

Childcare act 1991



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Regulations as to pre-school services: The law in Ireland provides for the regulation and inspection of pre-school childcare services. Under the childcare act of 1991 the HSE in Ireland is charged with ensuring the health, safety and welfare of preschool children attending services. Pre-school children are defined by law as children under 6 years of age, who are not attending a national school or equivalent. Pre-school services include pre-schools, crèches, day nurseries, play groups, Montessori, childminders and other similar services looking after more than 3 pre-school children.

Giving of notice to health board: All pre-school care providers are required to notify the health board that they are providing such service to the public. They are required to hold all responsibility and put in place certain measures to safe guard the children's well being and safety while attending their service.

Duty of person carrying on pre-school service: It is the duty of all persons carrying on pre-school services to make sure the children's health safety and welfare is being safe guarded. Pre-school providers are responsible for the children in their care from the moment they arrive until they are collected. They duty of this person is to make sure the environment in which their service is provided in is kept clean so no harm can come to the child's health and child friendly they have to be sure that the child can come to no harm in their setting. the person must also ensure their staff have the right qualifications and training to work in the childcare sector. Its is also the duty of the person to make sure they follow all the regulations in the legislation. These persons have many regulations to follow such as staff to children

ratios which are set out by the board and must be followed to ensure the safety of the child.

Supervision of pre-school services: The regulations set the high standards of health, safety and welfare that must be in place before care services can be provided. The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has responsibility for these regulations and the developing policy in this area.

Authorised persons: There must be an authorised person within the service who makes sure all the rules and regulations are followed and are in conjunction with the Childcare Act of 1991. This person's duty is to make sure that the wellbeing, safety and health of the children is always protected and its importance paramount.

Inspection by authorised persons: The HSE are required to inspect and regulate all services in the pre-school area. This is to make sure that the environment is clean and safe and that the standards are up to what the HSE ordered this is all done with the children's welfare in mind. The children's well being is paramount.

Provision by health boards of pre-school services and information: The different types of pre-school childcare services in Ireland are the described in the legislation they are as follows:

Sessional services: Playgroups, crèches, Montessori and playschools looking after 3 or more children offer sessional services these services normally offered are planned programmes which consist of 3.5 hours per session

either in the morning or afternoon. They usually cater for pre-school children between the ages of 0 - 6 years old.

Part-time day care: This is a structured day care service for more than 3.5 hours and less than 5 hours per day.

Full day care: This is also a structured day care service that is provided for more than 5 hours a day main providers include crèches and day nurseries.

Childminders: Childminders care for children in their own home only childminders that care for 3 children or more are covered by the childcare act of 1991. Throughout the year they provide services for the full working day or for different times during the day parents and childminders negotiate on their own terms and are in total control of their wages, duties and hours.