



Waterford County Childcare Committee Ltd.

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Phort Láirge Teo

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December News Bulletin 2011/Mí na Nollaig Nuacht Litir

Dates for you Diary

Simon & Friends on 6th
December in Cappoquin
Community Centre at
7.30pm

Christmas Card Making
for childminders on Wed,
7th December in WCCC
office, Dungarvan at 8pm.

**Childminders Christmas
Party** visit from Santa on
Wednesday, 14th
December in Waterford
at 10.30am.

**Children First Briefing
Session** - Wednesday
11th January 2012 @
2.30p.m. - 3.00p.m. in
the Presentation
Community Development
Centre, Mitchel Street,
Dungarvan, Co.
Waterford. (See page 4)

Congratulations to
Modeligo Parent &
Toddler Group winner of
Children and Youth Award
at the recent Waterford
Community and Voluntary
Awards.

Wishing you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

As we come to the end of a busy and eventful year, on behalf of the staff and Committee of Waterford County Childcare, I would like to thank you for your participation in the training and events during the year and to acknowledge the vitally important work that you carry out with the children in your care throughout the year. Taking the time to attend training such as Síolta requires a lot of time and effort and I hope that you have enjoyed and benefited from your participation. Training and events that took place included essentials such as First aid, food & manual handling, fire safety, child protection. Other beneficial and enjoyable training that took place included the art & craft workshops, parent mentoring programmes and play mornings for childminders & parent and toddler groups. We look forward to your continued participation in training and events in the coming year.

May you enjoy a happy and restful Christmas and New Year!

Síolta Awards Celebration 2011

Congratulations to all of the childcare practitioners who attended and received Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Síolta Certificates of Attendance at the Síolta Awards Celebration which took place at the Park Hotel recently. Teresa Heany Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) presented the certificates and a gift for each service of the resource "Regulation 5 Assessing Childhood Services". Teresa also gave an update on the findings from the national evaluation of Síolta carried out by Goodbody's Economic Consultants. Each service attending also received a gift of the recently published Wiggly Woo agus a Chairde (See page 4). WCCC acknowledge the time and effort that has each of the services and staff have put into implementing the Síolta Standards.



Childcare Staff at the Síolta Awards Celebrations

Childminding Charges Survey 2011

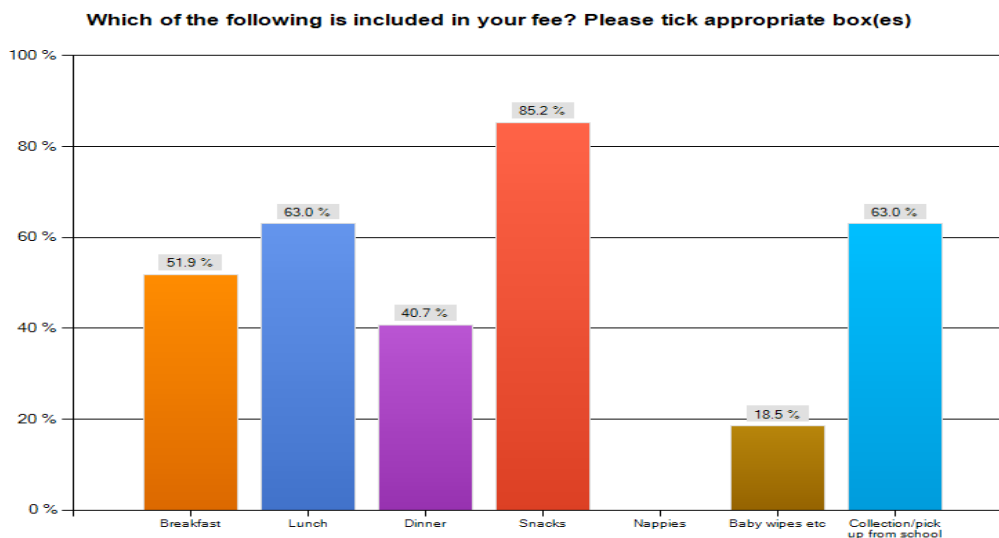
This survey was conducted with Voluntary & Notified Childminders in Waterford City & County

The average weekly fee (5 days) for one child is €144 per week

The average starting & finishing times are 7.45am - 5.40pm (10 hours approx.).

The average daily fee for one child is €29.93. The average hourly fee for one child is €4.67. Most childminders use either an hourly or a weekly fee.

Items which are included in the childminding fee



83% of childminders provide a discount when caring for a sibling for the same number of hours

Based on the individual responses, the average discount offered was 17%. Some childminders may offer a discount only if the children are attending 5 days.

65% of Childminders use a written working agreement with parents

Typically this agreement will outline the hours of work and the items included in the fees. It will also outline the fees policy for bank holidays, absence due to child illness or holiday etc.

Childminding fees policy:

64% of childminders charge for bank holidays.

66% of childminders charge for absence of minded child due to child's illness.

47% of childminders charge for absence of child due to child's holiday.

No childminders charged if they were unavailable due to their own illness.

90% of childminders surveyed did not charge if they were unavailable to mind due to their own holidays.

74% of childminders surveyed did not charge for extended absences of the minded child eg maternity leave, summer holidays

97% of childminders do not have any other charges.

The most frequent methods of payment is cash (84% of childminders)

6% are frequently paid by cheque.

29% of childminders receive payment by standing order.

84% of Childminders are paid at the end of the working week.

52% of Childminders currently have no vacancies for minded children.

Suggestion relating to childminding fees:

"I would suggest that at the start of the working relationship with the parents talk through all eventualities, for example: their child being sick, maternity leave, holidays, your children being sick, bank holidays. Anything that may be an issue in the future. This is the best time to discuss these issues as the parents know where they stand should they arise".

