

Childminding Newsletter

The National Action Plan for Childminding

May 2023

Update on the National Action Plan

The government has approved the drafting of Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023. The bill is in draft format and has yet to be enacted.

The exemptions that prevent many childminders from registering with Tusla are to be removed in line with National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028. This will allow the Minister to introduce childminder specific regulations. *(Head 39 Amendment to Section 58L of Principal Act page 70)*

The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 58D: A transitional period of three years will apply to the registration of persons providing a childminding service, as defined under Section 58A, from the date of introduction of childminder specific regulations under Section 58B. *(Head 32 Transitional Arrangements for Registration of Childminders page 60 - 61)*

This means that childminders will have three years to register with Tusla following the enactment of the new regulations before it becomes mandatory. Any childminder who does not wish to register under the new childminding regulations, currently being drafted, can remain under the current system, however they would have to re-register as an early years service.

For more information, please contact your local City / County Childcare Committee.

[Click to view the General Scheme of the Child Care Act \(Amendment\) Bill 2023.](#)

Business Information Sessions

Lots of childminders are signing up for the free Childminding Business Information Sessions, which are being rolled out through through local City/County Childcare Committees nationwide, mornings and evenings, usually online.

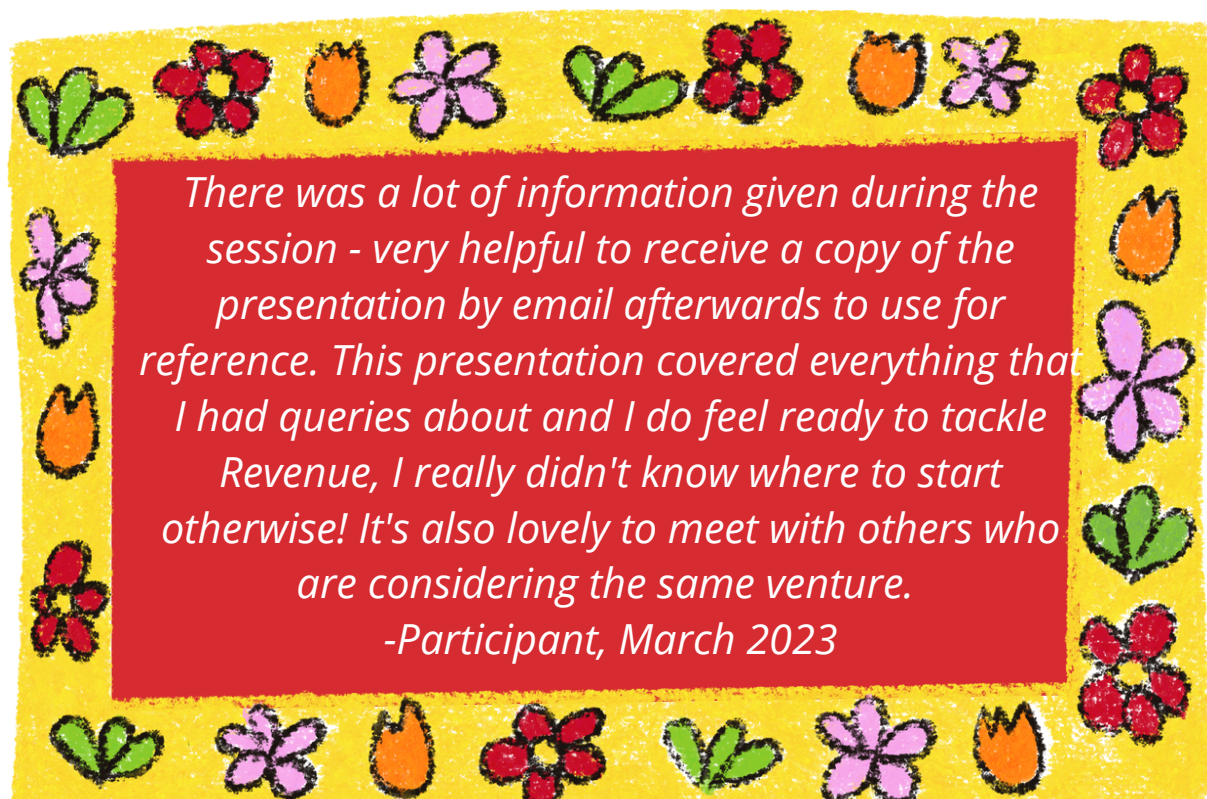
Over the four sessions, we look at:

- Marketing your childminding business
- Setting your fees
- Developing your parent contract
- Childminding and Revenue



Each of the sessions has been rated over 4.6/5 by participants on average. And as you can see, feedback is overwhelmingly positive from new and existing childminders. And of course, sharing experience with other childminders in your area is invaluable!

