Upcoming Dates To Remember:

- Quality Awareness Programme: September 17, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 7:30—10 PM. Tuam location. Pre-register on back page.
- First Aid Training: October 4/5, 10 AM—5 PM. Oranmore location. Pre-register on back page.
- Children First Child Protection Training: November 5, 6:730—10 PM + Nov 8—full day. Loughrea area.
- Annual Galway Childcare Conference. Saturday November 29th. Salthill Hotel, Galway.
- Meeting: Assist in planning Childminder Development Programme—NCIP—provides for an additional funding stream for Childminders for the purpose of necessary renovation work, or equipment related to the service. Childminders may apply for grant aid to undertake quality improvements which are essential to their existing level of service provision, subject to a maximum of €5,000 per full time place. The maximum grant level (€25,000) under this additional funding scheme of qualitative grants will be approved only in the case of essential repairs or improvements undertaken by notified/ voluntary notified Childminders.

To apply for funding under the NCIP Childminders should contact the office and request an ‘Expression of Interest Form’ be sent. This form is a brief outline of the project the Childminder plans to undertake. Submit this completed form to the Galway CCC. (This form can also be downloaded from the Office of the Minister for Children’s website-use the following link: http://www.omc.gov.ie/documents/ childcare/ncip_private.pdf)

The next step in the application process is the Project Proposal Framework. This detailed form must be completed and makes up the basis of the application for funding under the NCIP. The ‘Framework’ is broken into the following sections:

1. Basic overview of the project: What you plan to do with the funding
2. Information about the local need for your project. (i.e. Other childcare services in area, local population, new estates being developed, etc)
3. Capacity of Applicant: Your legal status, your experience to date, your aims and objectives, written policies and procedures and capacity to manage the funding and the service.
4. Project Proposal: Costings and timescales

Under this funding Initiative applicants must provide 25% of the cost of the project. Therefore, if you are developing an outdoor play area, for example, and it will cost €4,000, a successful NCIP application would cover €3,000 and the applicant must provide €1,000. This funding is for necessary work to comply with a recent HSE inspection report or to comply with the National Guidelines for Childminders. The local appraisal committee will be reviewing applications in October. If you are interested in the funding scheme contact Sheila Garrity at the Galway CCC.

Childminder Development Grants

Existing Childminders, or a person setting up a Childminding Service, may apply for funding under the NCIP for smaller grants of €1,000. This grant is to cover the costs of safety equipment, books, toys or equipment for in or out of doors. This funding, announced in April of 2008, with application packages coming available in June, provides for 40 grants per county, with the exception of 3 counties. Galway, Meath and Donegal, due the positive response and success of the previous Childminding initiative, are being provided with funding for 70 Childminder grant packages. This additional funding is a testament to the work of local Childminders in notifying and complying with HSE regulations, the Voluntary Notification programme and involvement in training/courses facilitated by the Galway City and County Childcare Committee. At the first appraisal subcommittee, 31 applications were approved, with the next meeting to be held in September. For information and a grant application, contact Sheila Garrity at the Galway CCC. See contact details on back page.
A great day was had by all who attended our Seminar in June at the Clayton Hotel. The stylish venue added to the wonderful atmosphere created by such a lively and enthusiastic group of Childminders and trainers. Patricia Murray, CE of Childminding Ireland, addressed the delegates focusing on how Childminders should market their unique and necessary service to parents within their communities. Childminders are offering a multi faceted service, meeting the varying developmental needs of the children in their care and should be proud and confident to promote that service to perspective parents.

During the day Childminders attended workshops on Dramatic Play, Arts and Crafts in the home and ‘Story-telling, Story-dancing and Story-reading’. Resource kits, funded by the HSE and designed to complement the workshops were presented to all the active Childminders in attendance.

Feedback from the day has been very positive and people are already talking about next years seminar! For those interested, a planning meeting will be held shortly to discuss and plan the National Childminding Initiative in Galway for 2009. (See article below: Advisory Meeting)

Special Thanks
Thank you to the following Childminders who assisted with the seminar day, prior to the event and at the event itself: Jean Register, Maura McKevitt, Carmel Mannion, Oranmore, Rosemary Killilea, Cregcaragh, with Mary Giblin, Coordinator, Galway CCC. Patricia Murray, CE Childminding Ireland, President IFDCO. Pictured with Childminders’ Resource Kit presented at the Seminar on June 8th, 2008.

