



The Scottish Childminding Association Vision:

Quality childminding....building confident children within a family childcare experience

A manifesto for childminding at the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary Elections

Childminding provides a flexible home-based service for Scotland's children. Each year in Scotland around 6000 childminders provide a professional quality service for over 28,000 children allowing families to go to work or access training. Over 85% of these childminders are members of Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA).

In order to achieve our vision, SCMA have three key priorities and our message is based around these priorities:

Key Priority One:

Raise the Profile of Childminding

Highlight to parents that childminding provides the highest quality service for children as shown in the latest grading report from the Care Commission. This is particularly important for parents of the 0-3 age group where low ratios make a real difference to the quality of care that babies receive and the service can provide continuity of care for all the family's children.

Acknowledge the importance of childminders in achieving the transformational changes in the Early Years Framework and the aims of Getting it Right for Every Child. Promote the key role childminders play in supporting child development in the 0-3 age range as this period has been defined as crucial to shaping future outcomes. As community based providers of family day care, childminders provide a vital role in ensuring support for families and in early intervention.

Promote childminders ability to play a key part within integrated services for children and families.

Recognise the unique position of childminding services in being able to provide free play for children and so assist with improving children's health and wellbeing.

Identify that childminders can act as role models to support the development of parenting skills.

Key Priority Two:

Improve the Quality of Childminding

Make Induction training mandatory for all those applying to provide a childminding service to ensure high quality individuals go into childminding and that they are appropriately prepared.

Ensure access to appropriate training and qualifications for all childminders across Scotland so that practice is seen to improve with the benefits that will bring to the children in their care.

Key Priority Three:

Recruit and Retain Professional, Quality Childminders

Retain childminding services by helping parents with the cost of childcare. The childcare element of Working Tax Credit could be given as vouchers ensuring that it is used for registered services.

Give parents real choice by ensuring that they can choose childminding for their child's pre-school education place and that where subsidised places are offered these are also available for childminding services.

Promote recruitment particularly in rural areas where childminding is the best viable option for parents.