We have now developed a follow-up series **A Childminder's Guide to Bookkeeping**. So, keep an eye out for all these information sessions coming up near you after the summer!



Events around the country



Mindfulness in a Childminding setting on 2 with the Colour Monster in Galway.



Childminders' Breakfast with an update on the National Action Plan for Childminding in Dublin. Plus lots of discussion!
#happychildminders



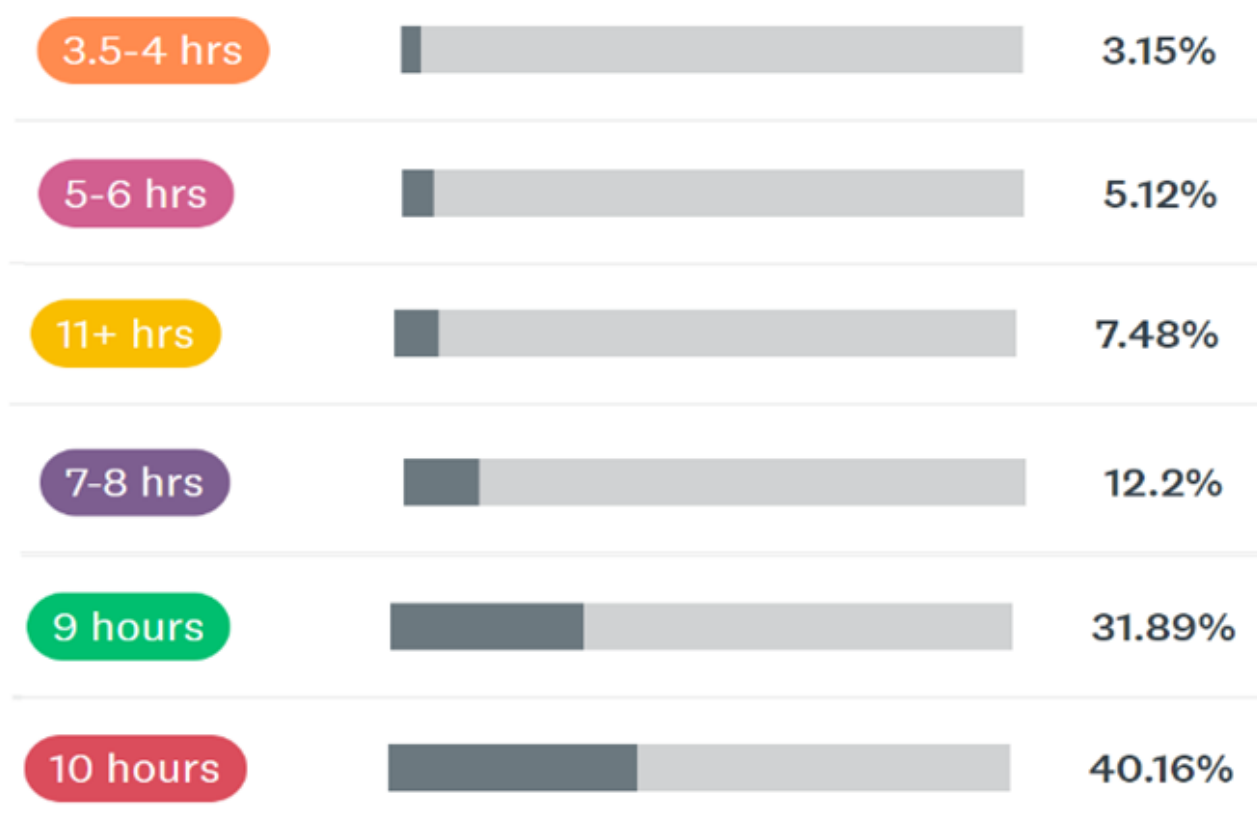
National Action Plan for Childminding
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The National Survey of Childminders

First of all, we'd really like to thank all you 432 childminders who took the time out of your busy day to complete our survey at the end of March. This is such useful information as we work together to shape the future childminding system in Ireland.

