

Full text Draft Childminding Regulation 13

Part IV

The Childminding Service

Regulation 13 - The home setting

- (1) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that premises of the childminding service is:
 - (a) safe and secure,
 - (b) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
 - (c) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,
 - (d) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for the maximum number of children at any given time, and
 - (e) appropriate for the purpose of carrying on a childminding service.
- (2) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that children attending the service have access to age appropriate toys and materials to facilitate play and development.
- (3) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that children attending the service have access to a safe space for outdoor play on a daily basis, whether on the premises or in another easily accessible location.
- (4) A registered provider of a childminding service shall provide a safe and suitable sleep space for children attending the service.
- (5) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children is available for use for the children attending the childminding service at all times.

Childminding Regulations 2024 – DCEDIY Explanatory Guidance

Part IV

The Childminding Service

Regulation 13 - The home setting

This Regulation sets out that a childminders home will need to be safe and secure and suitable for childminding. To assess this Tusla will consider the general safety and security of the home, looking at things like access to doors/garden gates or garden ponds or garages that might have dangerous items in them. The childminder's home needs to be stable, secure, clean, have adequate bathroom facilities and be a smoke-free area. Children should not be exposed to smoking or have access to any areas in the home that people smoke in. While considering the safety and security of the premises, when other businesses are co-located on the premises, such as a farm or a mechanic, this should be considered during the risk assessment and reflected in the policy on Risk Management and Assessment.

Children should not be able to leave the premises unsupervised and visitors to the house should not be left unsupervised with children. It is recognised that this is a home-based environment and as such there is no requirement for special equipment such as small toilets or lowered basins or special tables and chairs. It is expected that children will use the furniture in the home, just as they would in their own home, unless their age and stage requires equipment such as high chairs or booster seats.

In relation to cleaning and safety, there should be clear control measures for hazardous materials but this could be as straightforward as keeping these materials in a locked cabinet or in an area of the house that children have no access to.

The areas of the premises that make up the childminding service should be clearly communicated to parents and children. Childminder's will confirm to Tusla all the areas of the premises (including outdoor areas) that children have access to when applying to register their service.

A childminder is not required to have an outdoor space attached to the premises but should be in a position to facilitate regular outdoor play in an easily accessible location. Outdoor play should be an important part of any childminding service and childminders are encouraged to facilitate this on a daily basis. Travel to off-site outdoor spaces will need to be risk assessed by the childminder.

The rooms and space available to the children in the service and the accessibility to outdoor space may be considered by Tusla when setting the maximum number of children that can be cared for at any one time.

A suitable and appropriate space should be made available for children to sleep [in](#), however it may be a room that is used by the family at other times e.g. a main bedroom or a study. While in use as a sleep space it should only be used by the sleeping child/children and not accessed by any other member of the household. Childminders should follow their policy on safe sleep and this policy should be developed in line with the Tusla safe sleep guidance.

A first aid box for children must be kept in a prominent position in the home. Any person providing emergency cover to a childminding service should know where it is kept. A first aid box contents list will be provided to childminders.