

## How can male childcare workers be supported by childcare center?

- Be pro-active and communicate the positives to parents and staff and make it a fact that men are involved with your program.
- Consider men and women in an equal and positive way.
- Have policies and procedures in place for the protection of all i.e. the children and the childcare workers.
- Men are usually working in isolation from other men and they may need specific support from their supervisors to feel they are doing a good job and are included in the childcare team.



## Why choose childcare as a career?

**IT'S REWARDING...**A job that involves working with children has many rewards. You will have the enjoyment and pleasure of working with children and the satisfaction of being involved in a child's physical, intellectual, social and emotional development.

**IT'S FLEXIBLE...**A job in childcare or early education can also offer flexibility of hours which would allow you to work around family or study commitments.

**IT'S CHALLENGING...**Working with children also provides constant challenges, personally and professionally. You could be planning a curriculum, a care plan, a day trip or working with parents, the job will vary day-to-day. Every day is different.

**IT'S PROGRESSIVE...**There is also plenty of career progression offered in a job in childcare or early education. You can start your career with very little experience and study for a qualification whilst you are working. You could also climb the career ladder by gaining higher qualification and becoming a supervisor or manager/ coordinator. Once you have gained the qualifications and experience you may even wish to set up your own preschool or after school club.

**IT'S FUN...**A job working with children, whether in a pre-school, after school club or as a child minder, is primarily a fun one. You will be helping children learn through play and help them to discover the world around them.

### EASY WAYS TO CONTACT US

Leave a message in our Mailbox: 087 2299208

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## Men in Childcare Network

I R E L A N D

*"Support and encouragement for men interested in a career in childcare"*





# Our Vision

Our vision is that children would feel that it is normal to be cared for by women and men.

This vision is based on the belief that children benefit from a gender balanced care setting and that it is optimum in terms of the social development of a healthy child.

We also believe that the inclusion of trained male childcare workers could undo a tremendous amount of negative stereotyping about men and their abilities to nurture and care for children. Finally we believe that in an era of equality and the growing awareness in gender equality issues it is perfectly logical for men to aspire to such a vision.



## What can MiC Ireland do?

The main aim of the MiC network is to work towards an increased representation of men in the Childcare sector in Ireland with particular emphasis on the benefits of the child. We aim to achieve this by

- Informing and supporting men who may be interested in a career in the Childcare sector and enable male workers in Childcare to support each other.
- Recognizing the importance of childcare as a profession in our society and the valued role that men can play in this sector.
- Informing the childcare sector and broader society of the benefits and unique qualities men have to offer to the childcare profession.
- Helping childcare centers who wish to recruit and support male childcare workers.

For our members we aim to:

- Provide forums for them to discuss issues that concern them and or to share ideas/ thoughts with other male childcare workers.
- Respond quickly to their needs.
- Supporting and encouraging men to source quality childcare qualifications.
- Provide resources and media for men/ students/ tutors offering childcare as a "real" career choice.

## Why have Men in Childcare?

Children grow up in a society that is focusing more than ever on equality issues. However, many of the children in Childcare are left in a situation where they have no contact with men between 8 am and 5 pm. At the same time the Childcare sector in Ireland has the lowest representation of male workers in Europe, less than 1 %.

- Children benefit because men bring new ideas and ways of working into childcare.
- Fathers benefit because they have someone to relate to and may feel more at home.
- Staff benefit because more gender balanced staff teams gives different ways of looking at issues facilitating different approaches
- Having men working in childcare shows children that manliness can include caring

