

Training

NICMA offer a range of training courses for childminders, parents and practitioners within the early years sector.

Training includes:

- Health and Safety in the Childminding Setting
- Safeguarding Children
- Level 2 Certificate in Childminding Practice (NI)
- Level 3 Diploma for Children's Care Learning and Development
- Child Development 0-3 years
- Child Development 3-5 years
- Promoting Resilience in the Early Years Setting
- Promoting Speech, Language and Communication in the Early Years Setting
- Working in Partnership with Parents
- Promoting Creativity in the Early Years Setting
- Promoting Inclusion and Diversity in the Early Years Setting
- Promoting Positive Behaviour in the Early Years Setting
- Business Management for Childminders
- Promoting Emotional Well-Being in the Early Years Setting
- Assertiveness



Introduction to NICMA



Staffing of NICMA

The Director oversees the day to day management and development of NICMA, assisted by staff either based in the main office in Newtownards or working in specific areas throughout NI to provide local services.

Location

NICMA services are available throughout all of Northern Ireland. However, the office base is located in Newtownards, Co. Down and has disability access, is child friendly and close to car parking facilities.



16-18 Mill Street,
NEWTOWNARDS,
Co Down
BT23 4LU

Telephone: 028 9181 1015
Fax: 028 9182 0921
E-mail: info@nicma.org
Web Site: www.nicma.org



www.nicma.org

Aims of NICMA

To promote the provision of high quality childcare and learning within registered home-based settings

To provide training in childcare

To encourage legal childminding

To provide a childminding information and advice service to childminders, parents and those involved in early years.

To provide a support network to registered childminders.



Introduction

Founded in 1984, NICMA - the Childminding Association works to support and develop registered home-based childcare. A voluntary organisation with charitable status, NICMA provides a range of services to support childminders, parents and children.

What NICMA can do for Childminders

NICMA provides members with:

Information and Advice Helpline - to answer childminding queries.

Business Pack - to support their business as a self employed childminder.

Childminding Vacancy Service - database of up-to-date details of childminding vacancies by telephone and on-line.

The support of a local Childminding Development Officer - to provide advice and training.

'Childminding Matters' - members magazine with views, news and ideas.

Public and Legal Liability Insurance Cover - to protect the childminder in the event of an accident or legal action.

Legal Support - free legal advice

Training - a wide range of childcare and business training for prospective and current childminders.

Childminding Support Groups - gives childminders the opportunity for peer support and social interaction.

Website - for online resources, information and vacancy advertising opportunities.

Childminding Networks - attached to SureStart projects.

Childminding has so much to offer!

Childminding is the largest form of registered day care provision for children aged from 0-12 years, accounting for more than 34% of total childcare provision and over 52% of full day care.

More than 18,000 children across Northern Ireland are cared for by registered childminders - the most popular form of daycare for working parents.

A REGISTERED CHILDMINDER IS:

“a person who looks after 1 or more children under the age of 12, for more than 2 hours per day, on domestic premises, for reward”

- **They must by law register with the local Health and Social Care Trust.** Registration protects children, provides reassurance to parents using childcare and ensures that childminding services meet acceptable standards.
- Registered childminders may be registered to care for up to 6 children between the ages of 0-12 years of age (including their own children) of whom no more than three are under school age.
- To achieve registration a childminder is required to comply with Minimum Standards of safety, equipment and ratios of children, etc. References and health checks are required, as are police checks on all individuals in the household over the age of 10.
- Childminders will also be required to access core training in Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Paediatric First Aid prior to registration.
- Childminding is unique, affordable and flexible to meet families' individual needs offering:

One to one attention - low adult/child ratios allow for a level of individual attention that is rarely matched in centre based care.

Real life learning - children looked after by a childminder enjoy real life learning experiences like cooking, shopping, gardening, mealtimes, etc.

Family friendly - brothers and sisters of different ages can be cared for together regardless of age, stage and ability.

What NICMA can do for Parents

NICMA can assist parents who are looking for childcare with a range of services in order to make an informed choice about the best care for their child:

'Choosing a Childminder - a Guide for Parents' - booklet covering all aspects of choosing a childminder to suit the family's needs.

Information and Advice Helpline - provides information on all aspects of childminding including registration, fees, contracts, etc.

Childminding Vacancy Service - offers details of childminding vacancies to suit families' needs either by telephone or on-line.

