

COVID-19 TASK FORCE: EDUCATION SECTOR

SUB-COMMITTEE 1: RE-OPENING & CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR CHILDMINDING & DAY CARE CENTRES

GUIDELINE #1: Physical & Social Distancing – Information about Quota Allocation of Childminding and Day Care Centres

Introduction

To ensure the health and safety of each child under their care and to control the spread of Covid-19, it is important for Childcare Providers strictly follow regulations for Day Care and Childminding settings – for Day Care the Non-Formal Early Childhood Education Centre produced by Ministry of Education (2005) and the Institute for Early Childhood Development Regulation (IECD 2016). The two documents provide quota for each setting depending on its size and by age group. Noting that child / staff ratio must also be considered as a contributing factor to promote health and safety among the children and staff.

These requirements also ensure that Childcare Providers maintain accurate documentation that remains available on each child under their entrusted care to determine compliance with the childcare rules and ensure the health and safety of each child.

(a) Day Care Centre

- provide a Day Care services for children aged from 3 months to 4 years old;
- the quota depends specifically on the size of the building;
- the number of assistants depends of the quota / the grouping per age;
- children are grouped in terms of age - 0-18 months and 18 months – 48 months;
- Sub-division of adult: children ratios:
 - 0-3 months age group - 1:3
 - 4-9 months age group - 1:5
 - 10-18 months age group - 1:10
 - 19-36 months age group - 1:15

(b) Childminding setting

- Provide a Childminding service for children aged from 3 months to 4 years old;
- Not mind more than two babies or infants of 3 months to one year old;
- Mind up to five children (this can include two babies of 3 months to one year old);
- Have an assistant if he or she minds six to ten children; and
- Not exceed a quota of ten children as long as the space requirement of 2 metres square per child if met;

(c) In-door space requirements

- ensure that the total space per child is at least 2 sqm. Childminding and 2.2 Day Care Centre sqm;
- ensure that indoor space consists of the designated areas where the child plays and spends most of his or her time (this does not include other areas of the establishment);
- ensure that play areas have soft flooring (mats, pillows, cushions are acceptable);
- ensure that the child has enough physical space to move and explore;
- ensure that the rooms in the establishment do not have additional items that may affect the child's safety;
- ensure that there is a cot for each child below one year old;

(d) Maintain the grouping recommendations as per the approved quota for Day Care / Childminding settings and staff

- childcare activities should include the same group each day;
- the same care providers should remain with the same group each day so that the child can build up a secure relationship;
- keep each group of children in a separate room;
- limit the mixing of children and keeping groups apart for special activities such as art, music, and exercising;