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DR BOIBATH WILL BE IN THE CASTLETROY PARK HOTEL LIMBOCK ON FRIDAY 26TH MARCH AND COUNTY ROSCOMMON ON THE 27TH AND 28TH MARCH




Fashion Show in Ballygar

Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar are staging a Fashion Show 'Visions for the Future' on Friday night, March 19th at 8 pm in the Mattie McDonagh Centre, Ballygar. The profits from this fundraiser will be used to upgrade the information and communications technology facilities in the school and a donation will be made to Cancer Care West. Tickets are available from the school or from members of the Parents' Council, phone (090) 66 24740.

Feighan query on bog report

Frank Feighan TD has again asked the Minister for the Environment about the position regarding turf cutting on bogs in special areas of conservation in counties Roscommon and Leitrim and if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the turf cutting season has already begun and when the report from the special committee will be available.

He has been advised that the derogation allowing a continuation of turf cutting on 32 Raised Bog SACs that were notified for designation in 1999 has now expired. A further 23 raised bog SACs were notified for designation in 2002.

The Minister stated, "The Working Group on the Cessation of Turf Cutting in Designated Areas is nearing completion of its deliberations and I expect to receive its report very shortly."

Kids just want to have fun!

This year the theme for Childminding week is 'Kids Just want to have Fun - Lets Get Out and Play!'

Play is a very important part of child development and helps children make sense of the world around them. Outdoor play has many benefits allowing children more freedom and physical exercise, which has an over-

all health benefit to children and adults.

Play allows children to learn through their own direct experience, develop confidence in their own ability to make sense of the world and extend skills and abilities by testing them out in a range of situations. It also helps children to take risks and learn from their mistakes. Children

are also helped to progress by building on existing knowledge and understanding and are allowed to express feelings and ideas and recreate what they have felt and experienced. Play helps children to resolve conflicts both intellectually and socially and of course, to enjoy fun and laughter with their peers and adults. It also draws on a

range of resources to achieve their intentions, developing a flexible and open-ended approach to problems-use their imagination to find solutions. It helps children to initiate, carry out and review their own projects and encourages deeper interests while children use their senses as a means of exploring the world.



Voluntary Notification Scheme for Childminders

What is Voluntary Notification?

Voluntary Notification is a scheme allowing childminders who are not legally obliged to notify to the Health Service Executive (HSE) to notify their services to RCCC on a voluntary basis.

Childminders exempt from the Child Care (Pre School Services) Regulations 1996 and 2006 and not currently required to notify to the HSE include Childminders who mind three or fewer unrelated pre-school children at any time and childminders involved in after school care.

Now, these Childminders may notify voluntarily through the Childminders' Advisory Service of Roscommon County Childcare Committee, which runs this Voluntary Notification and support scheme on behalf of the HSE.

What are the benefits of voluntary notification?

- It allows childminders to avail of the support and information provided by the Childminder's Advisory Service, including a home visit.
- It also allows the Childminder to apply for the Childminders' Development Grant and qualifies the childminder to claim the Childminders' Tax Exemption (€15,000 tax-free in 2007).
- Reassures parents of a quality childminding service and puts the childminders' service on a list for interested parents, if s/he so wishes.
- Have their service listed on RCCC website.
- Allows childminders to participate in training and childminding networks.

Childminding Development Grant

The Childcare Directorate of the Office of the Minister for Children has advised that approval has been given for the introduction of a new, enhanced Childminding Development Grant, under the National Childcare Investment programme 2006 - 2010 (NCIP).

This grant will be available from 26 May 2008 until the closure of the NCIP in December 2010. The principle points to note are: The NCIP Childminding Development Grant will continue to be administered by Roscommon County Childcare Committee (RCCC). Childminders should apply for the grant through RCCC. The maximum grant will be €1,000 and the grant can be claimed against validated expenditure on equipment, toys or minor household adaptations.

Childminders who received the €630 under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme may also apply for the full €1,000. RCCC will require receipts showing eligible expenditure. It is a condition of the grant that Childminders who are subject to the Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 2006 (minding four or more children), have notified their service to the HSE.

Childminders minding three or less children can voluntarily notify their service to RCCC. To avail of the grant, child-

mindings must be voluntary notified to their local County Childcare Committee. To be eligible for the Childminding Development Grant, a childminder must,

- Be providing an existing service or proposing to provide a new service
- Provide or propose to provide a childminding service for at least three children on a part-time basis or one child on a full time basis (not including childminder's own children)
- Be notified to the HSE if required by legislation (minding four or more children)
- Be voluntarily notified to Roscommon County Childcare Committee
- Have completed the Introduction to Childminding Course/QAP and/or Fetac Level 5;
- Provide proof of insurance and PPS number
- Remain in operation for two years following receipt of the grant.



Events to celebrate Childminding Week

Roscommon County Childcare Committee has organised a number of events to celebrate Childminding Week for childminders and children in their care.

MONDAY 22ND MARCH

Jo Jingles

Music with Jo Jingles and coffee morning from 10 am to 12 pm in Upsie Daisies Fun Factory, Lanesboro Road, Roscommon. In the afternoon, there will be an afternoon of fun and music with Jo Jingles from 2.30 pm in Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle.

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2010

Visit to Tullyboy

A trip to Tullyboy Farm, Boyle, will take place on Wednesday, 24th March, where children will have the opportunity to see a real working farm. They can get up close, pet the animals, hand feed, bottle feed and cuddle them. Farmer Matt is there to make your day down on the farm an enjoyable experience for all visitors.

SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH

Badger's birthday

Conor Lambert Puppet Shows will present 'Badger's Birthday' on Saturday, March 27th, at Monksland Community Centre, Athlone.

'Badger's Birthday' is a new production from the Custard Pie Puppet Company. As the forest animals get ready for the big party, trouble comes lurking in the guise of escaped monkeys, Squeezie and Peezie, who steal Badger's birthday present and set off chaos amongst the forest folk. After some detective work and help from the audience an unlikely hero comes to the surface.

'Badgers Birthday' is 45 minutes in duration and is introduced by the ever popular Ding and Dong. This show, which is written and directed by Conor Lambert, is live and interactive and is suitable for all ages.

For information on any of the above events, please contact Carmel on 094-9622540.