



## Research Call Out for Childminders!

**Are you a Childminder who would like to collaborate and share your expertise with us on new research that will help shape future childminding practice and policies?**

Your collaboration with Early Childhood Ireland on this research will help us better understand the valuable work of childminders and children's experiences of home-based care. Your expertise and participation are crucial to help us learn about:

1. Children's and childminders' experiences of mixed age groups in a home setting
2. Childminders' perspectives and application of Aistear and Síolta in practice

### About the project

Childminders can choose to take part in one of the two research projects listed above.

Funded by the Department of Children, Equality and Disability, these research projects will collaborate with childminders through consultations and observations with Early Childhood Ireland's researchers.

Early Childhood Ireland will collate the data and report on the findings in a report which will include recommendations that will shape future Childminding policy and practice.

### What can I expect if I participate?

Both projects will use a participatory research approach, which will involve Early Childhood Ireland's researchers collaborating with you and the children in your home. This may include:

- One creative activity with children to hear and see their views
- Observations by the researchers and/or childminders to learn about children's and childminders' experiences
- Reflections on observations with individual childminders and the researcher
- Focus groups with childminders to reflect on learning and shape recommendations

If you would like to participate, please register your interest in one or both projects [here](#) by **Monday, 7 April 2025**.

We will host a short online workshop in the near future to go through what will be involved.

### Are there any benefits if I participate?

The children may benefit from participating because being heard can be empowering and boost self-



confidence.

We hope that you feel valued and know that your contributions will influence recommendations that will shape Childminding policy and practice.

Your expertise and insights from the children you work with will be invaluable in this work.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Kathleen Tuite: [ktuite@earlychildhoodireland.ie](mailto:ktuite@earlychildhoodireland.ie)  
Phone: 087-981-8918

Valerie McArdle: [vmcardle@earlychildhoodireland.ie](mailto:vmcardle@earlychildhoodireland.ie)  
Phone: 086-167-2115