







Topic: Supporting risky play opportunities

Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of children taking risks in their learning and development. One way to do this is through engaging in risky play. This can broadly be defined as physical, expressive and exciting play, which involves an element of risk, challenge and adventure.



Key connections

- *Aistear*'s theme: [Exploring and Thinking](#)
- *Síolta* Standard 6: [Play](#)

Risky Play is fun,
exciting and
even somewhat
scary


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	There are many advantages for children who engage in risky play activities but these also present challenges to some children. Watch this four minute video , by Dr. Orla Kelly, on the benefits and challenges of risky play for children aged 3 – 6 years old.	
	This resource will give guidance and support on how to support risky play opportunities from children from 1 – 6 years of age for early years educators.	
	Fundamental movement skills support children’s overall development especially their co-ordination and physical dexterity, both of which are important in children’s engagement with Risky Play. This booklet will help you understand more about Fundamental Movement Skills.	
	Like all play, children’s risky play along with their interactions and learning opportunities are best observed and documented over a sustained period of time. This resource may be useful when considering how best to document children’s learning and development.	



	<p>Two important factors when planning for Risky Play learning opportunities for children are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The learning environment and2) Balancing risk and safety <p>Dr. Orla Kelly talks about both of these issues in the videos linked above.</p>	
	<p>It is important to note that encouraging and facilitating children to engage in risky play opportunities is a process that develops over a period of time. The Action Planning Tool on the <i>Aistear Síolta</i> Practice Guide may help in the reflection and ongoing development of this area of practice. This tool is available here</p>	

My key reflections having viewed/read the above materials

Prompts for Reflection: What is working well for you in this area? What are the challenges you have experienced in this area? What will you do differently in the future?

	
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An action I can take . . .

Prompts for Reflection: Outline the changes you plan to make to your practice. How will these changes impact positively on children's learning and development? Think about the resources and supports you will need. What aspects of this work would you like to prioritise and focus on in the coming weeks?



Link to the Practice Guide's [Aistear Síolta Action Planning Template](#)

All of the above resources and many more are available on the *Aistear Síolta Practice Guide* website at www.aistearsiolta.ie

Thank you for visiting and using the Practice Guide.