



One of the children enjoying the climbing frame in the park after the Walk for Haiti



Childminding Week

20th—26th March

Childminding week started with an excellent conference held by Childminding Ireland in the Lucan Spa Hotel, Dublin on the 20th March. Three Childminders and the Childminding Development Officer attended this event. The Conference was entitled “Kidz just want to have fun - lets go out and play!” The key note speaker Marc Armitage, a play consultant from the play people, gave an excellent presentation regarding factors that are stopping children from engaging in the various forms of play and how this can hinder children’s learning and developing skills. The group then broke into workshops and are as follows:

1. *Lets go out and play—Marc Armitage , Playpeople UK*
2. *The other NAMA; Nutrition Answers for Minders Anywhere—Janis Morrissey, BSc, MSc, MINDI*
3. *Siolta; a trip down quality Street—Patricia Murray CEO Childminding Ireland*

STCCC celebrated Childminding week also, but disappointingly only a small number of Childminders got involved. We are currently merging the childminders and providers networks, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in numbers, as the networks are being held in Tipperary Town, Cashel, Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir. Networking events give new and established childminders the opportunities to meet and share experiences and advise. The networking events that were held during childminding week were:

- 24th March– Creative music and dance
- 25th March—Coffee morning
- 26th March—Sponsored walk in aid of Haiti (Pictured left)



Pictured above L-R Serena O Neill, Gwyneth Brophy, Liz o Neill at the Childminding Ireland Conference



Pictured above from L-R Childminders:Gwyneth Brophy, Liz O Neill, and Mary O Neill on the Walk for Haiti.

Welcome

I am happy to welcome you, Childminders, aspiring Childminders and Parents to our Summer Newsletter. The care you provide for children in the county is much appreciated by the County Childcare Committee. Once again we had a very productive six months of work on your behalf. There were a number of successful training/networking events and a large number of individual support visits to Childminders. As always, we welcome your engagement with us and will try to accommodate your wishes around training, information or other supports for the next six months. We would encourage you avail of the Childminding Development Grant to further improve the quality of service available to your children. Wishing you all an enjoyable Summer, Gerry and the team at STCCC.

Childminders Profile

My name is Jane Coppens and I've been childminding from my home in Tipperary for the past year and a half. Ever since I had my first child four years ago, kids have become a big interest of mine. When I had my second child Joshua there was no way I could do anything else but something that involved kids. So a friend who was a childminder told me about the County Childcare Committee and I called to find out how I could become one too. Carol Knox was so helpful and supportive. She told me what courses I needed like the QAP and first aid. She also helped me get the grant and gave advice on the best way to spend it. Since I already had small kids of my own I had most of the equipment needed so I just got seconds of the most popular toys and safety equipment.

I had a very slow start as the recession hit Tipperary town hard so the kids I had were odd times here and there. It took me almost a year before I had a child on a full time basis and at the same time Niamh started playschool. She goes now most mornings so its a boys house at the moment most of the time. We make up for that in the afternoons though with princess dress up games which include crowns and hairbands etc!

Our days together are quite organised because I'm that kind of person but I have found that the kids get on better when structure is there. I think it motivates their imagination too because if they don't want to play the activity I've said then they are quick to quietly go off and start a game together or by themselves no problems at all. In the morning we do sit down play and then an outing or some running games before lunch. They sleep after lunch and then Niamh gets some one on one time which I think is important. I have to say though I am so glad that they all love story time and have me reading book after book over and over.

It wasn't all as easy as pie though. Our family had a lot of changes to get used to and of course the kids had to get used to our family too. We never used stair gates much so Niamh was not impressed when one was put up. The biggest adjustment our family had to make was with my husband's days off. He works a lot of Saturdays and then at the end of the month he would be given days off during the week. It wasn't something we thought about but it was hard to get used to. Also I was now working when he was off so we couldn't just go off as a family somewhere. We've adjusted now though and when he is off the kids get him down on the floor playing too.

I'm glad that I stuck with it now even though it was hard at the beginning and all the kids are so great. They fight like they are all brothers and sisters and the hugs and kisses they give would knock you over. But the enjoyment I get from my work now is more than I got from any job I have done. It's tiring but so rewarding and I hope to be doing it for a long time to come.

