



### **South Dublin County Childcare Committee (SDCCC)** *Providing Services and Support for Childminders*

#### **Introduction to SDCCC**

In 2000 the National Development Plan allocated funding to the development of childcare with the specific aim of improving the quality, increasing childcare provision and places by introducing a more coordinated approach. As a result thirty three Childcare Committees were formed, each with an agreed set of outcomes for the various county/area. The **South Dublin County Childcare Committee (SDCCC)** was established in 2002 to coordinate the delivery of quality childcare (childbirth – 14 years) in South Dublin County. The SDCCC structure reflects a partnership approach with the statutory agencies operating in the area along with the community sector and private sector representation at board level.

#### **Support Services for Childminders**

South Dublin County includes Lucan, Palmerstown, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, Clondalkin, Tallaght, Firhouse, Knocklyon, Rathfarnham and Templeogue

SDCCC is working to promote the benefits of 'home from home' childcare and currently has a database of Childminders working across the County. SDCCC allocates a Programme Development Officer to each area and are happy to arrange an introductory visit and work with Childminders on developing a plan tailored made to meet your specific professional development and training requirements.

**Childminding Development Grants** – Childminders can access up to €1,000 for toys and equipment under the 2010 grant scheme. The application process involves a visit from a Programme Development Officer who will talk you through the short list of criterion for the funding. Funding is retrospective and a grant is payable upon the submission of receipts.

**Voluntary Notification** – If you have not notified with the HSE and are working with up to three children in your home you are able to notify voluntarily with SDCCC and you will be issued with a certificate for your parents' handbook/pack. As part of the Voluntary Notification process you will be required to attend several short training course including Child Protection, Emergency First Aid and Quality Awareness. At present SDCCC is rolling out a Childminders Training Programme for 2010.

Voluntary Notification benefits Childminders who wish to: Operate to high standards; Have their work valued and their contribution to the childcare sector recognised; Obtain guidance on the development of policies and standards in childcare; Participate in training, networking and other opportunities; Attend conferences, seminars and other events for

Childminders organised by SDCCC; Avail of financial supports such as the Childminder Capital Grant Scheme and the €15, 000 **Childminder Tax Exemption** (see SDCCC website for details); Remove the isolation often experienced by Childminders; Contact parents who are seeking family-based childcare places and have their names included on a public list of Childminders which is made available to parents (optional).

**Neighbourhood Networks** – It is not always easy to travel great distances if you are caring for several small children and as a result SDCCC is currently developing 'neighbourhood' networks providing localised support from other Childminders, including drop in mornings, toy exchange/loan schemes and network meetings at which issues can be discussed. The first network started in Lucan in February and other networks will be in your area from April/May 2010. If you would like to become involved in an informal friendly network with other Childminders in your area please contact SDCCC.

**Professional Development** – SDCCC are committed to working with Childminders on promoting the benefits of a 'home from home' childcare environment and raising the awareness of the contribution of Childminders as a valuable community resource and career choice. With this in mind SDCCC offers a wide range of professional development opportunities including free/low cost accredited and non accredited training course and themed workshops aimed at raising the quality standard of care provided to children.

### **SDCCC Neighbourhood Networking:**

Because Childminders work alone with children and can often feel isolated from colleagues. SDCCC is in the process of working with small clusters of Childminders throughout South Dublin County to reduce this problem and would encourage Childminders to get in touch if you would like to participate in the development of a network in your area. This might involve a coffee morning every 4-6 weeks to discuss any issues you have and get advice from other Childminders. Ideally Childminders would swap telephone numbers and email addresses in order to stay in touch in between meetings if necessary.

### **Contact Details:**

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