

Childminding Fee Survey 2010

This survey was distributed to notified and voluntary notified childminders in County Tipperary (North and South) April 2010

1. The average weekly fee for one child Monday – Friday is €137.39

- The average start time is 8.15am. The average finish time is 5.00pm
- The average number of hours spent childminding per week is 47.5 hours
- 18% (6 Childminders) spend in excess of 9.5 hours a day childminding
- The earliest start time is 7.30am (4 Childminders). The latest finishing time is 6.30pm (3 Childminder)

2. The average daily fee for one child is €28.43

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- The average fee for 2 days is €56.59
- The average fee for 3 days is €84.61
- The average fee for 4 days is €112.50
- The average number of hours worked per day is 9hours 30mins
- The earliest start time is 7am (1 Childminder). The latest finishing time is 7pm (1Childminder)

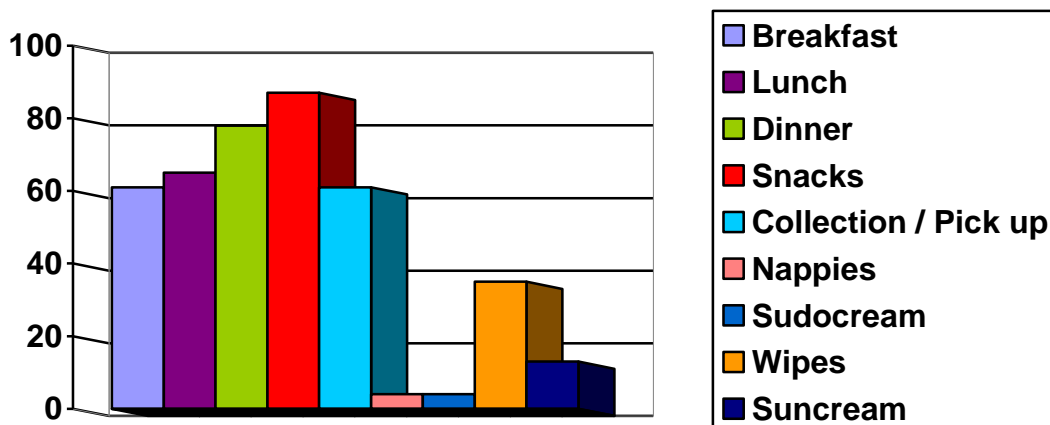
3. The average hourly fee is €3.36

Other comments:

- “Don’t really have one”
- “If arrangement made €5.00 per hour, per hour fee is €6.00”
- “€3.50 Part time, €10 after school per evening”
- “€25 full day, €15 for 4hours or less”

4. What Childminders include in their fee:

% Childminders include in their fee



Other comments relating to childminding fees:

- “I ask parents to provide sudocream, sun cream, etc but if they don’t I have some”
- Supply “none of these”
- Collection/ pickup preschool, school and home

5. The number of childminders who offer a discount when minding more than one child from the same family, for the same number of hours is 83% (19 Childminders)

The average discount offered is 16%

Comments relating to discount:

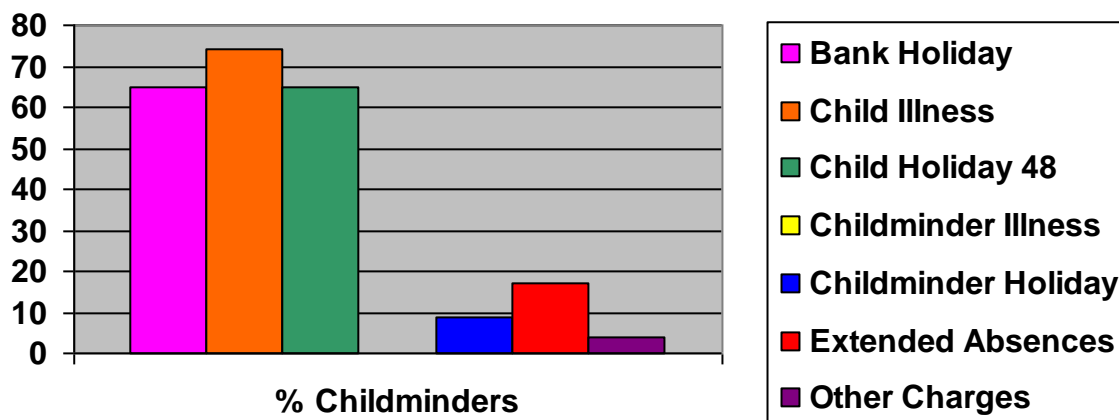
- “To be honest, the lady decided how much she’d pay me, I wasn’t able to argue with her”
- “50% so for 2 its €45”
- “For 2 per week = €200 reduction of €40”
- “€25 for the first child and €20 for next and €15 for all others from the same family”
- “€40 per day for 2 children, €55 per day for 3 children”
- “Depends on family circumstances”
- “First child €150 per week, second child €100 per week”

6. The number of childminders using a written working agreement with parents is 83% (19 Childminders) Of these 37% (7 Childminders) renew the working agreement annually and one childminder biannually.

