

Choosing a Childminder

- Contact your local CCC/HSE for a list of Notified and Voluntary Notified Childminders in your area.
- Contact the Childminders in your area to enquire about vacancies.
- Arrange a visit to meet the Childminder and family members in the Childminders home. Consider the questions overleaf.
- Telephone all childminders post visit to inform them of your decision.

If you would like to access
a list of

NOTIFIED OR VOLUNTARY NOTIFIED CHILDMINDERS

in your area and would like further
information or support in choosing
a childminder, contact:

Childminder Advisory Officer
Kerry County
Childcare Committee,
Unit 5, DavCon Business Centre,
Monavalley Business Centre, Tralee.

Tel: 066 7181582

Email: denise@kerrycountychildcare.com

Website: www.kerrycountychildcare.com



**KERRY COUNTY CHILDCARE
COMMITTEE LIMITED**
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí Teo

Choosing a Childminder Guide for Parents



Types of Childminders

There are two types of Childminders, Notified and Voluntary Notified. Childminders can care for mixed age groups including school aged children.

Notified Childminder

Under the Childcare Act 1991 a Childminder caring for more than 3 preschool children from different families is legally obliged to notify the HSE of their childminding service.

The HSE provides an inspection service for all Notified Childminders. A full set of the Childcare (Preschool Services) Regulations No. 2 are available at www.hse.ie

- Childminders should care for no more than 5 pre-school children at any one time.
- Only 2 children should be under the age of 15 months.

Voluntary Notified Childminder

Certain Childminders have the option of Voluntary Notifying their childminding service.

Childminders caring for 3 or less preschool children at any one time can Voluntary Notify their service to their local County/City Childcare Committee.

Benefits of choosing a Notified or Voluntary Notified Childminder

- These Childminders have made a professional career choice and have worked in collaboration with the CCC's/ HSE in order to provide a high quality childminding service.
- They have received support in the delivery of a professional service including advisory visits to their home.
- They participate in training e.g. First Aid, Child Protection, Quality Awareness Programme etc.
- They have insurance and written references.
- They are involved in networking and meet other Childminders and children.
- Childminders receive a "Step by Step Guide to becoming a Professional Childminder" which includes a comprehensive set of policies and procedures and relevant documentation.
- They use Working Agreements, Child Information Record forms and Medicine Administration forms.
- Notified / Voluntary Notified Childminders have a planned daily routine to ensure the holistic development of your child while in their care.
- They have an emergency back-up person in the event of an accident / illness.
- They should have all the general childcare safety measures in place; e.g. fire guards, stair gates, enclosed garden etc.

Questions Parents should consider?

- Are you Notified to the HSE or Voluntary Notified to the CCC?
- Have you appropriate insurance including cover for car trips and outings?
- Have you been Garda vetted?
- What are the ages and number of children in your care?
- Will my child meet any other people whilst in your care?
- How are children helped to settle in?
- Can you describe a typical day to me?
- What sleeping facilities are provided?
- What meals/snacks are provided for the children?
- What is your approach to behaviour management?
- What childcare experience do you have?
- What training courses have you done?
- What toys and equipment do you have available for indoor and outdoor environments?
- What are the childminding fees and what is included?

These details should be agreed when completing the working agreement.

