



Cork County Childcare Committee

Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chorcaí Teoranta

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2007

Looking for Childcare In County Cork

As some of you may have noticed, Cork County Childcare Committee's website www.corkchildcare.ie now has a new section, a searchable childcare database. This service is aimed at parents looking for childcare. However it is also of interest to childcare providers and you may well be wondering how you can get your service listed on that database.

The website search is based on information held in the CCCC's main childcare database. This was started in 2006 to help CCCC plan the childcare provision in Cork County. CCCC conducted a survey of known providers in June 2006 and a comprehensive database was created, information from which is used to run the website search. CCCC decided to update the database every year, which was fortuitous as in December 2006 it was announced by the Office of the Minister for Children that all Childcare Committees in the country would be required to complete an annual census of childcare providers.

The survey asks quite a lot of questions with sections on numbers attending, training, staffing, quality and additional needs. By finding out as much as possible about childcare in the County, the CCCC is in a better position to advise the Government, County Council, Planners and training providers and to use the data to examine provision needs in the County and also where provision is at capacity.

If you are already on the database, later this year CCCC will be sending you a copy of the information it already has, all you will need to do is to make any amendments, sign it and send it back, CCCC will do the rest. If you are not included in the database then please contact CCCC (details below) and a questionnaire will be sent out to you. Even if you do not want your details listed on the website please complete a questionnaire. If providers are not listed in the database then the CCCC cannot consider their needs when planning for the County. CCCC really needs all Childcare providers and childminders to provide them with information for the database so do get in touch.

Office Numbers: Buttevant (main office) 022-23880
Dunmanway 023-55962

Email: info@corkchildcare.ie

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Cork County Childcare Committee presents

National Childminding Week 2007

*Story Telling and Face Painting for Children,
Information for Childminders,*

Visit Millstreet Library on Tuesday afternoon 17th April
From 2pm to 4pm - *All are welcome*

*Contact your local Childcare Development Worker for
similar events in your area*



Your Plan - Your Future



Funded by the Irish Government and part-financed by the
European Union Structural Funds under the National Development Plan 2000 - 2006





National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) 2006-2010 Clár Infheistíochta Náisiúnta um Chúram Leanaí (CINCL) 2006-2010

The NCIP provides capital grants for both community and private providers. Recently we have received a great many enquiries from private providers regarding aspects of the application process. We hope the following information is useful.

1. What happens after I complete an expression of interest for Private Provider NCIP Capital funding?

When you have completed the Expression of interest form, you should forward it to our office. We will contact you in due course and help you develop your project proposal based on the programme and the local needs in your area and value for money.

We will submit your completed project proposal to Pobal who manage the day to day operations of the programme for the Office of the Minister for Children (OMC). Your proposal will be reviewed by Pobal and submitted to the OMC for decision.

Following the decision, which is notified to you by the OMC, Pobal will deal with the following aspects of delivery of your grant in liaison with the CCC:

- Implementation plan to achieve the project within budget and in line with Programme criteria
- Offer of contract
- Financial transfer
- Monitoring of performance and expenditure
- Training and support

If you are unsatisfied with the OMC decision, you may apply to the OMC for a review within one calendar month of the decision letter.

2. I live in one county but the facility will be based in another. Which is my CCC for the purposes of this application?

All your dealings should be with the CCC with responsibility for the City/County in which your facility will be located. This is irrespective of where you live or currently work.

3. What is a DED?

A DED is the electoral district in which your facility is located.

4. When it comes to the number of places provided, what is meant by Sessional, Part-Time, and Full-Time places?

- Sessional: You should count a place as sessional if it is available for 3.5 hours per day or less.
- Part-time: You should count a place as part-time if it is available continuously for between 3.5 hours and 5 hours per day
- Full-time: You should count a place as full-time if it is available continuously for more than 5 hours per day.





5. What is meant by “Pre-school (3-4 yr old) education”?

A service for Pre-School children in the age range of 3-4 years is one that has a focus on early childhood care and education and which assists children with transition to formal schooling.

6. Will I need to notify my service to the HSE?

Under the Pre-school regulations, all childcare facilities - other than those exclusively operating as School Age Childcare (i.e. before and after school hours for school going children) - are required to notify to the HSE, as are home based Childminders who mind more than 3 children from different families.

7. What is the maximum grant for a childcare facility that I can apply for under the Programme, as a private sector childcare provider?

Private sector applicants may apply for grant assistance of up to €100,000 towards the capital cost of developing a childcare facility, in a catchment area where there is a demonstrated childcare need. An applicant may apply for more than one grant, provided the subsequent childcare facilities are in different catchment areas and subject to an overall ceiling of €500,000. In each case, an applicant must provide at least 25% of total funding required for the project.

8. I have previously received a grant under Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme as a private sector provider of €50,000. What is the maximum amount of grant aid I can receive under the National Childcare Investment Programme?

Grant aid already received and accounted for correctly under earlier childcare programmes will not affect your ability to apply for funding under the National Childcare Investment Programme. Grant approval will be subject to your project meeting Programme criteria.

See our next edition for information on the NCIP Capital Grant for Community Providers.

Information sessions will be given during the year on the NCIP programme, contact your Local Childcare Development Worker for further details.

Childcare Training in Co. Cork

The Training Sub Group of the Cork County Childcare Committee has planned its activities for 2007! Actions range from compiling a training bulletin, a training calendar, extending the groups membership, organising some equality and diversity training to organising a training forum for Co. Cork. The training bulletin and training calendar will be available to access on our new and revamped website www.corkchildcare.ie in time for courses beginning in September 2007. So keep an eye on the website for information. If you know of any short term courses planned anywhere throughout the county and would like the information included please contact Aileen at acarey@corkchildcare.ie or at the Buttevant Office.

