**Laois Childminder Newsletter January 2022**

Whats Happening:

* **The National Action Plan for Childminding (NAPC)**

 The aim of the NAPC is:

To provide greater recognition for childminding and to support childminders in their work of providing high quality early learning and care and school age childcare, thus supporting child development and learning outcomes and helping families. The Action Plan aims to support parental choice and increase availability of flexible and affordable early learning and care and school-age childcare for working parents.

We are currently in Phase 1 of the NAPC, the Preparatory Phase.

* **Additional funding for the childminding sector**

Budget 2022 contained an additional €1.16 million to support the NAPC.

* **Covid Guideance for Childminders**

[**https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/newupdatedguidance/**](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/newupdatedguidance/)

* **Activity Idea**

[**https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/pdf/water-play.pdf**](https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/pdf/water-play.pdf)

* **Story-Telling Activity**

We have been all living in the virtual world for a long time and would love to give you the opportunity to bring your children to a story-telling activity in our local library in Portlaoise. Whether or not you are childminding or would like to receive information you are more than welcome to come and join. This is a great opportunity to meet other childminders and chat all things childminding while the children enjoy the fun of the storytelling with experienced story tellers.

This network event will take place on Thursday the 17th of February at 10:30am in Portlaoise Library. Booking is essential, please email [m.nolan@laoischildcare.ie](mailto:m.nolan@laoischildcare.ie) to book you place. Places are limited, when booking please advise if you will be attending with children or not and how many children will be in your care.

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