



## Activity: Using Aistear's sample learning opportunities

<b>Purpose</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To introduce participants to <i>Aistear's</i> <b>sample learning opportunities</b>.</li> <li>2. To show <b>how</b> the sample learning opportunities can be used to support children's learning and development.</li> </ol>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pens/pencils</li> <li>▪ Activity sheets (available in the <i>Aistear</i> Toolkit at <a href="http://www.ncca.ie/aistear toolkit">www.ncca.ie/aistear toolkit</a>)</li> <li>▪ Copies of <i>Aistear's</i> themes and sample learning opportunities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– pages 17-23, <i>Well-being</i></li> <li>– pages 26-32, <i>Identity and Belonging</i></li> <li>– pages 35-41, <i>Communicating</i></li> <li>– pages 44-52, <i>Exploring and Thinking</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Doing the activity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divide participants into small groups of 3 to 4 people.</li> <li>2. Explain that <i>Aistear</i> uses 4 interconnected themes to describe children's early learning and development during. The themes are <i>Well-being</i>, <i>Identity and Belonging</i>, <i>Communicating</i>, and <i>Exploring and Thinking</i>.</li> <li>3. Introduce the sample learning opportunities. Explain that these are presented in each theme and for overlapping age groups:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– babies (birth to 18 months)</li> <li>– toddlers (12 to 36 months)</li> <li>– young children (2½ to 6 years).</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Highlight that the sample learning opportunities give ideas for some activities which the adult might provide for children to help them learn across <i>Aistear's</i> aims and learning goals. The 'opportunities' are suggestions and can be adapted and extended, and used inside and outside.</li> <li>5. Ask participants to choose one of <i>Aistear's</i> four themes, and one of the three age groups of children. Using the activity sheet, suggest that participants think of 2 things they currently do to promote children's learning through that theme. Then invite them to look at the sample learning opportunities for that theme and to identify 2 new activities that they will use next week.</li> <li>6. Ask participants to link each of the new activities to an aim and learning goal in <i>Aistear</i>.</li> <li>7. When finished invite participants to share and discuss their work.</li> </ol>
<b>Approximate time required</b>	40 minutes

**Activity: Using *Aistear's* sample learning opportunities**

1. Choose one of *Aistear's* four themes and one of the three age groups of children (babies, toddlers and young children).
2. Think of 2 things you do in your setting to support the children's learning and development in that theme.
3. Look at the sample learning opportunities in that theme in *Aistear*.
4. Identify 2 'new' activities that you plan to do with the children next week.
5. Link each of the 'new' activities to an aim and learning goal in *Aistear*.

**Activity sheet: Using *Aistear's* sample learning opportunities****Choose a theme from *Aistear***

- *Well-being*
- *Identity and Belonging*
- *Communicating*
- *Exploring and Thinking*

**Choose an age group of children**

- Babies (birth to 18 months)
- Toddlers (12 to 36 months)
- Young children (2½ to 6 years)

**I use the following 2 activities to help the children in my setting to learn and develop.****Aim****Learning goal**

1.

2.

**I plan to use the following 2 sample learning opportunities from *Aistear* next week.****Aim****Learning goal**

1.

2.