Early Childhood Care and Education CIT

Are you interested in pursuing studies or a career in Early Childhood Care and Education? CIT are offering prospective students the opportunity to learn more about early childhood through designing this course to meet the specific needs of this sector. Students undertaking the course will be equipped with the skills required to own, run or manage childcare facilities. If you would like to find out more about the course contact the Department of Social and General Studies, CIT on 021-4326547.





New Childcare Development Worker

Eimear O'Donoghue is the Childcare Development Worker for the Mallow/Blarney area. Her role involves providing support to private and community childcare providers, as well as childminders and parents.

Eimear is also staff officer of the Cork County Childcare Committee Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee.

Work has begun on organising Buntus programmes throughout the county, with Mallow earmarked for the first programme. This is being run in conjunction with Cork County Childcare Committee and Co. Cork Sport Partnership.

Cork County Childcare Committee Active Art Competition

Presentations of Packs to Winning Schools

The aim of this competition was to promote physical activity in Children. The Cork County Childcare Committee aimed to promote use of games and physical activities to schools and preschools in Cork County. The Active art competition was held in 2006. Children were asked to draw or paint a picture depicting physical activity such as playing games, participating in particular sports etc.

Prizes of equipment promoting physical activity were presented to the class of child with the winning picture, along with a prize for the winning child in each category. Winning pictures and other pictures will be used on Cork County Childcare Committees' 2007 calendar.

The winning entries are as follows for each category:

Category 2 1/2 to 5 years: Heather O'Connell, IRD Duhallow Afterschool, James O'Keefe Institute, Newmarket, Co. Cork.

Category under 9: Alison Condon, Ballinspittle N.S., Kinsale, Co. Cork.

Category 9 to 12 years: Toni Chatterton, St. Mary's National School, Enniskeane, Co. Cork.



Niamh O'Mahony and the Afterschool Club, Newmarket.



Winner & teacher from Ballinspittle N.S

An Activity Booklet, 'Lets Have Fun' was sent to all participating schools; the booklet was originally produced by Kerry County Childcare Committee. It details developmentally appropriate physical activities suitable for each age group and ability and it highlights the importance of including activities for children of diverse cultural backgrounds and children with special needs. Copies of this booklet are available from Cork County Childcare Committee, Contact 022-23880.



Children with the new Activity Packs





Margaret O'Donovan and Aileen Carey at the Mental Health Forum, West Cork.



CCCC staff farewell to Helen O'Driscoll, West Cork.

NEW PUBLICATION



This handbook explores strategies that enable childcare providers to involve parents in their child's learning and social development.

Building partnership is a daily process based on ongoing communication. To do this, it takes commitment, time and a range of skills. This handbook gives childcare providers the opportunity to examine various approaches to developing partnerships with parents. It also looks at the reasons for involving parents and the advantages this brings to children, parents and practitioners alike.

The handbook looks at the benefits of settling-in programmes and provides tips for information sessions. It examines ways of ensuring that everyone is included and methods for creating an anti-bias environment. The importance of involving fathers and ways to achieve this are also covered.

Free (+€1.50 p&p)

To order this publication please contact:

Barnardos' NCRC, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

T 01 4549699 **E** ncrc@barnardos.ie





Are You a Childminder or Do You Want to Become a Childminder?

QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME (QAP)

What is it?

This is a short introductory course on what is involved in Childminding. The training programme consists of 5 Modules delivered over 10 hours.

The Modules are:

1. Why Choose Childminding
2. Child Development - An Overview
3. Hygiene, Health and Safety
4. Wellbeing of the Child
5. Play

Where are the courses being held?

- Ballincollig 11th April, 8 - 10 pm
- Blarney 19th April, 8 - 10 pm
- Macroom 12th April, 7.30 - 9.30 pm
- Midleton 11th April, 8 - 10 pm
- Passage West 19th April, 8 - 10 pm
- Dunmanway 2 full days Saturdays 28th April and 5th May

Cost? Free

Contact: 023-55962 or 022-23880
between 10am - 3pm.

Childminding Development Grants

The Childminders Development Grant is designed to assist Childminders proposing to or already providing a childminding service in their home to enhance the quality/safety in their service through the purchase of small capital items, equipment, toys or minor adaptation costs.

Maximum grant allocation €630 with an additional contribution of €70 from the Childminder. Equipment costs must be €700 or over to be eligible to apply for €630.

Contact Us

Main Office

Address: The Market House, Buttevant,
Mallow. Co. Cork.
Tel: 022-23880
Fax: 022-41657
Email: info@corkchildcare.ie
Web: www.corkchildcare.ie
Co-ordinator: Karen McDonnell
Administrators: Rose O'Brien, Orla Grant.

Childcare Development Worker Areas/Contacts.

Fermoy and Midleton: **Aileen Carey**
Mallow and Blarney: **Eimear O'Donoghue**
Macroom and Kanturk: **Sara O'Mahony**

Dunmanway Office

Address: Unit 12, Underhill Commercial Park,
Underhill, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.
Tel: 023-55962
Fax: 023-55697

Childcare Development Worker: **Noreen Brazier**
Administrator: **Gretta Crowley**

Resource Library, for further details contact 023-55962

Cork Co. Childcare Info

The Cork County Childcare Committee (CCCC) is one of 33 County/City Childcare Committees operating through out the country. The role of the CCCC is to develop and implement a coordinated childcare strategy for Cork County. It supports the development and provision of a range of integrated, high quality, accessible and affordable childcare and educational initiatives for children from birth to twelve years of age.

This is achieved through partnership with all existing service providers and by the provision of coordination mechanism at county level. Through its subcommittees the CCCC is also active in supporting funding applications under the NCIP and childcare issues relating to training, Childminding, equality and diversity, information and supports.