

## Element 3: *Aistear's* Themes

### Activity D: Using Learning Experiences to reflect on your curriculum

Read, reflect on and discuss one of the Learning Experiences below. Use this template to help focus your thoughts. Pay particular attention to the learning goals of each experience.

#### Reflecting on the Learning Experience

##### **What *principles* do you see reflected in the Learning Experience you chose?**

Prompt for reflection: Think about *Aistear's* and *Síolta's* principles (see table on page 3).

##### **What aspects of *children's learning and development* do you see reflected in this Learning Experience?**

Prompt for reflection: Think about dispositions, values and attitudes, skills, knowledge and understanding in *Aistear's* learning goals.

**Are there ideas in the Learning Experience which you would like to use in your setting? If so, what are they?**

**Learning Experiences**

		<b>Themes</b>			
		<i>Well-being</i>	<i>Identity and belonging</i>	<i>Communicating</i>	<i>Exploring and Thinking</i>
<b>Babies and toddlers</b>	An open door policy	The beat of the drum	Valuing our languages	The newsletter	
	I can do it myself	Do you understand my culture and traditions?	I love to dance and sing	Working in the quarry	
	Our place			I did it, I stood up	
	Look Mia, I did it too!	Come and sort with me		Boxes galore!	
	Afraid of the dark			Jelly play	
	I want the cube	Fire, fire		Water play	
	A fun outdoor challenge on camera			We love horses so let's be friends	
	Pilots are boys				
<b>Young children</b>	Personal books	The nurse's visit	Posting letters	Trains	
	Warm day	Army reservist	Making passports	Hens	
	Hospital		Babies	Water play	
	Wraps		Dinosaurs	Ice	
	Glengarra woods			Donkey	
	Shadows			Feeding birds	
				Builders	
				Fire, fire	
			Reindeer visit		
			Sunflowers		

**Table 1: Underpinning Principles of *Aistear* and *Siolta***

<b>Group 1: Children and their lives in early childhood</b>	
<p>Early childhood is a significant and distinct time in life that needs to be valued, respected and nurtured. Each child has his/her own set of experiences and unique life story and is confident and competent. Recognition of the child's individuality, strengths, rights and needs as citizens are central and contribute to a quality early childhood experience where an understanding of equality, rights and responsibilities is promoted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality (A and S)</li> <li>• Diversity (A and S)</li> <li>• Child's uniqueness (A) and Children First (S)</li> <li>• Children as citizens (A) and Value of early childhood (S)</li> </ul>
<b>Group 2: Children's connections with others</b>	
<p>Children learn and develop through loving, nurturing, respectful relationships with adults and other children. Adults working with children strive to develop meaningful relationships with them as well as developing partnerships with their parents. Recognition and links to extended family and community are also important. These reciprocal connections contribute to a shared knowledge and understanding which supports children's holistic development. Staff work effectively as a team and on-going reflective practice is valued as part of this process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships (A and S) and Welfare (S)</li> <li>• Parents, family and community (A and S)</li> <li>• Adult's role (A and S), Pedagogy (S) and Teamwork (S)</li> </ul>
<b>Group 3: How children learn and develop</b>	
<p>Children learn lots of things at the same time and in many different ways. They build on their knowledge and experience through play and active learning with hands-on experiences and in this way they develop dispositions, skills, attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding. On-going assessment ensures that experiences are built on and are relevant and meaningful. Communication and language are at the heart of early learning and development. An environment, indoor and outdoor which is representative of all children, influences what and how children learn, with good environments fostering independence, curiosity and a sense of belonging.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play (A and S)</li> <li>• Environment (A and S)</li> <li>• Holistic learning and development (A)</li> <li>• Active learning (A)</li> <li>• Relevant and meaningful experiences (A)</li> <li>• Communication and language (A)</li> </ul>