

## Principles Underpinning the Delivery of Quality School Age Childcare Services

- ✧ Be delivered in the best interest of and in close consultation with children, families, staff and the wider community
- ✧ Be based on a shared belief agreed between parents, management and staff in the importance of the overall philosophy of the service
- ✧ Have clear, written aims, objectives, policies and procedures
- ✧ Have a management structure that adheres to all legal, financial, personnel and administrative requirements of running a business
- ✧ Ensure that premises are suitable and meet the requirements of relevant legislation
- ✧ Provide a safe, clean, secure, well planned physical environment that offers a wide range of stimulating and satisfying experiences to children and young people that promotes their health, well being, learning and development
- ✧ Acknowledge & respect the views of parents and families
- ✧ Value, respect and promote the diversity and culture of all families
- ✧ Provide equal opportunities for all children, young people and families attending
- ✧ Be accessible to all parents and children / young people wishing to use the service
- ✧ Ensure management and staff are appropriately trained and committed to accessing ongoing training, information and development opportunities
- ✧ Ensure staff are valued, supported and adequately remunerated
- ✧ Ensure staff promote the rights of all children and young people and nurture their overall developmental needs
- ✧ Promote effective relationships between: staff members, management & staff, staff with children, staff with parents and children with children
- ✧ Encourage and develop a positive attitude towards the Irish Language
- ✧ Ensure an appropriate adult/child ratio
- ✧ Develop links with other individuals and groups working in the area of Out of School Services e.g. Foróige, National Youth Work Ireland, National Youth Council, Area Based Partnerships, HSE's, C&CCC's
- ✧ Develop links and positive attitudes in the community

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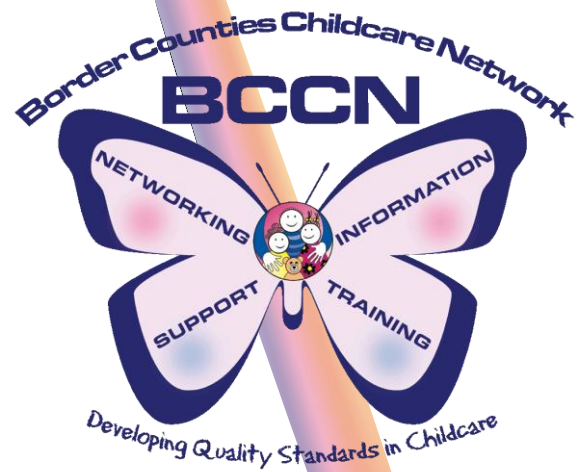
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# Border Counties Childcare Network



## School Age Childcare Services



Supporting the Attainment of Quality Standards in Childcare Services

**BCCN Definition of School Age Childcare**  
 Centre-based Services for school going children, from both the primary and secondary sector, which operate during one or more of the following periods: **before school - after school - during the school holidays**  
 The main purpose of the service is to look after the children in the absence of their parents



**BCCN Statement of Quality**

Efficiently managed School Age Childcare Services provide a safe, caring and healthy environment that promotes children's health; well-being; learning and development; support parents, families and the wider community. Services understand the value of a broad and stimulating programme of activities that will lead to increased educational attainment, the creation of hobbies, interests and healthy leisure pursuits for children and young people

**Points to remember**

- ✧ Children may need to be collected after school by the service organisers
- ✧ Children need to be given a substantial snack on arrival after the school day
- ✧ In the case of Breakfast Services, staff should provide a nutritious breakfast, activities, and then a staff member/service organiser escort the children to school
- ✧ Children should remain in the service until collected by parent / carer or authorised person
- ✧ At least one staff member with a current, valid First Aid Certificate should be on the premises during the session
- ✧ All Services should have written policy statements and procedural guidelines that have been drawn up in conjunction with staff, parents and children. A copy of these should be made available to all
- ✧ Staff should have a qualification that gives an understanding of the process of play / recreation
- ✧ Staff should have training that addresses: dealing with parents, supervisory/management skills, and be physically and emotionally able to care for young people, their welfare and development
- ✧ Staff should have a qualification that specifically relates to the age of children that they are working with
- ✧ Adults should view themselves as facilitators for the children, offering assistance, advice and support when needed. They should act as positive role models and strike a balance between being involved with the children without being intrusive and make themselves available to the children at all times
- ✧ All children should be treated with fairness and consistency. Adults need to recognise and respect the values and beliefs, which result from the child's cultural, ethnic, and religious background



**Benefits of School Age Childcare**

In recent years numerous studies have been conducted on the benefits of School Age Childcare in various countries. Research proves that Quality SAC Services have the potential to impact positively on: the children who attend; their families; the schools; employers; local communities; society, health and the economy

**School Age Childcare (SAC) Services may be Provided by a variety of centres or groups:**

- ✧ Community / Private Groups Stand alone Services
- ✧ Day-care/crèche Centres
- ✧ Family Resource Centres
- ✧ Childminders
- ✧ Schools

The BCCN have published further information on School Age Childcare: **The BCCN School Age Childcare Quality Development & Accreditation Programme 'Information Pack' and 'Service Evaluation System'** are available from the BCCN Office