

... Settling in your child

- Introduce your child with short visits initially so that your child is used to saying goodbye, knowing that you will return
- Make sure your child has a favourite toy or comfort as a link with home
- Ensure the childminder understands the child's special words and routines
- Talk things over with your childminder about how you want your child cared for
- If possible, leave time to exchange information each day about how your child is getting on
- Phone during the day or turn up unexpectedly occasionally, if you need to reassure yourself that your child is happy
- If you are concerned about certain issues talk to your childminder

... Childcare (Pre-school Services) Regulations 2006 P.46 - 47 states:

A Childminder (a person who provides a Childminding service) should look after not more than 5 Pre-school Children including her own Pre-school Children. No more than two Children should be less than 15 months. Exceptions in relation to numbers under 15 months can be made for multiple Births and Siblings. A Childminder should have a telephone and a second person must be available to cope with emergencies.



... General Info.

The following information should be referred to in the Policies & Procedures of the Childminding Service

Working Agreement

- A working agreement is recommended between parent and childminder. It should include collection and pick up times, payments, holidays, illness, food, outings etc.

collection time Often collecting time can cause a difficulty. In order to get attention from the parent the child may display signs of unwanted behaviour. This can be common behaviour for a child who is just glad to see the parent and wants some attention. Talk about this with your childminder so that it does not become a problem and two adults do not get played off against each other.

Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

- From January 2010 parents will be entitled to a FREE place in a pre-school for children in the year prior to starting school. For Childminders there are two options:
- **Option one:** Childminders who are notified to the HSE and providing an appropriate educational programme for not less than 5 children of the qualifying age may be entitled to participate in the scheme provided they meet all the relevant criteria.
- **Option two:** Childminders who operate a full-time day-care service and provide an appropriate pre-school service for 2 hours 15 min per day five days per week may be eligible to participate.
- Information on how and where to access the free pre-school place is available from Meath County Childcare Committee.

... Conclusion

It is hoped that the information Brochure can help to minimise the anxieties experienced by parents leaving their child with a childminder. As this information is a guide only, parents may wish to receive more advice on childminding. If so you will find relevant contact details on the back page.



Please contact

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Childminding Advisory Officer

or

Maria Lynch

Parents Information Officer



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Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath.

Tel (046) 9073010

Fax (046) 9067221

Web www.mccc.ie

Email meathchildcare@eircom.net

Useful contacts

Pre-school Inspection Team

HSE, Family Resource Centre, Commons Road,
Navan, Co. Meath. Tel. (046) 9074431

PARENT LINE

Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.
Tel. 1890 927 277. Web www.parentline.ie

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Meath county childcare committee CHOOSING A CHILDMINDER A Guide for Parents





Introduction

Meath County Childcare Committee seeks to promote quality childcare services. A safe and stimulating environment is vital for children so that parents have confidence that their children are well cared for.

This Publication is intended as a guide to Provide Parents with Clear and Concise information about Childminding.



.... When you are Choosing a Childminder

- Take time
- Ask questions
- Check that the childminder is Voluntary Notified
- Communicate your needs

.... How Do I find a Childminder?

- Contact the Childminding Advisory Officer for a list of Voluntary Notified Childminders
- By contacting the HSE Pre-school Inspection Team
- Through your local Parent and Toddler Group or pre-school
- Through your local Public Health Nurse
- By word of mouth
- Through your local newspapers
- Through Childminding Ireland

.... Steps to Choosing a Childminder

- Arrange to meet with a few childminders in your area in their own homes
- Prepare a list of questions and issues you want to bring up beforehand and make notes
- Talk to friends, neighbours, other parents and the Childminding Advisory Officer with the County Childcare committee
- Ensure you check out two references from the Childminder
- Enquire if the Childminder is Voluntary Notified to Meath County Childcare Committee or Notified to the HSE Pre-school Inspection team



.... What to look for

The skills of a Childminder and suitable Person is someone who:

- Likes and relates well to children, who will be gentle and kind and keep your child safe
- Has the ability to listen
- Is sympathetic/tolerant and kind
- Is fair with the children and with their own children
- Is clear thinking
- Understand their own child's feelings
- Is the childminder professional in their approach to parents?
- Is self confident
- Has the ability to think of others
- Has a good relationships with children in their care
- Has plenty of energy
- Is in good health
- Uses appropriate language

.... Questions to Be asked

- 1 Are you Voluntary Notified to Meath County Childcare Committee?
- 2 Are you notified to the HSE?
- 3 How many children do you care for?
- 4 What are the ages of the children in your care?
- 5 What hours of childcare do you provide?
- 6 What is your daily routine?
- 7 What type of activities do you provide?
- 8 Is outdoor play part of your daily routine?
- 9 Will other people be in your home while my child is here?
- 10 What emergency arrangements do you have in place, e.g. Sickness of child/yourself, fire prevention, accident etc...?
- 11 How will the children be disciplined?
- 12 What type of food do you offer to children in your care?
- 13 Are you insured to mind children in your home?
- 14 Do you have adequate car insurance?
- 15 What childcare training have you done?
- 16 Have you been Garda Vetted?
- 17 Do you have Policies and Procedures for your service?
- 18 How long have you been a Childminder?
- 19 Issues for further discussion?
 - Fees
 - Outings
 - Rest/sleeping facilities
 - Toilet training

The Childminder should ask you to complete a working agreement, which will cover all these matters →

.... Childminder's Home

- Visit the home and meet the Childminder there
- Is the home caring and friendly, yet stimulating?
- Are the premises safe?
- Make sure there are childproof locks on windows and doors, guards on fires and stairs and smoke alarms. There should be no trailing flexes and low-level glass should be protected
- Is it a homely environment
- Is it cosy and warm?
- Is there enough space for your child to be cared for and to play freely and safely?
- Are there a variety of age and stage appropriate toys to play with? Look for crayons, books, play kitchens, jigsaws and a good variety of outdoor toys etc.
- Are the kitchen, toilets and other rooms clean?
- Outdoors, is this safe, check for hazards? Is there a securely fenced off area?
- Are there any pets?
- Trust your first impression and gut feeling



.... Your Childminder will require the following information from you

- 1 The child's name and address
- 2 The child's date of birth
- 3 Details of parents' places of work
- 4 Telephone numbers-home and work
- 5 The name and telephone number of the person to be contacted in an emergency
- 6 Name of at least two adults who are authorised to collect your child
- 7 The name, address and telephone number of the child's doctor
- 8 Necessary medical for dietary information
- 9 A signed agreement for medical treatment
- 10 Consent for medication to be given
- 11 Consent for outings
- 12 The child's likes dislikes, fears and comforts

