



Childminders' News

Galway City and County Childcare Committee

Volume 7, Issue 2

Spring 2009

National Childminders' Week: March 28th – April 3rd

Special points of interest:

- National Childminders Week
- QAP In Loughrea
- Childminders' Seminar
- Morning Networks
- Training Calendar
- Launch of Mobile Play-bus
- Keeping Safe Leaflet for Providers and Parents
- International Family Daycare Conference Funding Application
- Teddy Bears Picnic in Portumna
- Registration: Page 4

Two events have been arranged to celebrate National Childminders' Week in Galway. One for childminders and Children and an evening event just for Childminders. Monday March 30th we will be celebrating with a party at the Childminders' Play Morning at the Ballybane Community Centre. Childminders and their minded and own children are welcome to arrive from 10am to settle in and play. At 10:30 Laurie from Gymboree will take over the children's activity for an hour of music, songs and fun in which children and adults participate together. At 11:30 we will have a celebratory lunch with child friendly sandwiches, fruit, juice and milk. Tea and Coffee for

adults. And of course, what is a celebration without cake!

There is no charge to this event, however, as numbers are required for catering, those attending must pre-book their places. See *Registration Form* on the back page.

The second event is a Childminders' Dinner. We have booked the House Hotel in Galway City for a 3 course dinner from 8:00pm on Friday April 3rd. This should be a lovely evening to get together and celebrate the good work Childminders do every day caring for children and supporting families. The cost of this event for Childminders is

€10.00 and pre-registration is required. See *Registration form* on back page.

Throughout National Childminders' Week listen to Galway Bay Fm for a promotional advertisement highlighting the week.

The Theme for NCW, as set by Childminding Ireland is "Síolta - Watering the Seeds of Quality in Childminding". Anyone who would like to collect the Síolta Childminders' Manual can call into our office.

Don't forget: Tuam Childminders Morning falls on N.C. Week: Wednesday April 1st 11—1:30PM at Go Bananas (see inside panel for details)

Childminders' Seminar All Set for June!

Our second Childminders' Seminar Day has been booked at the Clayton Hotel for June 13th. Beginning at 9:30 am with registration, tea/coffee. Our key note speaker is Mary Daly of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment who will deliver the morning address focusing on the Framework for Early Learning. We have planned two workshops for the day, including 'Caring for the

Child with Additional Needs in the Childminding Setting' delivered by Jan Mulvaney. The second workshop will be delivered by the Sue Corbett and Ann Marie Lydon of the Community Dietetic Services of the HSE, focusing on nutrition, food preparation and menu planning for Childminders. The day will also include lunch and we will finish off with a fun session, bringing music and



Visit the NCCA's website at www.ncca.ie

dance to children.

Please use the *registration form* on the back page. A fee of €20.00 is required to book your place. **This seminar is limited to 40 places so book early!**

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE: Galway Childcare Committee Helping Parents and Carers Choose Safely

A new leaflet, '*Keeping Children Safe*', contains guidelines and information for parents and carers on how to choose safe services and activities for children.

Mary Giblin, Co-ordinator of the Galway CCC said; "Children's safety is paramount and all organisations have a duty of care when working with children. While parents and carers are responsible to ensure that children are safe at all times, good standards in relation to children's welfare are fundamental for all organisations, whether workers are paid or unpaid".

"*Keeping Children Safe*" has information on best practice in services and how to voice concerns if parents or carers are unhappy in any way with the organisation. Brid Burke, HSE Children First Information and Advice Officer explained, "For example, each group or organisation needs to have a designated person and procedure for responding to Child Protection and Welfare Concerns. The designated person is responsible for seeking advice from the HSE if they have concerns about a child's safety or welfare".

The leaflet is available from the offices of the Galway City & County Childcare Committee. Telephone 091 752039 for further details.

Upcoming training with the Galway City and County Childcare Committee

Network Meetings: For all Childcare Services. Arts and Crafts with Therese Reynolds. Easter Theme. Dates: March 19th, Loughrea Hotel; March 25th Park Lodge Hotel Spiddal (as Gaeilge); March 26th Station House, Clifden. **8:00 PM start all nights.**

After School Network Meeting: Manual Handling April 28th@10am Menlo Park. Fee of €10.00 (See back page).

