

Information for Childminders

South Dublin County Childcare Committee

Providing Services & Support for Childminders



Introduction to SDCCC

South Dublin County Childcare Committee (SDCCC) was established in 2002 to coordinate the delivery of quality childcare in South Dublin County. SDCCC has a number of aims including the implementation of government funding schemes, quality improvement of childcare services and support for parents in accessing childcare.

Support Services for Childminders

Professional Development - SDCCC is committed to working with Childminders on promoting the benefits of a 'home from home' childcare and raising awareness of the contribution of Childminders as a valuable community resource and career choice. SDCCC works closely with new Childminders by visiting their home and talking through the support services available to them.

Childminding Development Grants - Childminders can access up to €1,000 for toys and equipment under the current grants 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 eligible receipts.

Voluntary Notification - If you are working with up to three children in your home then Voluntary Notification is for you. Voluntary Notification benefits Childminders who wish to:

- Operate to higher standards
- Have their work valued and their contribution to the childcare sector recognised
- Obtain guidance on the development of policies in childcare
- Participate in free/low cost training and networking opportunities
- Attend conferences, seminars and other events for Childminders organised by SDCCC
- Avail of financial supports such as the Childminder Development Grant and Childminder Tax Exemption (see SDCCC website for details)
- Alleviate the isolation often experienced by Childminders
- Have your name included on a public list of Childminders which is made available to local parents (optional).

As part of the voluntary notification process you will be required to attend several short training course including Child Protection, Emergency First Aid and a Quality Awareness programme (QAP). At present SDCCC is rolling out a Childminders Training Programme for 2010/2011. You will be issued with a certificate for your parents' handbook.

Neighbourhood Meetings - It is not always easy to travel great distances if you are caring for several small children. SDCCC is currently developing 'neighbourhood' networks providing localised support for Childminders e.g. drop in mornings, toy exchange/loan schemes and network meetings. If you would like to become involved in an informal friendly network with other Childminders in your area please contact SDCCC.



Regular Training Opportunities

South Dublin County Childcare Committee provide regular training opportunities for Childminders including:

- **Quality Awareness Programme (QAP)** – covering areas such as ‘why choose childminding’, ‘child development’ and ‘health & safety of a child’
- **Child Protection** – good practice in child protection, dealing with disclosure and your responsibilities as a Childminder
- **Curriculum Planning** – curriculum planning for pre school children in line with current policy e.g. Aistear
- **Emergency First Aid** – dealing with a variety of emergency treatments e.g. bleeding, shock, choking, CPR and burns
- **Food Hygiene** – basic principles of preparing safe food

SDCCC is developing a series of themed workshops entitled *‘All Things to All People!’*, an opportunity to share practical experiences with other Childminders.

SDCCC welcome ideas and suggestions for training/workshop activities and encourages childminders to contact us.

If you would like more information on any of the training, funding or networking opportunities detailed here give us a call.

South Dublin County Childcare Committee,
C6 Clondalkin Civic Office, Ninth Lock Road,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22

T 01 457 0122 E info@southdublinchildcare.ie

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www.southdublinchildcare.ie



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