Criteria for Awarding the higher capitation rate to pre school leaders

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) recently announced their decision on the criteria for awarding the higher capitation rate to pre-school leaders and also to the timelines set by FETAC in phasing out old awards in Childcare/Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 4, 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

The higher rate of capitation is payable to pre-school leaders who hold a major award in a relevant discipline at a minimum of Level 7 on the NFQ and who meet other criteria set down by DCYA. (Details available on DCYA Website or from WCCC office)

The DCYA set up an advisory group drawn from the Higher Education Sector, the Further Education Sector and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland. The advisory group agreed that the determination of the relevance of a discipline is established by the examination of the content of the programme of learning which led to the qualifications. This must contain the following elements:-

Child development 0-6 years

Early childhood learning -theory and practice

Child health and welfare 0-6 years

The programme must also have contained a significant supervised practicum in relevant early childhood care and education settings.

After **December 2012**, only programmes of learning that have been validated against the new Common Award Standards in ECCE will be accredited by FETAC. However, learners have until **December, 2014** to carry forward existing minor (component) awards as exemptions towards new common major and special purpose awards, where appropriate. Claiming an exemption is a procedure carried out at centre level when a training provider enters a candidate for certification. More information on this process is available on www.fetac.ie

From **January 2015** only component awards developed in line with the new Common Award Standards in ECCE will be accepted towards the achievement of Major or Special Purpose Awards in ECCE. Learners will not be able to use component (minor) awards made under the old award standards towards these major or special purpose awards after that date.

Association of Childcare Professionals

The Cork Branch of the Association of Childcare Professionals (ACP) was officially launched in October 2007 following two years of work to plan, consult and to raise awareness of the concept and need for a Professional Body for the Childcare Sector. The progress of the Association in Cork has inspired Childcare workers in other counties to follow suit by setting up similar groups. Waterford, Kilkenny and Wexford are well established with other emergent groups progressing. In encouraging and supporting new groups our members continue to share our vision for the future and the progress of our work to date with interested groups around the country.

The ACP seeks to define a professional identity for those who work in the early years and school age childcare sector. The need for a professional identity to be established, developed and recognised has never been more critical for our sector. Legislative and regulatory demands are increasing. Never has more been expected or asked of our workforce. We are competent, willing, and determined in our endeavours to meet all these requirements. We recognise and understand the importance of the early years while we work hard to ensure equal recognition and understanding of the importance of those whose profession it is to ensure quality early provision.

Early Years Practitioners have a key role to play in ensuring that all children are fully included in early years care and education settings. It is our job to support parents to give children a good start in life. This of course can only be achieved when we as childhood professionals are valued and recognised for the work we do. In the ACP we have come to realise that only by joining together can we achieve our vision of a recognised, respected, consulted and equitably remunerated early years professional workforce. If you would like to be part of this exciting movement or to find out more about what is happening contact:

Association of Childcare Professionals Waterford 085-1951626.

Childcare Business Workshops in association with Waterford County Enterprise Board

Business Workshops have been delivered including Tax, PRSI & USC information. More recently a workshop on Employment Law which included information on redundancy, maternity benefits and contracts etc. was held. The Employment Rights Rule Book is available from WCCC or from the Equality Authority. Other events planned for January include Web Page Development, Advertising, Marketing, Computers and Paperwork for the ECCE scheme.

Voluntary Notification Renewal

Thanks to all the Childminders who have already sent in their insurance details to renew their voluntary notification for 2012. If you haven't got around to it yet just send on evidence of childminding insurance and I'll send out your new certificate. Email to childminding@eircom.net or post to WCCC 9 Emmet St Dungarvan. Any queries just call Rosemarie on 058 48024 / 087 9050484

Recent Events

Men in Childcare international conference that took place in November the entitled *Re-imagining Childhood Care & Education*, details on the conference are available from Andrew or check out MIC on facebook/meninchildcare.

Wiggly Woo agus a Chairdre

The Rannta na nDeise workshops facilitated by Kids Own in partnership with County Waterford Library Service and Waterford County Childcare Committee, resulted in a beautiful collection of rhymes and art work which reflects and celebrates the extraordinary creativity of 3 and 4 year old children and their parents who participated in art, music & rhyme workshops in Dungarvan, Lismore, Portlawn and Tramore libraries with writers Mary Branley and artist, Polly Minet. We would like to thank all services that helped to promote and who participated in the creation of this publication.

Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook

Protecting children and promoting their welfare is a collective activity and responsibility, the Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook is an aide to delivering accountable, consistent and transparent practice in protecting children in Ireland.

The vital work of social workers and other professionals together with partner agencies in accessing risk and acting to protect vulnerable children is difficult and demanding. This Practice Handbook is designed as a quick reference book to help support front line practice. It sets out the key issues in the different stages of action from referral through assessment to intervention. It has taken into account the recommendations of inquiries and case reviews, together with international research and best practice.

The practice handbook is designed to be a companion volume and to complement Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare at Children (2011) which is the full reference text for practitioners. It will also support policies, procedures and legislation. The Handbook is a guide to basic and consistent practice, but it cannot and does not cover everything. It will give you clear guidance, but additional support and advice should be sought through your peers and your line managers.

You can access a copy of Children First, Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook and supporting documentation by visiting www.hse.ie/go/childrenfirst

Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare at Children (2011) Briefing Sessions:

City – Monday 5th December 2011 at 2.30p.m – 3.00p.m. in St. Otterans, Johnshill, Waterford.

County - Wednesday 11th January 2012 @ 2.30p.m. - 3.00p.m. Room P8, in the Presentation Community Development Centre, Mitchell Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

