

	<h2>Activity: Matching Aistear's themes and aims</h2>
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Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To introduce participants to how <i>Aistear</i> describes children's learning and development. 2. To help participants begin to become familiar with what children learn through <i>Aistear's</i> themes.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pens/pencils ▪ Copies of the activity sheet (available in the <i>Aistear</i> Toolkit at www.ncca.ie/aistear toolkit) ▪ Facilitator's copy of the activity sheet (with the aims matched to the themes)
Doing the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide participants into small groups of 3 to 4 people. 2. Explain that <i>Aistear</i> uses 4 interconnected themes to describe children's early learning and development. The themes are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Well-being</i> ▪ <i>Identity and Belonging</i> ▪ <i>Communicating</i> ▪ <i>Exploring and Thinking</i>. <p>Each theme has 4 aims which describe, in broad terms, what children learn through that theme. (3 minutes)</p> 3. Give an activity sheet to each participant. Working as individuals, invite participants to match each aim to its relevant theme. (7 minutes) 4. Suggest participants share their responses with their group and agree a group response to the activity. (5 minutes) 5. The facilitator invites the groups to share their responses with him/her, and encourages some discussion on the interconnectedness of the four themes. (5 minutes).
Approximate time required	20 minutes

Activity: Matching Aistear's themes and aims

The table below sets out the four aims from each of Aistear's themes. Assign each aim to what you consider is the **relevant theme**.

(Well-being = WB; Identity and Belonging = IB; Communicating = C;
Exploring and Thinking = ET)

Aim	Theme
1. Children will have positive outlooks on learning and on life.	
2. Children will be able to express their rights and show an understanding and regard for the identity, rights and views of others.	
3. Children will broaden their understanding of the world by making sense of experiences through language.	
4. Children will be strong psychologically and socially.	
5. Children will be creative and spiritual.	
6. Children will have positive attitudes towards learning and develop dispositions like curiosity, playfulness, perseverance, confidence, resourcefulness, and risk-taking.	
7. Children will explore ways to represent ideas, feelings, thoughts, objects, and actions through symbols.	
8. Children will use non-verbal communication skills.	
9. Children will have a sense of group identity where links with their family and community are acknowledged and extended.	
10. Children will develop and use skills and strategies for observing, questioning, investigating, understanding, negotiating, and problem-solving, and come to see themselves as explorers and thinkers.	
11. Children will see themselves as capable learners.	
12. Children will express themselves creatively and imaginatively.	
13. Children will learn about and make sense of the world around them.	
14. Children will have strong self-identities and will feel respected and affirmed as unique individuals with their own life stories.	
15. Children will be as healthy and fit as they can be.	
16. Children will use language.	

Facilitator's copy of the activity sheet

Aim	Theme
1. Children will have positive outlooks on learning and on life.	WB
2. Children will be able to express their rights and show an understanding and regard for the identity, rights and views of others.	IB
3. Children will broaden their understanding of the world by making sense of experiences through language.	C
4. Children will be strong psychologically and socially.	WB
5. Children will be creative and spiritual.	WB
6. Children will have positive attitudes towards learning and develop dispositions like curiosity, playfulness, perseverance, confidence, resourcefulness, and risk-taking.	ET
7. Children will explore ways to represent ideas, feelings, thoughts, objects, and actions through symbols.	ET
8. Children will use non-verbal communication skills.	C
9. Children will have a sense of group identity where links with their family and community are acknowledged and extended.	IB
10. Children will develop and use skills and strategies for observing, questioning, investigating, understanding, negotiating, and problem-solving, and come to see themselves as explorers and thinkers.	ET
11. Children will see themselves as capable learners.	IB
12. Children will express themselves creatively and imaginatively.	C
13. Children will learn about and make sense of the world around them.	ET
14. Children will have strong self-identities and will feel respected and affirmed as unique individuals with their own life stories.	IB
15. Children will be as healthy and fit as they can be.	WB
16. Children will use language.	C