three part-time; and who attend a ten hour, no-cost Quality Awareness Programme. Details and application forms are available from your local City or County Childcare Committee.

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