

# NICMA's PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE RURAL CHILDMINDING

## What is the project?

Families in rural areas face particular difficulties in accessing high quality childcare that allows them to return to work or education. This was identified in the Rural Childcare Stakeholder groups report 'RURAL CHILDCARE- Investing in the Future'. As a result of this report, NICMA submitted a successful bid to the **Rural Childcare programme to develop registered Childminding in rural areas.**

The project will promote and encourage registered childminding in rural areas in need of additional childminding provision. It will encourage individuals to consider childminding as a profession and will provide a range of support and training to those individuals. This will include Introductory training in home-based childcare, NICMA's Quality Business Start programme and the provision of safe and stimulating indoor and outdoor play equipment and resources.

## What will the project do?

The project will:

- 1 Use a multi-agency approach both *regionally and locally* to ensure that all relevant agencies and communities are involved in the delivery of the project
- 2 Target **15** rural areas in need of additional childminding provision and aim to recruit **8-10 prospective childminders** in each of the targeted rural areas
- 3 Develop up to **40 new childminding places** per area for children aged 0-12 years
- 4 Deliver **Introductory Childcare training** to provide knowledge in:
  - Health & safety
  - Child development
  - Child protection
- 5 Deliver NICMA's '**Quality Business Start** programme' to provide knowledge in:
  - First aid in working with young children
  - Business side of childminding
- 6 Provide resource packs of indoor and outdoor play and safety equipment to enhance the quality of childcare

## Where will the project take place?

NICMA has identified **15 rural areas** as being in need of new childminding provision. The project will target [but not be confined to]:

- 1 Newtownhamilton, Camlough, Kilbroney, Burren, Mayobridge & Clonallan
- 2 Rathfriland & outlying areas
- 3 Washingbay, Killyman, Altmore & Coalisland N&S
- 4 Belcoo, Garrison, Belleek & Boa
- 5 Lisnaskea & Newtownbutler
- 6 Drumquin & outlying areas
- 7 Claudy
- 8 Cushendall, Glenravel, Carnlough, Cushendun, Glenariff, & Glenarm
- 9 Arroy, Ballycastle, Portballintrae, Bushmills, Ballintoy & Dervock
- 10 Kilrea, Dunloy, Garvagh, Rasharkin & surrounding areas
- 11 Rostrevor, Newcastle, Kilkeel & Annalong
- 12 Killinchy, Comber, Donaghadee, Ballygowan, Kircubbin & parts of the Ards Peninsula
- 13 Downpatrick, Ardglass & Killough
- 14 Ballinderry, Moira, Maghaberry, Stoneyford, Dundrod & Glenavy
- 15 Plumbridge, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart & Donemanagh



**Registered Childminding** provides high quality childcare and learning within home based settings for children aged 0-14 years. It is the most popular – and affordable – form of full-time childcare in Northern Ireland accounting for 63% of full-time daycare places and 37% of all childcare places.

**For further information on the project**

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NICMA  
 January 2010



This project is supported by DARD through the Rural Childcare Programme

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the Childminding Association