Each September the Galway City and County Childcare Committee must submit their Action Plan for the upcoming year, to PÓBAL, our funding body, and to the Office of the Minister for Children. This plan outlines the actions to be taken, including facilitated training, provision of resources and information, networking opportunities and other supports to providers and potential providers in the city and county area. In order that the Childminding Initiative meets with the needs of those availing of the services, a meeting of the Childminders’ Advisory Forum will be held on Tuesday August 26th at 730 PM in the office of the Galway City and County Childcare Committee. This is an open meeting. If you have ideas for training, meetings or other topics you would like to see included in next year’s services to Childminders, you are most welcome. Please text Sheila to let her know you are attending (for numbers/space requirements) at 087-9421895.
Children First: Child Protection Training for Childminders

Many Childminders have requested the Galway CCC to facilitate training on the topic of child protection, but until recently, we have only been able to offer such training on a few occasions. Two local trainers, Sinead Gunning and Padraic Kelly, have recently been accredited in this area and are available to us to offer the Children First Child Protection Training for Childminders, in co-operation with the Galway City and County Childcare Committee. This 12 hour training will be offered in November as follows:

November 5th & 6th: 730-10 PM
November 8th: 930AM to 530PM.
(Attendance is required at all 12 hours)

Quality Awareness Programme

For those Childminders/Potential Childminders who received the Childminder Development Grant and are required to attend the Quality Awareness Programme, this training will take place over 5 consecutive Wednesdays in Tuam town as follows: September 17th, 25th, October 2nd, 9th, 16th.

The Quality Awareness Programme is an introductory or refresher course on what is involved in childminding. Participants will be encouraged to regard the course as a stepping-stone to other more comprehensive training programmes.

The main objectives of the Quality Awareness Programme is to:
- Provide participants with an awareness of the issues involved in the provision of a quality childminding service
- Enhance the knowledge, skills and professional status of childminders
- Develop the childminder’s confidence and motivation
- Encourage networking with childminders in the locality
- Encourage Childminders to sign up to the National Guidelines for Childminders, Voluntary Notification System.

The QAP is also open to those interested, who have not availed of the CMDG. (See training registration form on back page)

Local Area Networks

In the Ballybane/Renmore area of Galway City an active Childminders’ network has been meeting for several years now, on a weekly basis. They meet at a community centre and local library with their minded children. One aspect of the National Childminding Initiative is to support the development of Childminders’ Networks. The rationale is that networks help break down the isolation often experienced by single handed Childminders, provides a venue for sharing of information and experiences and mutual support; acts as a means of referring parents from full services to those with vacancies and can be a venue for formal or informal training and support from the Galway CCC.

In recent months there has been a number of new Childminders setting up in some specific areas of the County: Headford/Beilclare, Tuam Town and Monivea/Menlough. We will be contacting Childminders in these areas over the next few months to explore the potential for establishing Childminder Networks in these communities.

Each network will reflect the individual interests and ideas of those attending. Some may meet in the evenings, some in the day with minded children. Some may meet weekly, or monthly. We will explore each area’s preference.

If you are Childminding in these areas expect a call from the CMAO —Sheila Garrity — to discuss your interest, ideas and availability to be part of a local Childminders’ Network.
I wish to register for the following training:
(check any box)

**Quality Awareness Programme**
September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16.
730 PM - 10 PM each night
Tuam

**First Aid Training**
October 4/5
10 AM - 5:00 PM, both days
Fee: €25.00 *(must be enclosed)*
Oranmore

**Children First:**
**Child Protection Training**
November 5, 6: 730—10 PM + Nov 8 - full day.
FEE: €20.00 *(must be enclosed)*
Loughrea

Details Of Childminding Service:
(Please check relevant box)

1. My Childminding Service is Notified to the HSE.
2. My Childminding Service is Voluntarily Notified to the Galway City & County Childcare Committee. under the National Guidelines for Childminders
3. I am currently Childminding. I am working on completing the Voluntary Notification at present.
4. I operate an informal Childminding Service.
5. I am planning to develop a Childminding service in the future.

Amount Enclosed: Do Not Send Cash

Name:
Address:

Mobile Number: for text update
Phone: Email: