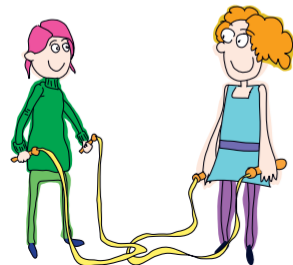


## WHAT IS A CHILDMINDER?

A childminder cares for a small group of mixed aged children in a home-based setting. If a childminder is caring for more than 3 preschool children they are legally required to notify their local health board's Preschool Services. (If children are from the same family there is no need to notify) If a childminder cares for 3 or less children they are encouraged to voluntarily notify the local childcare committee of their service.



## WHAT SHOULD I ASK A CHILDMINDER WHEN I FIRST MAKE CONTACT?

What are your opening hours?

What are your fees?

Is there flexibility around part time arrangements? Holidays?

Is your service fully insured including outings, car travel?

Is your service notified to the Western Health Board or the Galway City and County Childcare Committee?

How many children are you caring for now? What would be the maximum number?

Do you have references and are copies available?

Can I visit your childminding service?

## WHAT SHOULD I ASK WHEN I FIRST VISIT THE CHILDMINDER'S HOME?

■ How long have you been caring for children?

■ Do you attend relevant training? Do you have first aid training?

■ What will my child do all day?

■ How often do the children go outside?

■ Where will my child sleep?

■ May I look around at the rooms and outdoor area used by the children?

■ Do you provide meals? Do you have a menu plan (or do they bring their own meals)?



■ What happens if my child has an accident or becomes ill?

■ Who else will have contact with my child?

■ How do you encourage positive behaviour?

■ Can I visit anytime my child is with you?

■ Do I fill out any forms providing information about my child?

■ Will there be time at the end of the day to discuss my child and her/his care and development?

■ Will we sign a written contract?

## WHAT DO I LOOK FOR IN THE HOME?

Is the environment bright, clean, safe, warm and caring?

Is the area to be used for childcare suitable for the purpose?

Are there plenty of toys and equipment to meet a variety of ages and stages of development (clean and well maintained)?

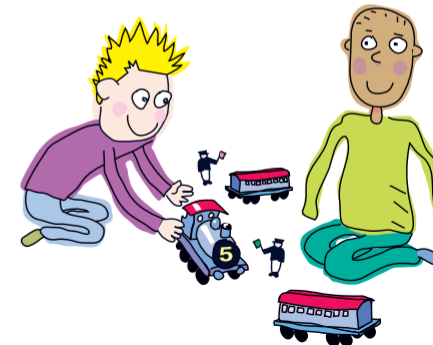
Observe the childminder interacting with the children. Is the relationship positive? Do the children seem happy?

Where does nappy changing take place? Is the bathroom suitably set up for young children? (i.e. step up or potty seats, cleaning material out of reach)

Do the children have individual places to sleep?

Has the childminder considered activities for the day and do they suit the children?

Is the outdoor area safe, well fenced, well supervised?





## **GALWAY CITY & COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement**

The Galway City & County Childcare Committee is committee to promoting equal access to a choice of quality childcare services that will enrich the lives of children and their families.

The information contained in this pamphlet is just to get you started in your childcare search and by no means covers the vast range of topics concerning childcare. Should you require additional information or support in making the right childcare choice for you and your child, please contact the committee.



### **HOW DO I FIND A CHILDMINDER?**

(see contact information for details)

- Western Health Board's list of Notified Childminders
- Galway City and County Childcare Committee's Childminder Advisory Officer
- Place an advertisement in a local newspaper
- Reply to a childminder's advertisement
- Word of mouth; ask your friends, family and neighbours

### **Relevant contact information:**

#### **Galway City and County Childcare Committee**

Unit 9B Liosban Retail Centre  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Tel: 091 752039/735715  
FAX: 091 735701

Email: [mail@galwaychildcare.com](mailto:mail@galwaychildcare.com)  
Website: [www.galwaychildcare.com](http://www.galwaychildcare.com)

#### **Western Health Board**

Pre-School Services  
Unit 8B Liosban Retail Centre  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Tel: 091 771928/771947



**Bord Sláinte an Iarthair  
Western  
Health Board**

#### **Childminding Ireland**

Wicklow Enterprise Park  
The Murrough  
Wicklow Town  
Tel: 0404 64007  
WEB: [www.childminding-irl.com](http://www.childminding-irl.com)

#### **Department of Health and Children**

Hawkins House  
Poolbeg St., Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 671 4711

#### **Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs**

Hynes Building, Augustine House  
Merchants Road, Galway  
Tel: 091 566191

#### **An Comhchoiste Réamhscolaíochta Teo**

7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2,  
Tel: 01 639 8442/ 01 639 8449

#### **Barnardo's National Children's Resource Centre**

41 – 43 Prospect Hill, Galway  
Tel: 091 565058

#### **Irish Preschool and Playgroup Assc.**

Unit 4, Broomhill Business Complex,  
Broomhill Road, Dublin 24  
Tel: 01 4630010  
WEB: [www.ippa.ie](http://www.ippa.ie)

#### **National Children's Nurseries Assc.**

Unit 12c, Bluebell Business Park,  
Old Naas Road, Bluebell, Dublin 12  
Tel: 01 8722053  
WEB: [www.ncna.net](http://www.ncna.net)

# **CHOOSING A CHILDMINDER: A PARENT'S GUIDE**



**Galway City & County  
Childcare Committee**  
Coiste Cúram Leanaí  
Chontae & Chathair na Gaillimhe