If you would like to include your Childminding Profile in our newsletter, please contact Carol for further details at 052 6182274 or alternatively email carol@southtippchildcare.ie. This is a great way to advertise your service and share experiences with other childminders.



Jane pictured above with the children she cares for.

SIOLTA & AISTEAR

Siolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education, is a quality assurance process which addresses all aspects of practice in early childhood care and education services. It is designed to support practitioners to develop high quality services for children aged birth to six years and is relevant to all settings where children spend time out of their home environment.

Under the ECCE scheme, services agree to provide an appropriate programme of education for children in their pre-school year, which adheres to the principles of *Siolta*. There are a small number of Childminders participating in ECCE scheme. These will be supported in meeting the ECCE requirements through the assistance of *Siolta* Co-ordinators. Further information on *Siolta* can be found at www.siolta.ie

Aistear is the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework and supports practitioners in planning for and providing enriching, challenging and enjoyable learning opportunities for children from birth to six years. *Aistear* can be used by all adults who support children's learning and development from birth to six years regardless of where that learning takes place. *Aistear* outlines the content of children's learning and development using the four themes of *Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating,* and *Exploring and Thinking*. Within each theme, aims and learning goals are presented followed by sample learning opportunities. For more information visit www.ncca.ie.

SIOLTA SESSIONS LEVEL 1

TIMES: 7.30PM – 9.30PM

- Clonmel Community Resource Centre: Wednesday 15th September 2010
- Knockanrawley Community Resource Centre, Tipperary: Wednesday 22nd September 2010
- Nano Nagle Community Resource Centre, Carrick-on-Suir: Wednesday 29th September 2010

For bookings, please contact Carol on 052 6182274 or email carol@southtippchildcare.ie



COSTA Network

The next COSTA network meeting is scheduled for August 10th in STCCC offices at 7.00pm. Hope to see you all there. Bring a friend!

FREE PRE-SCHOOL YEAR FOR CHILDREN

Parents if you have a child who was born between the 2nd February 2006 and the 30th June 2007 he/she will qualify for a year's free preschool in both private and community childcare services in September. The scheme operates in a number of ways depending on how long your child attends a service .i.e sessional (3 hours per day), part time or fulltime hours (5 hours or more per day). If you would like more information about the ECCE scheme or the childcare services taking part in it please contact us on 052-6182274 or email us at info@southtippchildcare.ie

VOLUNTARY NOTIFICATION (Registration with STCCC)

Every childminder who is not required by law to notify their service to the HSE (those are caring for less than 3 preschool children at any one time) should consider Voluntary Notifying their service to STCCC for quality purposes. There are a number of benefits and incentives which include:

- You will be eligible to apply for the Childminding Development Grant of €1000*
- Avail of training at discounted prices *
- Your first years Childminding Ireland membership is paid for by STCCC*
- You qualify to apply for a tax exemption
- Your service can be listed on STCCC directory of Childminders and sent to parents who are looking for a childminder
- Parents are more inclined to choose a Voluntary Notified Childminder than a childminder who is not
- You will receive support from the Childminding Development Officer regarding setting up and maintaining your service
- Peace of mind for you that you are providing a quality service.
- Voluntary Notification is renewal annually and one must do so to avail of the above

For further information please contact Carol on 052 6182274 or email carol@southtipchildcare.ie

* depending on funding STCCC are allocated, this list is not exhaustive

Childminders who are caring for more than 3 preschool children but no more than 5 preschool children at any one time, are legally obliged to notify the HSE of their service.

Childminding Development Grant

This grant is available to Childminders who are caring for children in her/his own home. It can be used to purchase equipment that will increase the quality of your childminding service. Items include, health and safety equipment, educational toys and materials, outdoor equipment, storage units etc. In order to avail of this, one must have completed the Quality Awareness Programme, be Voluntary Notified and have insurance for their service

This grant can be applied for every 2 years. If you have already applied for this grant you may be eligible to reapply. For further information please contact Carol on 052 6182274 or email carol@southtipchildcare.ie

Contact Me



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