Quality Awareness Programme: Introduction to Childminding: Dates: April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28. Attendance at all 6 nights required. Loughrea Hotel and Spa. 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Pre-Register on back page.

First Aid Training: (Pre-register back page)

Cost: €25.00 10:00 am—5:00 pm at all locations
East Galway: Loughrea Hotel and Spa. March 21st and 22nd.
Galway City: Menlo Park Hotel. May 30th and 31st.
West: Ionad Churan Leanai, An Spideal. April 25th and 26th.

Children First: Keeping Safe Training for Childminders: Date October 3rd and 4th. Registration details in next newsletter.

Quality Awareness Programme: Introduction to Childminding. Autumn dates in the city to be announced in next newsletter.

Childminder Network Mornings:

The following are the days and times of the Childminder Network Mornings:

Ballybane Community Centre: Every Monday from 10 am to 11 am. **Free** to all Childminders, their minded and their own children. Contact Jean Register for more info: 087-6786115.

Ballybane Library: Every Tuesday morning from 10 am. Story time and resource lending. **No Cost** to attend. Contact Jean Register, as above.

Go Bananas, Tuam, County Galway. 11 AM—1:30 PM **Free** Childminders' Morning the first Wednesday of every month. March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd. Contact Bernie at Go Bananas for directions and details. 093-60931.

Cardio Kids, Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. Thursday mornings playgroup at 10 am. **Hotel charges for attendance at this group.**

Launch of the Mobile Playbus Service

Mark Saturday, 18th April in your diaries for the launch of the brand new Mobile Playbus, or 'Bus Spraoi', for Connemara and the West. This mobile facility, which offers a sessional childcare service for two and half to five-year-old children, has proven to be very popular with parents and children in the Connemara area. The original service has been operating since 2003, along with another service in Galway

City. This community event will take place in Carraroe village and there will be music, 'ceoil agus craic' along with fun activities for the children on the day. All are invited so why not come along for a great afternoon out with the kids?

While most Childminders will not be working on Saturdays, we like to welcome you to come along,

or to tell the families you provide care for, so that they might come along, to our celebration.

The Playbus is a unique service and children who do not usually have the opportunity to visit it can do so on this special day. For further information, contact the Colette Coughlan, Information Officer, Galway City & County Childcare Committee

International Family Daycare Registration Details:

To register for the conference contact one of the following organizations:

- The International Family Daycare Organisation has registration details on their website at: www.ifdco.com
- Childminding Ireland has a link from their website to IFDCO for conference information. They are at www.childminding.ie or you can call them at 01-2878466
- The conference organizers are: Conference Partners Ltd., 2nd Floor Heritage House, Dundrum Office Park, Dublin 14. Contact Orla Cahalane at 01-2968688.

The Galway City and County Childcare Committee is not involved in the conference or in the registration process, but is supporting local Childminders to attend.

International Family Daycare Conference: Subsidy to attend for Galway Childminders

The Galway City and County Childcare Committee has set aside a budget to support Galway Childminders to attend the International Family Daycare Conference in Cork from July 20th to 25th. We have decided to part finance accommodation and registration costs, up to a maximum of 50% of the costs incurred, however, this will be limited by the number of Childminders attending. In order to establish the amount of funds available and inform

each Childminder the amount of funds we can commit to providing, we require all those interested to complete the Expression of Interest Form (below) and return to the Galway CCC by the end of March. At that time, we will assess the requests within the budgetary limitations. We will then write out to each applicant informing them of the amount we will be able to commit to them individually. Refunding of expenses will be similar to the CMD Grant system. We will

pay out to Childminders who attend, after the event, only to expenses with receipts to support the claim. However, prior to attending applicants will be assured of the amount pledged by the Galway CCC.

If anyone has any queries regarding this process, please call Sheila Garrity at the Galway CCC for clarification. We hope that this will be a fair process and that all childminders wishing to attend can be supported in some way by the Galway CCC.

