

# **All a parent needs to know when choosing a childminder**

## **When choosing a Childminder parents should consider the following:**

- Take Time
- Ask Questions
- Check it out
- Communicate your needs

## **How do I find a childminder?**

- Through the Childminding Advisory Officer in Roscommon County Childcare Office on 094 96 22540
- Through your local Playgroup
- Your local Public Health Nurse
- By word of mouth
- Through your local newspaper

## **Steps to choosing a childminder:**

- Arrange to meet with a few known childminders in your area in their own home
- Prepare a list of questions and issues you want to bring up beforehand and make notes
- Talk to parents and friends
- Ensure you check out two references from the childminder or speak to the Childminding Advisory Officer with Roscommon County Childcare Committee to see if she has contact with the Childminder.

## **Questions to be asked?**

- How many children do you care for
- What are the ages of children in your care
- What hours of childcare do you provide
- What is your daily routine
- What type of activities do you provide
- Will other people be in the home while my child is there
- Is outdoor play part of the daily routine
- What emergencies arrangements do you have in place e.g sickness of child / yourself, fire prevention, accident?
- How will my child be disciplined
- What type of food do you offer to the children in your care
- Do you have public liability insurance cover

- Do you have adequate car insurance
- Do you travel in the car with minded children and have you child car seats and belts
- Are you notified to the HSE or Voluntary Notified to Roscommon County Childcare
- Do you have first aid training
- How long have you been Childminding

### **Issues for further discussion:**

- Fees
- Outings
- Rest sleeping facilities
- Toilet Training

### **What to look for:**

- The skills if a childminder and suitable person
- A childminder who likes and relates well to children who will be gentle and kind and keep your child safe
- Ability to listen
- Sympathetic tolerant and kind
- Clear thinking
- Business like approach to parents
- Professional in the service they provide
- Good relationship with children in their care
- Plenty of energy
- Good health
- Sense of humour

### **Childminder's Home:**

- First impression and gut feeling
- Visit the home and meet the childminder there
- Is the home caring and friendly, yet stimulating?
- Are the premises safe
- Make sure there are childproof locks on the windows and doors, guards on fires and stairs and smoke alarms
- Is it a home for home environment
- Is it cosy an warm
- Is there enough space for your child to be cared for and to play freely and safely
- Are there a variety of age and stage appropriate toys to play with? Look for books, toys, crayons, colouring books etc.
- Are the kitchen, toilet and other rooms clean
- Outdoors is it safe check for hazards, is there a secure gate and fence to prevent your child from gaining access to the road

- Are there any pets in the childminders home

**Your childminder will require the following information from you:**

- The child's name and address
- The child's date of birth
- Details of the parents place of work
- Telephone numbers home and work
- The name and number of the person to be contacted in an emergency
- Name of two adults who are authorised to collect your child
- Name, address and telephone number of family doctor
- Necessary medical or dietary information
- A signed agreement for medical treatment
- Consent for medication to be given
- The Childs likes and dislikes and comforts
- The childminder will ask you to complete a working agreement / contract

**For further information please do not hesitate to contact Roscommon County Childcare Office and speak to the Childminding Advisory Officer.**

**Telephone: 094 96 22540**

**Fax: 094 96 20878**

**E-mail [info@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:info@roscommonchildcare.ie)**