



**CHILDMINDING IRELAND**  
*Supporting Ireland's Childminders; Minding Ireland's Children*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

“Pathway to a Quality Support and Assurance System for Childminding in Ireland” launched on 26th March 2018 by the Working Group on Reforms and Supports for the Childminding Sector.

Childminding Ireland welcomes the Report of the Working Group and in particular the acknowledgement of the need for a support system for childminders. At its launch, Minister Katherine Zappone recognised the valuable contribution that childminders make to the childcare sector and stated that childminders must be integral in the development of a new childminding system.

Childminding Ireland will be holding discussion meetings throughout the country for childminders and parents using their childminding services. The purpose of the meetings will be to review the proposals presented in the Report. The feedback collected will then inform the development of the new support system for childminders.

The report provides a clear picture of childminding in Ireland today and makes proposals for a support system for childminders and a regulatory system that is designed to recognise, promote and support good quality childminding.

For a copy of the Report and the supporting documents, please click the following link  
<http://www.childminding.ie/category/latest-news/>

## **Ends**

Childminders are self-employed childcare providers working in their own home often for several different families.

Currently there is no system for the vast majority of childminders in this country. There are an estimated 35,000 childminders nationally, minding approximately 88,000 children. However, there are less than 120 in a system - Tusla registered. Unless a childminder is minding 4 or more pre-school children they are not eligible to register with Tusla.

Minister Zappone established a Working Group in September 2016 to review reforms and supports required for the childminding sector. Childminding Ireland chaired this Working Group.

### **Childminding Ireland calls for:**

- An appropriate and relevant system for the childminding sector, based on recognising, supporting and promoting good quality childminding
- Recognition for the unique value that childminding brings to both children and families
- The contribution of childminders minding Ireland's children, to be recognised and supported by the State

Just as every family and the children within it are unique, so too are childminders. The variety of childminders allows parents/guardians to find the right childminder for their own family. Home based care mirrors the atmosphere and flexibility of home life and allows children to grow and develop in this homely setting

#### **Benefits of childminding include:**

- Parents choose childminders that reflect their own parenting style
- Childminding allows a child's individuality to flourish
- Children thrive in childminding settings helped by smaller group sizes
- Childminding provides a home from home environment for children
- Continuity of Care is possible from babyhood to teenage years
- Outings: Children can be taken out-and-about and benefit from being part of the local community and experiencing the world in a real way.
- Fewer illnesses: There are fewer instances of sickness amongst children minded by childminders when compared with children in large group childcare.
- Flexibility: The parents and the childminder can agree the details of the childcare required
- Relationship based childcare for children and their families
- Children with Additional Needs: Childminding is also valued as an appropriate setting for children with additional needs

#### **About Childminding Ireland**

- Childminding Ireland supports childminders to provide quality home based childcare.
- Childminding Ireland is the national representative body for childminders, the voice of Childminding within the childcare sector. Childminding Ireland uses international best practice to inform the provision of quality professional home based childcare for the nation's children.
- Childminding Ireland is a Registered Charity and is part funded by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs.

#### **Building Quality Assurance for Parents**

- The term 'Unregistered' is a misnomer, unless a childminder is minding 4 or more pre-school children **there is currently no regulatory framework for quality assurance.**
- There are currently less than 120 Tusla Registered childminders from an estimated population of 35,000 working childminders.
- In the absent of regulatory requirements, the Board of Childminding Ireland has established a set of quality assurance criteria for members. Childminders that elect to become members of Childminding Ireland are doing so voluntarily.

### **Childminding Ireland - Current Membership Criteria**

- Garda Vetting for childminding
- Valid Childminding Insurance
- Code of Ethics
- Child Protection training – by July 2019
- First Aid training for childminding – by July 2019

If you have any queries or require any additional information, please email [support@childminding.ie](mailto:support@childminding.ie).