Expression Of Interest Form: International Family Daycare Conference (cut out and return by end of March)

I wish to apply for grant aid to attend the International Family Daycare Conference in Cork. July 20th to 25th 2009.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Please check which box best describes your Childminding Service:

| | |
|---|--|
| I operate a Childminding Service Notified to the HSE West | |
| I operate a Childminding Service exempt from the Pre-School Services Regulations. I have completed the National Guidelines for Childminders and am Voluntarily Notified to the Galway City and County Childcare Committee | |
| I operate a Childminding Service exempt from the Pre-School Services Regulations. I am currently working on completing the National Guidelines for Childminders with the assistance of the Galway City and County Childcare Committee | |
| I operate a Childminding Service exempt from the Pre-School Services Regulations. I avail of advice, support and assistance of the Galway City and County Childcare Committee | |
| I am setting up a Childminding Service. I am availing of advice, support and assistance of the Galway City and County Childcare Committee | |
| I operate an informal Childminding Service exempt from the Pre-School Services Regulations. I do not avail of any assistance from the Galway City and County Childcare Committee | |

My estimated expenses are as follows:

| Registration | Full Cost | Maximum Funding: 50% | Total Requested |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Full Event: Member of Childminding Ireland | €350.00 | €175.00 | |
| Full Event: Non-Member | €450.00 | €225.00 | |
| Day Delegate | €150.00 | €75.00 | |
| Accommodation: Refund limit set at €50/night | €100.00 maximum | €50.00 per night | |
| Social Programme: Friday July 24 Gala Dinner €60/ Pub Night €40 | €60.00/€40.00 | €30.00/€20.00 | |
| TOTALS: | | | |

I understand this Expression of Interest is an application and that no funds have been committed to me by the Galway City and County Childcare Committee at this time, however I will receive written confirmation of the amount the Galway CCC will pledge to me prior to the conference.

I understand that payment of any grant aid to will take place after the conference, and will be paid out on receipted expenses only, for accommodation and registration costs, as agreed prior to attending event.

I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the conference organisers (see details on page two of this newsletter) to make my own arrangements for registration, accommodation, transport, etc. The Galway City and County Childcare Committee is not responsible for any difficulties, errors incurred in this process.

I understand that if I do not attend the conference, no funds will be paid to me.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Tuam Rd
Galway

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Fax: 091-735701
E-mail: sheila@galwaychildcare.com
Mobile: 087-9421895



Childminders' Teddy Bear Picnic: A Tri-County Event!



The Childminder Advisory Officers in the counties of Galway, Offaly and Tipperary are organising an event in South East County Galway for Childminders in all 3 counties. The Teddy Bears' Picnic will take place on May 6th in Portumna Forest Park. Time: 10.30-12.30.



Activities will include story telling, face painting and games. There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Fiona McHugh, CMAO for County Offaly based at the Pre School Services in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. You can reach Fiona at 057 9370630 or email: Fiona.McHugh2@hse.ie

Registration Form

**Please complete, detach and return, along with payment to Sheila Garrity, CMAO.
See Address above.**

Make Cheques payable to: Galway City and County Childcare Committee.

| Sign up for: | Date/Time | Price |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Training: East Galway. Loughrea Hotel and Spa | March 21/22. 10am-5pm. | €25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Training: Galway City. Menlo Park Hotel. | May 30/31st. 10am-5pm. | €25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Training: An Spideal. Ionad Churan Leanai. | April 25/26. 10am-5pm. | €25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Handling: After School Network. Daytime event. Menlo Park Hotel. | April 28. 10am. | €10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Awareness Programme: Intro to Childminding. Loughrea Hotel. Thursdays | Apr. 23-May 28. 8-10pm | No Cost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childminders' Seminar Day | June 13. 930am-3PM | €20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childminders' Dinner. House Hotel, Galway City | April 3rd @ 8:00pm | €10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Childminders' Week: Morning Celebration. Ballybane. FREE EVENT Pre-Book the number of children and the number of adults attending. Time: 10—12:30. Monday March 30th. | | |

Text or email to confirm number of children/adults attending. Also any food allergies?

Total: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____