

National Childminding Week 2011: "Learning is Fun!"
Agenda 9th – 16th April

All week:

Children can enter the *Childminding Ireland National Art and Photography Competition* –contact Childminding Ireland for details. Childminders whose children entered the competition are asked to bring along a copy of their entries for display at Saturday's Seminar at the Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit.

Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th April

Childminders' First Aid, Carlton (formerly Days) Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway

Monday, 11th April:

(Official launch of Childminding Week, Dublin)

Wednesday, 13th April:

Carraroe Library, 11am – 1pm : Storytelling, tea & scones for parents, childminders, and anyone with an interest in Childminding.

Thursday, 14th April:

Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway 11.30am – 1pm.– *Fire and Ice* - our 'Mad Scientist' roams amongst the children with bubbles and 'smoke' ensuring lots of fun and a little learning too!

Friday, 15th April:

National Childminder's Day – encourage the children to get involved in celebrating your vital role in their lives – start singing your own praises! Get the children to bake a cake; tell a story; make a card for their childminder.

Saturday, 16th April:

Childminders' Seminar, Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, Galway 9.30am – 2pm.

9.30am Tea & Coffee on arrival

10.00am Network meeting, updates

10.20am **Health, Welfare and Development of the Child in your Care**
– *Breda McCarthy, PSS Manager examines ways a Childminder can ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the service through the provision of the appropriate opportunities, experiences, activities, interaction, materials*

and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child and the child's cultural context.

11.00am Workshops – group divides – one hour each, then swaps.

Workshop 1: 'Let's Celebrate Difference!'

*Every one is different and unique. Children need to play and learn in an environment that values and respects difference and diversity. Children should be given opportunity to be proud of their individual cultures and share with others in their setting and community. In this short workshop we will begin to explore together 'what makes me different'. We will share and discuss ideas to enable children to develop their full potential regardless of difference. We will look at our own practice and how we might challenge others in accepting diversity. We will think about topics to embrace 'knowledge and understanding of our world'. **Childminders are asked to bring a cardboard box to this workshop.***

Workshop 2: Creativity in the Home:

In young children the opportunity to express themselves freely in a creative way is a vital part of their development. The process of creativity allows children to explore, construct, discover and consider themselves and the world around them while producing art, music, sculpture, dance, poetry or prose: moreover, creative problem solving and visionary thinking is part of that progression. This workshop will offer Childminders practical relevant activities, include group sharing and discussion and link contemporary theories and ideas. The workshop will use natural and open-ended materials; and explore the prospect of child led creativity.

1.00pm Childminders' Network Lunch

2.00pm Close

Childminders are asked to book early so we can gauge numbers for lunch. Please phone Galway City & County Childcare Committee on 091 752039.