



## Topic: Nurturing children’s sense of identity and belonging through cultural pedagogy (Birth - 6 years)

Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of supporting children’s sense of identity and belonging.

In this short CPD session, you will learn about the importance of nurturing a positive sense of identity and belonging through cultural pedagogy. The suggested resources for viewing, reading and reflecting on highlight the importance of understanding children’s backgrounds and cultures and of providing a responsive pedagogy based on this understanding.

### Key connections

- *Aistear*’s theme of [Identity and Belonging](#)
- *Síolta*: [Standard 14: Identity and Belonging](#)

Understanding each child’s unique culture and background is essential to supporting their developing sense of identity and belonging

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	Watch <a href="#">this 3 minute video</a> illustrating what the theme of Identity and Belonging might look like in practice.	
	Watch this <a href="#">1-minute video</a> to hear Wendy Lee, Director of the Educational Leadership Project in New Zealand explain how to support children’s sense of identity and belonging through cultural pedagogy.	
	Watch this <a href="#">3-minute video</a> of Wendy Lee talking about the practitioner’s role in building relationships with children and families to help them understand children’s cultures and backgrounds.	
	Read this tip sheet <a href="#">Supporting children to become bilingual</a> to find out how important it is to respect and value children’s home language.	
	Watch <a href="#">this 5-minute video</a> of Wendy Lee talking about using learning stories to support identity and belonging through cultural pedagogy.	
	Use element two of the self-evaluation tool on the <i>Aistear Síolta Practice Guide</i> , Learning Environments pillar, to explore the importance of displays reflecting all babies' and toddlers' backgrounds, communities, cultures and languages, making a	



	connection between home and the setting. Access <a href="#">birth – 3 years</a> here and <a href="#">3 – 6 years here</a> .	
	To further explore inclusive practices read <a href="#">Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education</a> (DCYA, 2016).	

**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?

	<p>Link to the Practice Guide’s <a href="#">Aistear Síolta Action Planning Template</a></p>
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All the above resources and many more are available on the *Aistear Síolta Practice Guide* website at [www.aistearsiolta.ie](http://www.aistearsiolta.ie)

Thank you for visiting and using the Practice Guide