

Health Service Executive (HSE). If the number of children cared for is less than 3 a Childminder is not obliged to inform the HSE.

## Drop In

A drop-in childcare provision offers a service for short periods of time during the day to Parents / Carers who have more irregular childcare needs. These services are generally provided by hotels, leisure centres and shopping centres.

## Choosing Childcare:

Be prepared and enrol your child early as some services may have a waiting list. It is advisable that you visit a number of childcare services before making your final decision in regard to choosing a childcare service to care for your child. Here are some sample questions that you should consider asking the childcare provider on your visit:

### Questions you can ask a childcare provider:

- Is the service notified to the local HSE Pre-School Department?
- What are the ages and number of children attending the service?
- How many staff are there?
- What qualifications / experience do the staff have?
- What are the opening hours, fees, payment for holidays / non-attendance and notice of termination?
- Does the service have adequate policies and procedures such as Child Protection, Behaviour Management, Sleep Policy, Child Sickness Policy and Emergency Policy including Accident / Incident Policy (this list is not exhaustive)?
- Is there a parental handbook which details the services policies and procedures?
- Is the service insured?
- What items does the parent need to provide e.g. nappies, bottles etc.
- Is the food provided and if so is it healthy, balanced and nutritious?
- Is there a planned programme of activities / curriculum?

## Contacts:

You can contact us at any time if you have any queries in relation to the information in this leaflet and for a list of childcare services available in North Tipperary:

**North Tipperary County Childcare Committee**  
Civic Offices, Limerick Road,  
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 067-44888  
Email: [childcare@northtippcoco.ie](mailto:childcare@northtippcoco.ie)  
Web: [www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)

or you can contact :


**Pre-School Inspection & Information Services**  
Health Service Executive (HSE)  
Annbrook, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary


Tel: 067-38308  
Web: [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

This leaflet is available to download from  
[www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)

 **IRISH:** Tá an bhileog seo ar fáil le híoslódáil ó [www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)

 **POLISH:** Niniejszą broszurę można również pobrać z witryny internetowej [www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)

 **HUNGARIAN:** A füzet tartalma letölthető a következő címről:  
[www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)

 **RUSSIAN:** Данную листовку можно загрузить, нажав на ссылку:  
[www.northtipperarychildcare.ie](http://www.northtipperarychildcare.ie)



north tipperary county  
**childcare**  
committee

Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Thiobrad Árann Thuaidh

# A Guide to Choosing Childcare in North Tipperary



Transforming Ireland

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Choosing childcare is a very important decision and may prove to be a very difficult task. No doubt questions such as 'Where do I start looking?', 'What do I look for?' and 'How can I be sure my child will be properly cared for?' will be asked by Parents / Carers at this time. There are a variety of childcare options available to Parents / Carers who are wishing to return to work. The choice of childcare is dependent on each family's individual circumstances such as the hours being worked, the location of the childcare service as well as own personal preferences.

This leaflet includes a brief overview of some options available to Parents / Carers who are looking for care for their child.

## Private & Community Childcare Services

Generally childcare services operate as either a private business or as a community based not for profit service. Management of a private childcare service will be undertaken by the owners of the business; whereas a community based childcare service is managed by a voluntary management committee. Community based childcare may often give preference to those children living in the locality of the service with a focus on disadvantage.

## Sessional / Part Time Services

Sessional services provide childcare to pre-school children for no more than 3.5 hours per session. Part Time services provide childcare to pre-school children for a total of more than 3.5 hours and less than 5 hours per day. Part Time services may include a sessional service for pre-school children not attending the part time day care service.

These services should provide a well planned programme of activities / curriculum for the children attending as well as ensuring a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Sessional and part time services tend to operate during the school term; however some sessional services will provide childcare outside of term times.

## Full Day Services

Full day services provide childcare for pre-school children for more than 5 hours per day.

This service may include sessional services for children not attending the full day care service.

This service should provide a well planned programme of activities / curriculum for the children attending as well as ensuring a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Full day care services mostly operate for 8 - 9 hours per day to accommodate the working Parent / Carer. Some full day care services may only operate during the school term; however some sessional services will provide childcare for the majority of the calendar year.

## Playgroups

Pre-school Playgroups are organised in people's homes or in community halls. They provide learning opportunities through a play based curriculum

## Montessori

The Montessori method of education is based on the developmental needs of the child within a carefully prepared environment. It will expose the child to materials and experiences through which their intellect, physical and social skills are developed.

In Montessori schools the children follow a pre-set programme of exercises, where they are treated with respect and allowed to develop at their own pace.

## Naíonra

Naíonraí are playgroups for Pre-School children conducted through the medium of the Irish language. In a Naíonra the child will learn Irish naturally and easily through a play based curriculum. It is enjoyable for a young child to learn new words in an environment of play, songs and stories.

## Play Based Curriculum

A quality play based curriculum will provide a rich learning environment promoting each individual child's holistic development through the medium of play.

## High / Scope

High / Scope is an 'active learning' approach giving the children direct hands on experiences with people, objects, events and ideas.

## School Aged Childcare

School aged childcare offers Parents / Carers with a service that provides a safe, supervised and fun environment where children are cared for in the company of their friends from the time that children finish school until their Parents / Carers collect them after work.

School Aged Childcare should have regular and consistent opening hours and may provide children with the opportunity to complete their homework and also take part in play and recreational activities. The emphasis of this provision should be on providing a relaxed, recreational environment which allows the child to explore, investigate and develop emerging skills in a safe, secure environment.

## Parent & Toddler Groups

Parent & Toddler groups are a great opportunity for Parents / Carers of young children to meet with other Parents / Carers of similar aged children in a safe and secure environment in their own locality, usually on a weekly basis. These groups can also help to prepare the child for progression into childcare away from the Parent / Carer i.e. pre-school or play group. It can provide Parents / Carers with support and contact that otherwise may be minimal and therefore can lead to a greater sense of belonging within their community.

## Childminders

Home based childminders provide approximately 80% of childcare in Ireland. They offer a much needed service to parents / carers in employment, education and training. The role of the Childminder is to provide a safe, nurturing environment and to offer home based childcare to one or a small group of children. A Childminder who cares for up to 5 pre-school children (under the age of 6) from different families is obliged to notify their service to the