Other comments:

- Working agreement reviewed “sometimes”
- “Not since 2008”
- “So far I have used the same one”

7. Childminding Charges



Comments relating to Childminding Charges:

Absence of minded child due to child illness

- “Half-day rate”

Absence of minded child due to child holiday

- “During school period only”
- “Under review”
- “ Half day rate”

Childminder holiday

- “No except for Christmas when I charge €75.00 for just over a week”
- “Two weeks out of four per annum”

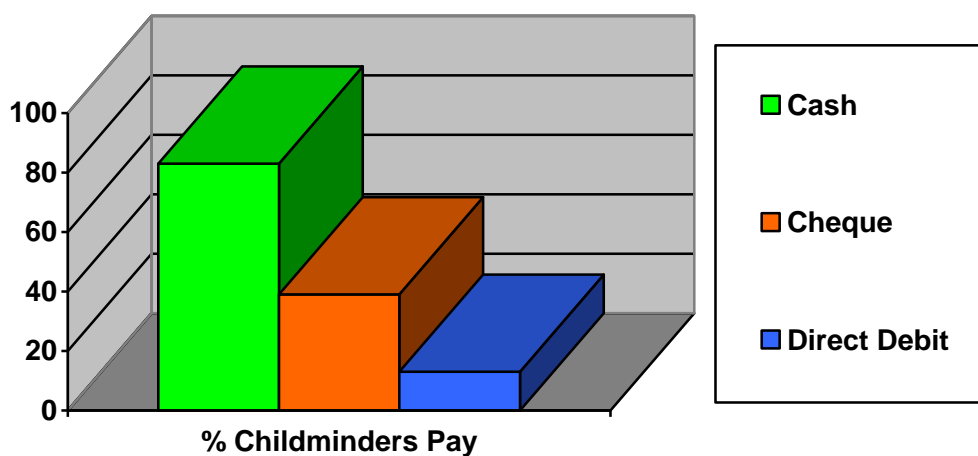
Extended absences

- “Under review”
- “Hasn’t yet arisen”
- “Extended absences 50%”
- “Extended absences 25%”
- “depending”

Other charges

- “Registration fee”

8. Method of Payment



Comments on method of Payment

- “Sometimes get paid by cheque”
- “One parent pays by cheque”
- “50% paid by cash, 50% paid by cheque”
- “Sometimes by cheque”
- “Very odd time paid by cheque”
- “One child pays by direct debit”

9. Since January 2009 the number of Childminders who have had a reduction in number of minded children or hours is 44% (10 Childminders)

Comments

- “Due to school attendance”

10. The number of Childminders who have had a request for a reduction in fees is 13% (3 Childminders)

11. How childminders have addressed the request for a reduction in fees:

- “I just nodded - but feel a bit annoyed that I’m being abused – my own fault I know.”
- “One member of the family lost their job so had to cut back to €20 per day and he is only here 3 days instead of 5.”
- “Take family circumstances into account will try to facilitate parents. I don’t want to lose business but can be taken advantage of.”

12. The number of Childminders with a current vacancy for minded children is 48% (11 Childminders)

12. Suggestions relating to childminding fees

- “Don’t under sell yourself. You’re taking care of their precious bundles, if they were sending their children to a crèche they would pay.”
- “I generally charge €30 for a full day and €15 for a half day up to 1pm. €15 for a school going child or second child and I always get paid in advance, that way if the child misses days, I can avoid a situation where the parent may not want to pay. If it is a prolonged illness/absence I review this.”
- “Agree in advance and provide written confirmation to ensure certainty in income.”
- “To set out payment before you start minding the child and be sure to state that payment needs to be in every Friday.”
- “Ensure that you get paid on time and in full. Don’t take any excuses or nonsense. Be firm but fair.”
- “Make sure a written agreement is drawn up and signed by yourself and the parents, so there will not be a problem in the parents paying fees.”
- “Have agreed fees typed up and have two signed copies, one for you, one for the parents. Have all details of fees etc clearly laid out then parents have to agree to it. Lose children rather than be taken advantage of.”
- “That all results are collated and put back out to existing childminders to check it we are competitive or in line with other Childminders.”
- “Value yourself when you are setting your fees, and do not let people take advantage.”
- I would like to hear what other childminding prices are if would be helpful.”