

Childminding Newsletter

Dear Childminder,

Welcome to our first Childminding Newsletter! We have lots of exciting news and important dates that we would like to share with you on a regular basis.

Keep up to date with latest Childminding News

*****Childminders Don't Miss Out!! Collect your FREE Book Bag*****

The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., under the National Action Plan for Childminding has launched the *Childminding Little Libraries Initiative*.

What is the aim of the Childminding Little Libraries?



The Childminding Little Libraries Initiative - supports childminders to develop little libraries in their homes with quality book titles in English and Irish. The focus of this initiative is to support early language and literacy development.

Childminders are invited to contact Westmeath County Childcare Committee to arrange to collect their book bag. This project is aimed at childminders who are not required to register with Tusla, Tusla registered childminders can access their book bags from their local library as part of the Little Libraries Initiative.

New Public Health Advice: All providers of Early Learning and Childcare, School Age Childcare and Childminding

Updated COVID-19 Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare from 28 February 2022.

Government have agreed to remove remaining restrictions relating to mask-wearing and physical distancing in early learning and childcare settings. If childminders or children wish to wear face masks or coverings, they may do so.

For all the most up to date Covid 19 Guidance, please see the HPSC Covid19 Public Health Advice for the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts for implementation from February 28 [click here](#)

First 5 also have a childminding section which has some useful information tailored for childminders. <https://first5.gov.ie/guidance/child-minding>

Helplines for Providers



The HSE Live helpline for COVID-19 related queries remains open during the transitional period: **1800 700 700 or 01 240 8787** or the HSE dedicated Early Learning and Childcare facility line on **01 511 9777**. If you need support or advice on Covid19 guidance, please contact Westmeath County childcare Committee on 0449335454

A NEW Guide – Choosing a Childminder

For many parents choosing the right type of early learning and childcare service is one of the most important decisions they will make, ensuring they select the right type of childcare that best suits their child and family's needs. We hope you will find this a useful tool when supporting parents.



The National Action Plan for Childminding



Consultation with childminders has informed the development of the Action Plan. Childminders will continue to be central to this process and will be consulted further at key stages. National Action Plan for Childminding (2021-2028) – Steering Group was established in Sept 2021, to drive, oversee and monitor implementation of the NAPC. This Steering group will support four Advisory Groups. Two Advisory Groups have been established and have representation from childminders and the National Voluntary Organisations. Keep up to date with the NAPC by visiting their website <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/df207-national-action-plan-for-childminding-2021-2028/>



New Childminders!!

Do you know anyone new to childminding in your area or considering opening their own Childminding service? If so, please feel free to share our **Childminding flyer** with them and we are more than happy to assist with any queries

Childminding Ireland Webinar - Monday 11 April 2022

Childminding Ireland will host a virtual webinar with Dr. Mary O’Kane on “*Supporting Anxious Children in Childminding Settings*”. In this webinar Dr. O’Kane will explain anxiety in children, why it occurs and its physical & emotional impact. She will offer practical advice on how childminders can support anxious children. To register for this event please email training@childminding.ie or phone 01 287 8466.

Here are some engaging and exciting spring activities for childminders: -

Some lovely ideas for Spring arts and crafts for toddlers.

<https://www.howweelearn.com/spring-crafts-for-toddlers/>

Some spring arts & crafts ideas for school age children.

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/spring-art-projects-for-kids/>