

Childminding Services

A Childminder cares for a small group of children of mixed ages in the Childminder's own home. Childminders offer a flexible service, tailored to each child, thereby helping parents and guardians to balance their work and family commitments.

Play-pod

A Childminder and the children they mind are viewed as a natural play-pod i.e. a closed group of children and a carer who learn and play together. Social distancing between the Childminder and the children they care for is not required. If there are other adults in a Childminder's household, their interaction with the children should be limited where possible.



Examples

(other scenarios can apply)

Development of Outdoor Area: Susan's Childminding Service:

Susan is a Childminder caring for six children - two preschool age and four school age. She adapted her outdoor area to increase opportunities for outdoor activities and play experiences and created a sheltered outdoor play space. Susan followed HPSC guidance which encourages outdoor activities as much as possible as the risk of spread of infection between people is much lower when they are outdoors. To develop this space, Susan bought a gazebo, a picnic bench, mud kitchen, goal posts and outdoor clothing. She also created a hand sanitising station at her front door and in her outdoor play area. Susan and the children now eat their meals on the picnic bench outside and use the newly developed outdoor space for the majority of the day. The gazebo also allows Susan to meet parents outdoors at the end of the day when collecting the children.

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Infection prevention and control

Childminders should ensure:

- Hands are washed on arrival and regularly throughout the day
- Regular cleaning of frequently touched hard surfaces to reduce the risk of infection
- Robust hygiene measures and cleaning regimes are in place. Toys/ equipment/materials will be cleaned regularly and replaced in line with HPSC guidelines
- The sharing of food by children is discouraged
- Clear procedures are established for bringing snacks and food from home and are stored appropriately in the childminding service
- Comforters/soothers are welcomed. Comforters must be machine washable
- Additional clothes/sleepwear are left at the childminding setting and machine washed at the highest temperature
- Infection control policies and procedures are shared with Parents
- The restriction of any unnecessary visitors to the Childminders home during childminding hours
- Where it is considered necessary for a parent or guardian to enter the Childminders home, e.g. to help settle in a new child, social distancing between the parent/guardian and other adults will be observed
- A record is kept of anyone attending the Childminders home on each day to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an episode of infection

Examples

(other scenarios can apply)

Drop Off and collection - Nuala's Childminding Service:

Nuala cares for three children – one nine month old and two toddlers from different families. Nuala has made arrangements with the families that when they arrive Nuala meets them at the door with a warm welcome. Social distancing is observed as far as possible when handing over the children. Hand washing / sanitising happens on arrival. Nuala has agreed with the families that parents should remain in the car until the other parent has left the service. Nuala restricts visitors to her home during childminding hours. At collection time the same system is in place. Nuala keeps a record of children attending each day.

