

Mary-anne Gemmell: childminder

Good morning everyone, my name is Mary-anne Gemmell, I live within the Irving area and I have been child minding for nearly nine years. Currently I have eleven children that I care for all part time. The youngest is eight weeks old, a wee baby, and the oldest one is eight years old. I have private clients. I also care for children through the day-care support service. I work alongside health visitors and social work and nursery staff to ensure that I provide the best service I can for the children within my care.

In the past I have spoken to health visitors and social work about children in my care to get advice and pass on valuable information about a child in my care. Self-reflection and feedback from parents is vital to know that the service you provide the children are happy and the parents are happy and it works both ways because obviously if you're not happy with something you've got to address that as well because you've got to be happy within your work.

I do questionnaires, care plans, all about me and make sure that all relevant permission slips, risk assessments are in place and up to date. As a childminder I work with the Early Years Framework, Building the Ambition, GIRFEC, Setting the Table, that's just to name a few that helps me within my practice.

And do you see yourself as a leader then?

In a way yes, you do, cos obviously you are leading your service and you're a manager of your service, so you have to be a leader to be able to do that.

And of course you see yourself as a role model to those that are vulnerable kids...

I don't but of course other people say yes, [laughing] but you always put yourself down, yes.

...but I suppose parents who are going through a difficulty, a difficult situation look at you and would see you as a good role model....

Well I have a wee girl just finished up and it wasn't just the girl I supported I supported the older brother as well and she kinda said to me the wee girl when she finished up 'you went beyond the call of duty' and I was like 'No, no, no, no' and she said, 'You have, look, you don't realise you have but you do things that's not expected of you.'

What kind of tip would you give us for collaborating? Anything that you think 'Oh, this really worked for me.'

I don't now just really having new ideas, working with other childminders, eh, going to the Care Inspectorate hubs and various websites, because obviously you can get ideas from other people... eh... going on different courses, because like you can go on a course and come away from it feeling inspired and in turn you'll go back and revisit your service and you'll think I can do this and do that to improve it.