Some interesting findings were:

- Nearly 15% of you care for children with additional needs
- Nearly 70% do drop offs and pick ups to preschool/ school
- Over half of you help children with homework
- Surprisingly, over 60% of you provide breakfast to children
- 95% of children are playing in your gardens and over 40% of you are also bringing children to local parks and playgrounds



National Survey of Childminders, March 2023

Childminders' working hours

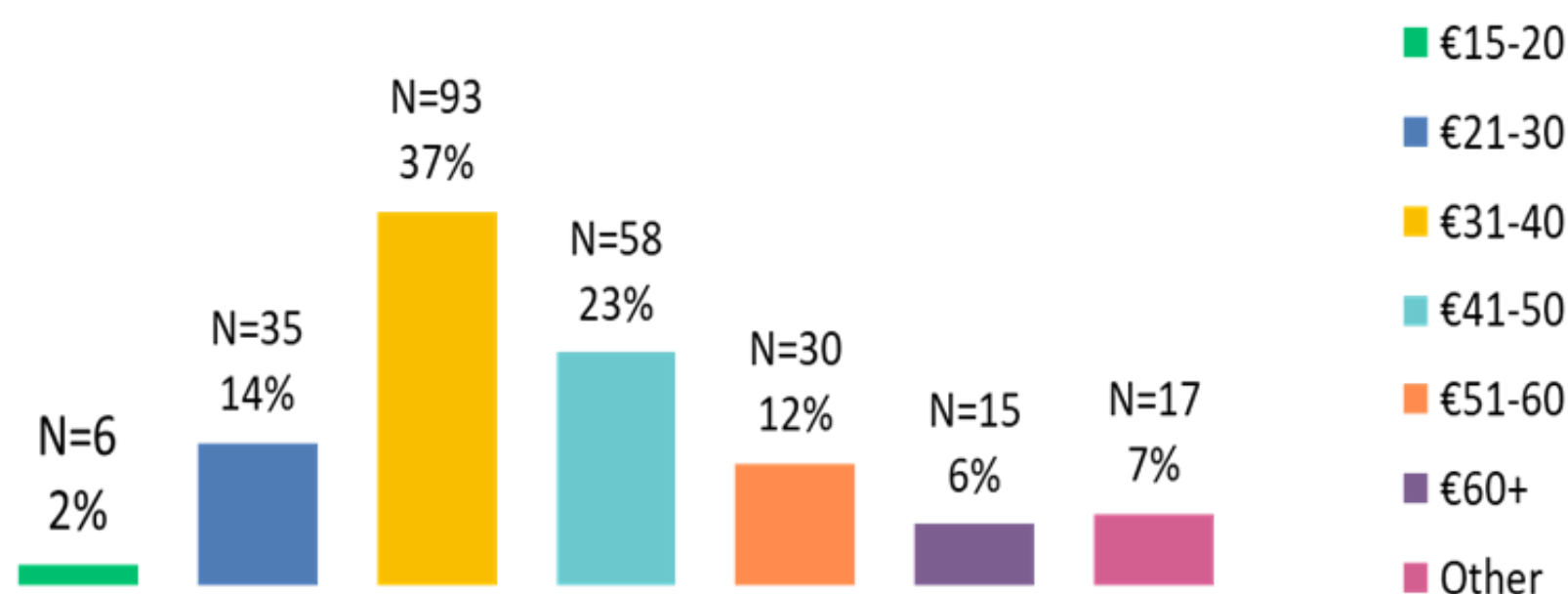
As you can see from the graphic, only a small number work part-time, offering the free pre-school scheme or after school care only.

- Over 90% work over 7 hours per day
- Over 47% work more than 10 hours a day
- The earliest start time reported was 6am
- The latest finish time was 9pm.

Childminders certainly work hard!

Childminding fees

Most fees were in the range of €31-€40 per day per child nationally, with €41-50 being the next most common fee range.



National Survey of Childminders, March 2023

Thank you so much for doing our survey!



Follow the National Action Plan for Childminding on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest developments! Just click on the Facebook logo to find us!



Make your own playdough

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons oil
- Warm water as needed
- Food colouring or poster paint

Optional add a teaspoon of:

- Cream of tartar
- Spices
- Herbs
- Glitter etc

Support the children with turn taking to make playdough



Method:

1. Mix all the dry ingredients together
2. Mix all the wet ingredients together
3. Put the wet into the dry ingredients and stir well
4. Put some flour on the table and divide the playdough among all the children
5. Have plenty of cookie cutters and small rolling pins and allow the fun & creativity to begin!

Playdough can be stored in an airtight container or ziplock bag for several days. Why not try making some playdough flowers for spring?

play dough
Spring Flowers
toddler fine motor



<https://myboredtoddler.com/play-dough-flowers-fine-motor-activity/>



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